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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Taiwan Imposes Enhanced Border Inspection Measures on U.S. Cherries

- On December 25, the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) [announced](#) (in Chinese) that U.S.-origin cherries will undergo enhanced border inspection from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 due to import violations incurred by U.S.-origin cherries in 2023.
- The TFDA defines enhanced border inspection as a rate of inspection from 20 to 50 percent.

USDA Highlights Australia as a Key Market for U.S. Cherries

- On January 11, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) published a [GAIN report](#) highlighting Australia as a key market for U.S. fresh fruits, including cherries.
- Of interest to the California Cherry Board, FAS offered the following insights on the Australian market:
 - Between 2018 and 2020 Australia saw a decrease in fruit consumption as drought limited supply and increased prices. Since this time, however, consumption has increased and is projected to continue growing through 2026 due not only to improved supply but also to population growth and increased consumer demand for healthy and convenient food options.
 - Challenges for U.S. fruit in the Australian market include the high cost and reliability of air and sea freight, a strong “Buy Australian” marketing campaign by Australian growers, and strict biosecurity requirements for products entering Australia. These challenges are contrasted with a notable set of advantages, including strong demand for U.S. counter-seasonal fruit, positive Australian consumer perception of U.S. produce, and the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement.
 - Of particular note, FAS highlights that U.S. cherries account for 100% of cherries imported by Australia, with no close competitors based on a five-year average.
 - Alongside a market share breakdown of fresh fruit distributors in Australia (pages 6-8), FAS offers a general market entry strategy, including exhibits at Australian tradeshows such as Hort Connections, the Foodservice Show, and Fine Food Australia.
- Further information on the Australian market can be obtained from the FAS Office of Agricultural Affairs in Australia at agcanberra@usda.gov.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

South Korea Publishes Regulation to Unify Multiple Existing Import Declaration and Inspection Regulations

- On December 28, South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) published [*MFDS Notification No. 2023-96 Regulation on the Declaration and Inspection of Imported Foods, etc.*](#) (in Korean) (*BCI Monitor 10-31-23*).
- A draft of the regulation, published in October 2023, was confirmed by USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) officers to have made no substantive changes to import requirements. Professional translation would be needed to confirm that no changes were made to the draft version.
- The notification entered into force January 1, 2024. Products that have been imported and are undergoing inspection at the time of enforcement shall be governed by the previous regulations.

Argentina Updates Import Taxes

- On January 8, Argentina published [*Provision No. 25 – January 5, 2024*](#) (in Spanish), modifying taxes applicable to imported food products regulated by the National Food Institute of Argentina's National Administration of Medicines, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT).
- According to machine translation of the Annex, Section F modifies taxes applicable to imports including fees for authorization of free circulation per product and mutual recognition certificates.
- The Provision entered into force on January 10, 2024.