

JANUARY 21, 2025

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

- 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. – Chile Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been scheduled for April 7 – 11, 2025: (in-person, Santiago, Chile). Contact Eric Longen for details, [eric.c.longen@usda.gov](mailto:eric.c.longen@usda.gov).

**U.S. Codex Office to Sponsor Public Meeting on Draft U.S. Positions for Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

- The U.S. Codex Office is sponsoring a public meeting on February 5, 2025, to provide information and receive comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. CCFFV will take place from February 25 – March 1, 2025, in Mexico City, Mexico. The meeting was announced in a January 16 [Federal Register Notice](#).
- The following items of interest to CCB from CCFFV will be discussed at the public meeting:
  - Matters arising from other international organizations on the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables.
  - A discussion paper on the review of existing FFV Standards.
  - Consideration for proposals for new work.
- Registration is available in advance [online](#). Comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to Mr. Dorian LaFond, U.S. Delegate to the 23rd session of the CCFFV, at [dorian.lafond@usda.gov](mailto:dorian.lafond@usda.gov).

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

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## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

### EU Resumes FTA Negotiations with Malaysia, Concludes Update of FTA with Mexico

- On January 20, the European Commission [announced](#) the re-launch of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations between the European Union (EU) and Malaysia. The statement underscores both sides' commitment to strengthening ties and enhancing trade. Malaysia is the EU's third-largest trading partner in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with trade worth nearly USD \$47 billion annually.
- On January 16, the European Commission [announced](#) the conclusion of FTA negotiations for a modernized Global Agreement with Mexico. According to the statement, the trade pillar of the Agreement will substantially boost EU-Mexico trade, which was valued at USD \$85 billion for goods in 2023. The announcement highlights benefits for European farmers, including simpler procedures to make agri-food exports quicker and cheaper.
- The updated EU-Mexico Global Agreement is subject to final legal revision and official documents will be published in the coming days, after which both sides will proceed with their respective procedures for ratification.

### China's Food Contact Material Standard Entering into Force

- On February 8, China's *GB 4806.15-2024 National Food Safety Standard: Adhesives for Food Contact Materials and Products* will enter into force (*BCI Monitor 3-19-24*).
- As previously reported, the standard lists the substances that can be used in direct and indirect contact with food as well as specific substance usage requirements.
- The standard text can be viewed and downloaded on [the national food safety standard data platform](#). However, this page may not be accessible from outside China.