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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Publishes Federal Register Notice on Regional Agricultural Promotion Program

- On November 17, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) [published](#) in the Federal Register the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program (RAPP) final rule.
- The CCC is amending the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP) to implement RAPP and utilize \$1.3 billion in funds from the CCC to address challenges impacting U.S. farmers and support further growth of U.S. agricultural exports, including for specialty crop industries.
- Specific program requirements and details for applying for assistance under the RAPP will be covered in Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) announced through the Grants.gov website.
- Comments are due by December 18, 2023, and may be submitted through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#). CCC may consider comments when determining whether any changes to the regulations are warranted.

UK Publishes Overview of Single Trade Window

- On November 16, the United Kingdom's HM Revenue & Customs [published](#) an introduction to the Single Trade Window, which will serve as an integrated online customs procedures system for businesses that import or export goods to and from the UK.
- It will be available beginning in 2024 for users to make entry summary declarations for safety and security and customs import declarations. A series of releases will add greater functionality to the system over time.
- Those interested in volunteering to test the beta phase of the new system can register their interest by emailing STWbcrteam@hmrc.gov.uk.
- Additional details regarding the Single Trade Window are included in the UK's guidance on its implementation of the [Border Target Operating Model](#) (BTOM), which is phasing in new customs requirements from January 31, 2024 (*BCI Monitor 8-29-23*).

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

South Korea's Revised Labeling Requirements for PET Beverage Containers and Paper Packs Enter Into Force

- On January 1, 2024, the South Korean Ministry of Environment's [amendments](#) to the *Guidelines for Separation and Disposal Marking* and the [amendments](#) to *Criteria for labeling packaging materials and structures* enter into force (links in Korean).
- According to machine translation of the *Guidelines for Separation and Disposal*, the distinct mark for colorless PET packaging shall only be used for colorless PET beverage containers. Packaging already produced by January 1, 2024 can be placed on the market until December 31, 2025.
- According to machine translation of the *Criteria for labeling packaging materials and structures*, the revision deletes the exemption for 'paper packs with aluminum foil among paper packs' from being labeled regarding recyclability performance.

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India Opens Consultation on Draft Amendments to Plastic Waste Regulations

- On October 16, India's Ministry of Environment published draft *Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2023* (in English p. 21), amending the *Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016*.
- Of note, the draft amendment includes definition changes for several terms (Article 2), including:
 - Importer: from "a person who imports plastic packaging or products with plastic packaging or carry bags or multilayered packaging or plastic sheets or like" to "a person who imports for the purpose of further sale plastic packaging or commodities with plastic packaging or carry bags or plastic packaging or plastic sheets or like and plastic raw material including in the form of resin or pellets."
 - Manufacturer: removing words in red as shown: "a person or unit or agency engaged in production of plastic raw material ~~to be used as raw material by the producer~~"
 - Multi-layered Packaging: removing words in red as shown: "any material used or to be used for packaging and having at least one layer of plastic as the main ingredients in combination with one or more layers of materials such as paper, paper board, polymeric materials, ~~metallised layers or~~ aluminum foil, either in the form of a laminate or co-extruded structure."
 - Plastic Packaging: adding the text in red: "packaging material made by using plastics for protecting, preserving, storing and transporting of products in a variety of ways ~~and having the following categories: Category I- rigid plastic packaging; Category II- flexible plastic packaging of single layer or multilayer (more than one layer with different types of plastic), plastic sheets or like and covers made of plastic sheet, carry bags, plastic sachet or pouches including metallised layers; Category III- multilayered plastic packaging (at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic or having one material as plastic and another material other than plastic); Category IV- plastic packaging made of compostable plastics; Category V- plastic packaging made from biodegradable plastics.~~"
 - Adding a definition for Seller: "a person who sells plastic raw material/intermediate material for plastic packaging for further use or sale."
- With regard to packaging material, the draft amendment also limits the use of compostable and biodegradable plastics to only carry bags (Article 3, iii).
- Comments on the draft amendment are due by December 15, 2023 and can be emailed to satyendra.kumar07@nic.in and amit.love@nic.in.
- The draft amendment will enter into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.