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**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**APHIS Publishes Dates for Upcoming Plant Bilateral Meetings**

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) updated information on its Plant Health Technical Bilateral Meetings [webpage](#), including the following:
- The date for the U.S. – Canada Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been scheduled for February 21, 2024 (in person, Ottawa, Canada). Contact Fan Wang-Cahill for details, [fan.wang-cahill@usda.gov](mailto:fan.wang-cahill@usda.gov).
- The dates for the U.S. – EU Plant Health Bilateral Meetings have been scheduled for April 30-May 1, 2024 (in person, Riverdale, MD; specific location tentative). Contact Prakash Hebbar for details, [prakash.hebbar@usda.gov](mailto:prakash.hebbar@usda.gov).

**New Zealand Notifies Implementation of Updated Import Standard for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

- On January 31, New Zealand’s Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) [notified](#) the WTO regarding the adoption, publication, and entry into force of changes to MPI’s [Standard 152.02: Importation and Clearance of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables into New Zealand](#). The updates were implemented on January 29, 2024.
- The changes were previously notified in September 2023 and according to an [MPI Risk Management Proposal](#), the changes update section 2.3 of the Standard (page 17) to clarify requirements during pre-export phytosanitary inspection to align with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 31 on methodologies for sampling of consignments. MPI notes the updates clarify existing expectations with which New Zealand’s trading partners already comply (*BCI Monitor 9-19-23*).

**UK Opens Consultation on “Not for EU” Labeling Regulation**

- On February 2, the United Kingdom’s (UK) Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) opened a [public consultation](#) on a draft [Statutory Instrument \(SI\) The Marking of Retail Goods Regulations 2024 \(questions document\)](#) regarding implementing “Not for EU” labeling requirements for green lane goods under the UK-EU Windsor Framework (*BCI Monitor 3-7-23*). DEFRA has also published a [related guidance](#) on labeling requirements under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme.
- The draft regulation requires all prepacked retail products of plant origin to be labeled individually with “Not for EU” beginning July 1, 2025. Qualifying Northern Ireland goods (goods in free circulation in Northern Ireland before being moved to Great Britain), are exempt from the labeling requirement.
- The “Not for EU” label must be easily visible, clear, and legible; may not be hidden, obscured, or distracted from or interrupted by any other written or pictorial matter; must be printed using a font size where the x-height (defined in Annex 4 for [EU Regulation No. 1169/2011](#)) is equal to or greater than 1.2mm; and for products with a surface less than 80cm<sup>2</sup>, the font size must be equal to or greater than 0.9mm.

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### *UK Opens Consultation on “Not for EU” Labeling Regulation (Continued)*

- The draft regulation should enter into force October 1, 2024, and extends to Great Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland). Prepacked cherry products for retail, placed on the Great Britain market before July 1, 2025, may continue to be sold without the “Not for EU” label until stocks are exhausted.
- Comments are due by March 15, 2024, and can be submitted [online](#).

## **GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:**

### **European Commission President Announces Start of Dialogue on EU Agriculture, Calls for Withdrawal of Sustainable Pesticide Use Proposal Amid Farmer Protests**

- In a February 6 [speech](#), European Commission (EC) President Ursula Von der Leyen acknowledged the discontent of farmers with the state of the European Union’s (EU) agricultural policy and highlighted the launch of an [EU Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture](#) to address the challenges and opportunities of the agricultural sector.
- The opening of the dialogue, which includes key stakeholders from across the agri-food sector such as farmers, businesses, and non-governmental organizations, coincides with farmer protests across the EU. Agricultural organizations are calling for changes including a more flexible and simple EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), reciprocity requirements for products entering the EU, and stronger financial support for producers impacted by adverse weather conditions and rising costs.
- Notably, Von der Leyen announced that she will propose the withdrawal of the EC’s [draft regulation on the sustainable use of pesticides](#), which had aimed to reduce the use and risk of pesticides by 50% by 2030. The Commission draft regulation was rejected by the European Parliament in November 2023 (*BCI Monitor 11-28-23*).
- The Commission is aiming to release a report on the Strategic Dialogue by late summer 2024 for discussion in European Parliament and with Member States to develop a new foundation for EU agricultural policy.

### **Singapore Notifies WTO of New QR Code Security Measure**

- On January 30, Singapore [notified the WTO](#) of an ongoing upgrade to its licensing e-services system and that all licenses, certificates, and permits will be issued with a new QR code security feature. Of interest, phytosanitary certificates will be included in the upgrade.
- The new QR code security measure aims to streamline the document authentication process, allowing all documents to be authenticated through the Singaporean Government’s [verification website](#).
- Singapore began phasing in the QR codes on October 23, 2023. Notably, any licenses, certificates, or permits issued without a QR code prior to this date remain valid.