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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **EU and Chile Sign Modernized Free Trade Agreement**
- **APHIS Receives Emergency Funding for Fruit Fly Outbreak**
- **Australia Moves Toward National Packaging Regulations and Voluntary Recycled Content Traceability**
- **Thailand Notifies Draft Amendment to Food Labeling Certification Protocol**
- **Holiday Delivery Notice**

A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

EU and Chile Sign Modernized Free Trade Agreement

- On December 13, the European Union (EU) and Chile [signed](#) an updated free trade agreement (FTA) known as the [EU-Chile Advanced Framework Agreement](#). Negotiations concluded in December 2022 (*BCI Monitor 12-20-22*). The Agreement replaces the EU-Chile Association Agreement in force since February 2003.
- Of note, the Advanced Framework Agreement is the first EU FTA that includes a chapter on [trade and sustainable development](#). It does not set out binding targets nor does it oblige a party to adopt specific regulations.
- Cherries originating in the EU have entered Chile duty-free since 2007. [Chilean cherries enter the EU](#) duty-free unless they are imported between May 21 and August 10. The updated agreement will eliminate the remaining ad valorem tariff on Chilean cherries imported between May 21 and August 10.
- Once both sides have completed their internal procedures, the agreement can enter into force.

APHIS Receives Emergency Funding for Fruit Fly Outbreak

- On December 15, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [announced](#) that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack approved the transfer to APHIS of \$213.3 million in emergency funding to respond to the growing number of exotic fruit fly outbreaks and in support of domestic and international emergency response efforts.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Australia Moves Toward National Packaging Regulations and Voluntary Recycled Content Traceability

- On November 10, Australia's state and national Environment Ministers announced additional steps toward packaging circularity.
- The group agreed that mandating packaging design, setting minimum recycled content requirements, and regulation of harmful chemicals in packaging will be regulated at the federal level.
- The ministers also [endorsed](#) a voluntary [National Framework for Recycled Content Traceability](#) (*BCI Monitor 8-15-23*). Developed by Australia's Department of Climate Change, Energy, and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), the voluntary framework provides industry with guidance on implementing traceability in recycled content supply chains. It covers all recycled materials, including pre- and post-consumer materials and imported materials and excludes non-recycled materials (unless blended with recycled materials).
- The framework does not include the development of a traceability system or require data collection or reporting, but is intended to enable governments within Australia to mandate recycled content traceability in a consistent manner where required in specific sectors.
- Voluntary registration on framework use can be done by completing a [registration form](#) and emailing it to RecycledContentTraceability@dcceew.gov.au.

Thailand Notifies Draft Amendment to Food Labeling Certification Protocol

- On December 19, Thailand's Food and Drug Administration (Thai FDA) [notified](#) the WTO of its [Draft Ministry of Public Health \(MOPH\) Notification \(No.XXX\) B.E. XXXX "The Display of Nutrition Symbol on Food Label \(No.2\)"](#) (in Thai, [unofficial English translation](#)), amending [MOPH Notification \(No.373\) B.E. 2559 \(2016\)](#) on the same subject.
- The amendment removes specific reference to the Nutrition Promotion Foundation as a certifying body. The requirement that food products be inspected and certified is otherwise unchanged.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is February 17, 2024. The amendment will enter into force the day after its publication in Thailand's Royal Gazette.

Holiday Delivery Notice

Due to the holidays, your next BCI Monitor will be delivered on January 2, 2024. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!