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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Japan Notifies Approval of Amended Organic Products of Plant Origin Standard

- On February 16, Japan [notified](#) the WTO that the [proposed amendments](#) to the *Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) for Organic Products of Plant Origin (Current Version)* were approved and adopted by the Council for the JAS. Details regarding entry into force are not provided.
- Japan previously notified the WTO of the proposed amendments in November 2023 (*BCI Monitor 11-28-23*).
- Of note, the U.S. currently holds an [organic equivalence arrangement](#) with Japan.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Publishes Translation of China Prepackaged Food Labeling Standard

- On February 12, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) published a [report](#) summarizing China's [proposed amendments to GB 7718](#) on the labeling of prepackaged food (in Chinese) and included an English translation.
- Of interest to the commission, the definition of prepackaged foods has been modified to include "foods packaged or made up in advance in a package and a container that are sold by weight."
- Notable changes versus the existing *GB7718-2011* standard include:
 - Revised definition of prepackaged foods and extended scope of application to foods prepackaged or prepared in packaging materials and containers and sold in measured quantities
 - Modifications to declaration methods for food names and dates, the list of ingredients, class names, and food additives
 - Modifications to food allergen declaration requirements
 - Expanded declaration requirements for imported foods
 - Addition of digital labeling requirements
 - Addition of requirements for food claims
- China opened a [consultation](#) (in Chinese) on the draft on January 19, and [notified](#) the WTO on February 9, 2024 (*BCI Monitors 1-23-24, 2-13-24*).
- Comments may be submitted via China's National Food Safety Standards Information Management System by February 29, 2024. The WTO comment deadline is April 9, 2024.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

Updates to Chinese Food Safety Standards for Packaging Materials Enter into Force

- On March 6, several updates to Chinese food safety standards will enter into force. As previously reported, China's National Health Commission (NHC) [published](#) the [list of updates](#) (in Chinese) on September 25, 2023 (*BCI Monitors 9-26-23, 10-24-23*).
- The following food safety standards for packaging materials of interest will enter into force:
 - *GB 4806.7-2023 National food safety standard for plastic and plastic food contact material*
 - *GB 4806.9-2023 National food safety standard for metal and metal food contact material*
 - *GB 4806.11-2023 National food safety standard for rubber and rubber food contact material*
 - *GB 4806.14-2023 National food safety standard for inks and ink food contact material*
- The USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [published](#) an unofficial translation of the Chinese National Health Commission's announcement from September 25. The report only translates the announcement; FAS notes that the full text standards (in Chinese) can be downloaded from the [Agricultural Product Quality and Safety Center \(Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs\)](#).

England Amends Nutrition and Health Claims Regulations

- On February 20, the United Kingdom (UK) published [Statutory Instrument 2024 No. 165, The Nutrition and Health Claims \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024](#), which amends the [Nutrition and Health Claims \(England\) Regulations 2007](#) regarding the nutrition and health claims made on product labeling (*BCI Monitor 8-15-23*).
- The amendment improves the notice procedures for non-compliant product labels or claims by outlining the required information to be provided on a notice, including a timeframe for the correction of claims to be no less than 14 days.
- The amendment enters into force October 1, 2024.

UK Publishes Amendments to Windsor Framework, Guidance Document

- On February 19, the United Kingdom (UK) published [The Windsor Framework \(UK Internal Market and Unfettered Access\) Regulations 2024](#), making minor amendments to *The United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020* and the *Definition of Qualifying Northern Ireland Goods (EU Exit) Regulations 2020* regarding the movement of goods from Northern Ireland to Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales).
- The amendments focus on formalizing provisions regarding access, export procedures, and to help in facilitating trade for qualifying Northern Ireland goods to Great Britain.
- Of note, the amendment updates the definition of a 'Northern Ireland qualifying good' to clarify that products imported into Northern Ireland from outside the UK with the intent to move to Great Britain are not 'Northern Ireland qualifying goods'.
- The amendments entered into force February 20, 2024.
- The UK's Department for Environment, Food, & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) also published a [guidance document](#) regarding moving food from Northern Ireland to Great Britain.