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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

## South Korea Amends Quarantine Pest List

- On May 3, South Korea's Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (APQA), Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) [notified](#) the WTO of [amendments](#) to its quarantine pest list.
- The amendments include a list of 41 new added quarantine pests, 11 removed pests from quarantine pest list, and 1 change to the scientific name of a quarantine pest.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Inquiry Point at [us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov](mailto:us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov). The WTO comment deadline is July 2, 2024.
- According to the notice, these amendments are scheduled to be implemented from July 2024.

## 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. – New Zealand Plant Health Bilateral Meeting, May 8, 2024 (virtual); Contact Amanda Kenney for details, [amanda.m.kenney@usda.gov](mailto:amanda.m.kenney@usda.gov).
  - U.S. – Chile Plant Health Bilateral Meeting, June 26, 2024 (in-person, Washington D.C.); Contact Eric Longen for details, [eric.c.longen@usda.gov](mailto:eric.c.longen@usda.gov)
  - U.S. – Thailand Plant Health Bilateral Meeting, August 27 to 28 or September 4 to 5, 2024: (in-person, Washington D.C.) (*Tentative*); Contact Lisa Kohl for details, [lisa.m.kohl@usda.gov](mailto:lisa.m.kohl@usda.gov).
  - U.S. – Viet Nam Plant Health Bilateral Meeting, October 9 to 10, 2024: (in-person, Washington D.C.) (*Tentative*); Contact Lisa Kohl for details, [lisa.m.kohl@usda.gov](mailto:lisa.m.kohl@usda.gov).

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

## China Publishes Recommended Standard for Cardboard Food Packaging

- China's National Standardization Administration recently [published a notice](#) (in Chinese) inviting feedback on five recommended (GB/T) national standards.
- The notice includes a [recommended standard for water-based coated paper and board for food packaging](#) (in Chinese) which, according to machine translation, covers relevant terms and definitions, inspection, marking, classification, and transportation considerations for such packaging. Notably, China's State Administration for Market Regulation mandatory national standard *GB 4806.8-2022* covers food contact paper and paperboard materials.
- Comments may be submitted until May 29, 2024, using the feedback form downloadable from the notice.

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

### Taiwan Opens Consultation on Expanded Scope of Recyclability Labeling

- On April 26, Taiwan's Ministry of Environment (MOE) opened a [consultation](#) on a draft amendment to [Environmental Protection Agency Announcement No. 0990001344](#) (both in Chinese), which regulates the requirements for items and products that should be marked with recyclability-related labels as well as providing standards for labeling design.
- Based on machine translation, the draft amendment will add inner plastic trays and bubble shell/blister packaging (referred to as 'flat packaging material') to the list of materials that must carry a plastic recycling identification code. The design of the identification code remains unchanged and can be found on Attached Figure 1 of *Announcement No. 0990001344*.
- Plastic liners and bubble shell/blister packaging that are used to package plastic containers, flat plastic containers, health foods, or recyclable non-flat plastic disposable tableware is exempt from the labeling requirements.
- This amendment is in conjunction with Taiwan's 2023 amendment of [The Scopes for the Articles and the Packaging and Containers Thereof and the Enterprises Responsible for Recycling, Clearance and Disposal](#) (in Chinese) to include inner plastic trays and blister packaging in its list of packaging that must be recycled beginning May 2025. Of note, page 9 of the MOE's [Major Environmental Policies December 2022](#) provides a graphic picturing the flat plastic packaging materials with examples.
- The draft includes a two-year transition period during which the new labeling requirements will not be mandatory.
- Comments are due by June 24, 2024, and may be emailed to the Resource Recycling Department of the Ministry of Environment at [hw Teng@moenv.gov.tw](mailto:hw Teng@moenv.gov.tw).

### Japan Notifies Changes to Positive System for Food Contact Materials

- On May 7, Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) [notified](#) the WTO of an [amendment](#) to the *Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, Etc.* regarding synthetic resin.
- The amendment adds synthetic resin substances to Japan's Positive List of substances approved for use in food; [detailed changes](#) are provided by CAA. Japan previously notified these changes in June 2023 (*BCI Monitor 6-27-23*).
- The proposed date of entry into force of the amendment is June 1, 2025, simultaneously with the enforcement date for Japan's larger positive list system for approved substances in food contact materials.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Inquiry Point at [usatbtep@nist.gov](mailto:usatbtep@nist.gov). The WTO comment deadline is July 6, 2024.