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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Japan Notifies Entry into Force of Changes to Quarantine Pest Lists

- Japan recently [notified](#) the WTO regarding the entry into force on June 18 of amendments to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) *Ordinance for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act* regarding quarantine pests. The revisions were announced in March (*BCI Monitor 3-12-24*).
- Of potential interest to CCB, the [summary of proposed revisions](#) notes that the provisional quarantine pests *Cherry virus A* and *Prunus necrotic ringspot virus* will be newly designated as non-quarantine pests.
- Quarantine pest lists are provided in English through the MAFF website links in the WTO notice.

South Korea Adopts Revisions of Imported Food Declaration Regulations to Clarify Products Recognized as Safe

- On June 13, South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) published [MFDS Notice No. 2024-26](#) (in Korean), partially amending the [Regulations on Declaration and Inspection of Imported Food, etc](#) (*BCI Monitor 5-28-24*).
- As previously reported, the revisions are designed to improve operation of the current import system by specifying the products that are recognized as safe by MFDS (according to inspection results and food product conformance history) and subject to simplified import inspection. Notably, products currently recognized as safe by MFDS continues to include cherries from the U.S.
- The revisions entered into force on June 14, 2024.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

EU Council Adopts Position on Draft Green Claims Directive

- On June 17, the Council of the European Union (EU) [adopted](#) its [general approach](#) on the proposal of a *Green Claims Directive* (*BCI Monitors 3-28-23, 6-6-23*). The Directive complements [Directive \(EU\) 2024/825](#), amending [Directive 2005/29/EC](#) on unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices to empower consumers for the green transition (*ECGT Directive*) and requires voluntary environmental claims and environmental labels to be verified by third-party experts prior to being published. It lays out process and requirements for verification (*BCI Monitor 3-12-24*).
- The European Commission (EC) [published](#) a [proposal for a Directive on Green Claims](#) in 2023. The EU Parliament [adopted](#) its [negotiating position](#) in March 2024. The trilogue is expected to start this summer, after the first plenary session of the new Parliament and after the new Commission is approved through a plenary vote.
- Compared to the Commission's proposal of a *Green Claims Directive*, the Council introduced a simplified procedure to exempt certain explicit environmental claims from third-party verification to lessen the burden on eligible businesses (new Article 3a). The simplified procedure will allow eligible companies to self-declare compliance with the requirements set out in the Directive via submission of "Specific Technical Documentation".

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EU Council Adopt Position on Draft Green Claim Directive (Cont.)

- Companies using an environmental claim certified by an environmental label will qualify for this simplified approach. However, the environmental labeling scheme owner is still obliged to substantiate the claims awarded to a product or company. Additionally, the Council proposes defining explicit environmental claims that can be verified via the simplified procedure. These eligible claims shall not require a full life-cycle analysis for their substantiation, should relate to a single environmental characteristic, and shall not lead to significant trade-offs between different environmental impact categories. A list of these claims, including the required substantiation requirements, shall be published via implementing acts. Of note, Parliament has approved a similar amendment related to a simplified procedure for certain claims in March 2024.
- After approval by both legislative bodies, the *Green Claims Directive* will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and shall enter into force on the 20th day following its publication. Parliament and Council will also negotiate a date of enforcement. The Council is proposing to start enforcement 36 months after entry into force.
- The *ECGT Directive* already entered into force March 26, 2024. EU Member States must adopt and publish measures to comply with the *ECGT Directive* by March 27, 2026, and those measures must be applied from September 27, 2026.
- While adoption of an EU wide sustainable food label framework under a separate [*Sustainable Food Systems Law*](#) was planned for Q3 2023, this file has not been moved forward by the Commission. It is unclear if the new Commission will restart work on this file. However, the work on the proposal is still referenced in the Council's general approach.