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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA APHIS Announces Upcoming Plant Health Bilateral Meetings

- The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [updated its schedule](#) for Plant Health Technical Bilateral Meetings, including the following:
- U.S. – Chile Plant Health Bilateral Meeting, June 12, 26, or 27, 2024 (Specific Date Tentative): (virtual). Contact Eric Longen for details, eric.c.longen@usda.gov.
- U.S. – Taiwan Plant Health Bilateral Meeting, Week of September 23, 2024: (in-person, Taiwan) Contact Amanda Kenney for details, amanda.m.kenney@usda.gov.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

UK Reaffirms Timeline for Health and Safety Checks of EU Imports

- On April 19, the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) [refuted](#) reports that the second implementation milestone of the [Border Target Operating Model](#) (BTOM) would be delayed, reaffirming that the milestone would begin as planned on April 30, 2024 (*BCI Monitor 8-29-23*).
- As previously reported, the second implementation milestone of the BTOM will implement documentary, risk-based identity, and physical checks on imports of medium risk animal products, plants, and plant products, and on imports of high-risk food and feed of non-animal origin from the European Union (EU).
- Also on April 19, Defra [updated guidance](#) on the import risk categories under the BTOM to include the inspection rates for each risk category: high risk (100 percent), medium risk (between 1 percent and 30 percent), and low risk (not subject to routine inspection).
- A Defra representative noted that medium and high-risk goods posing the greatest biosecurity risk are being prioritized as they build up to full check rates on consignments of all risk levels in, "...a sensible and controlled way".

Thailand Publishes Draft Sustainable Packaging Management Act

- Thailand's Pollution Control Department (PCD) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) recently [published](#) a draft [Sustainable Packaging Management Act B.E.](#) (both in Thai), to establish an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program and sustainable packaging policies, and coordinate the various organizations involved.
- The Act targets at least five types of packaging that must be managed sustainably: Glass, metal, paper, plastic, and composite materials (Section 52). Packaging is any container, covering, box, or material used for wrapping, packing, transporting, handling, and protecting products, including packaging accessories and single-use devices. The definition does not cover reusable packaging.

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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

Thailand Publishes Draft Sustainable Packaging Management Act (Continued)

- According to machine translation, the draft act gives the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (with advice from new Sustainable Packaging Management Committee) authority to issue announcements specifying the types of packaging that must be managed sustainably and collected for reuse (Section 18), and to set out several other sustainable packaging policies including:
 - Criteria for prohibiting the production or import of single-use packaging (Section 16 (4))
 - Packing fees or taxes (Section 16 (5))
 - Design of packaging falling under this Act (Section 28 (1))
 - Labeling of packaging falling under this Act (Section 28(2))
 - Buy-back or deposit and refund systems, if collection targets for recyclable or reusable packaging as set out by the government are not achieved (Section 21)
- The Act would enter into force 360 days after publication in the Government Gazette. Based on machine translation, enforcement may start only two years after entry into force.