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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **UK Publishes Guidance on Import Process for Plants and Plant Products from Non-EU Countries**
- **UK Publishes Guidance Page for Border Target Operating Model**
- **Bolivia's Accession to Mercosur**

Specific Issues of Interest to the CCB:

UK Publishes Guidance on Import Process for Plants and Plant Products from Non-EU Countries

- On December 21, 2023, the United Kingdom's (UK) Department For Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) [updated its guidance](#) on how to import plants, fruit, vegetables, and other plant products from non-EU countries to Great Britain (*BCI Monitor 12-5-23*).
- The guidance outlines high, medium, and low risk products and the process for importing these products, with one set of requirements for high and medium risk products and another for low risk products. It now provides a list of unregulated plant and plant products, including citrus, kumquat, and bitter orange, as well as any fruit or vegetable that is processed, packaged, or part of a composite product. These products do not need to go through any plant health controls.

General Issues of Interest to the CCB:

UK Publishes Guidance Page for Border Target Operating Model

- On December 22, 2023, the United Kingdom's (UK) Department For Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) [published](#) a webpage with informational leaflets for businesses on how to prepare for the import of goods under the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) framework, which governs sanitary and phytosanitary controls.
- These documents, applicable to importers in Great Britain and exporters in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, provide guidance such as a leaflet on border control posts, composite food products decision trees, information on export health certificates, IPAFFS import notifications, and phytosanitary certificates.

Bolivia's Accession to Mercosur

- On December 11, Brazil published [Presidential Decree No. 11.817 of December 8, 2023](#) (in Portuguese), formally approving the accession of Bolivia to Mercosur. Bolivia joins Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay as a full Mercosur member.
- Included with *Decree No. 11.817* is the *Protocol of Accession of Bolivia to Mercosur* which was originally signed in July 2015 and subsequently approved by the Brazilian national legislature through *Legislative Decree No. 141 of November 29, 2023*.
- *Decree No. 11.817*, which entered into force upon publication, grants Bolivia up to four years to adopt Mercosur standards, including its common nomenclature (NCM), common external tariff (CET), and origin regime. Reciprocal free trade between existing Mercosur members and Bolivia entered into force upon publication of the *Decree*, though most product tariffs have already been eliminated through Bolivia's previous status as an associate member of Mercosur.

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