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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Japan Opens Consultation on Annual Imported Food Monitoring Plan

- On January 20, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) [published for consultation](#) the [Imported Food Monitoring Guidance Plan \(Draft\)](#) (both in Japanese) to be applied from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.
- According to machine translation, the guidance establishes a framework for the monitoring and inspection of imported food and for responding to food safety violations. Schedule 1 of the plan lists the estimated number of categories of inspection for imported food covering pesticide residues, additives, pathogenic microorganisms, and genetically modified (GM) or irradiated food, among others.
- Comments may be submitted through the consultation announcement and are due by February 18, 2025.

Canada Opens Second Consultation on Environmental Claims Regulation Guidelines

- On December 23, 2024, Canada's Competition Bureau [announced](#) a second consultation on its new guidelines regarding environmental claims.
- This follows an initial consultation held during the summer of 2024 (*BCI Monitor* 8-6-24). As previously reported, [amendments](#) (Part 6, 231) to Canada's [Competition Act](#) related to environmental claims entered into force in June 2024. The amendments require businesses to support claims about the environmental benefits of their product with adequate and proper testing (*Competition Act* 74.01(1)(b)). A summary of the amendment is provided in the [Guide to the June 2024 amendments to the Competition Act](#).
- Following the first consultation, the Competition Bureau is seeking public feedback on [newly developed guidance](#) regarding environmental claims. The guidance provides details on what constitutes an environmental claim, proper testing to substantiate claims, and methods for assessing claims.
- Comments are due by February 28, 2025, and can be emailed to greenwashingconsultationecoblanchiment@cb-bc.gc.ca.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) also recently published a [GAIN Report](#) summarizing the new provisions and consultation.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

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EU Gazettes Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

- On January 22, the European Union (EU) gazetted [Regulation \(EU\) 2025/40 of the European Parliament and Council of December 19, 2024 on packaging and packaging waste](#), amending [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1020](#) and [Directive \(EU\) 2019/904](#), and repealing [Directive 94/62/EC](#) (BCI Monitors 12-6-22, 12-13-22, 2-28-23, 11-28-23, 3-5-24).
- The regulation establishes requirements for the entire life cycle of packaging, including sustainable packaging requirements, labeling requirements, extended producer and related registration responsibilities, waste and recycling targets, and product bans.
- The regulation enters into force February 11, 2025, and enforcement begins August 12, 2026.
- Article 2 states that the regulation applies to all packaging and all packaging waste, regardless of material. Article 3(1) defines packaging and Annex I provides more information on what is and is not considered packaging. Article 4(1) requires all packaging placed on the market to comply with the regulations. Article 3(9) defines manufacturers also as those businesses that have packaging designed or manufactured to sell products under their own name or trademark.
- Article 6(1) requires all packaging placed on the market to be recyclable. All packaging will be required to comply with “design for recycling” criteria set by the Commission by January 1, 2028, and stricter “recycled-at scale” criteria set by the Commission by January 1, 2030. Annex II provides an indicative list of packaging materials for which standards, methods and recycling performance grades will be established in delegated acts.
- Article 9 requires fruit and vegetable stickers, and lightweight plastic carrier bags to be compostable in industrially controlled environments, and to be compatible with home-composting standards to be announced by the Commission by February 12, 2026. According to Article 9(3), all packaging, including packaging made of biodegradable plastic polymers, shall be designed such that its material recycling does not affect the recyclability of other waste streams.
- Article 10 requires that packaging placed on the market is designed so its weight and volume is reduced to the minimum necessary. The qualitative performance criteria are set out in Annex IV. Packaging that only increases the perceived volume of a product is prohibited.
- Article 11 sets out qualitative requirements for reusable packaging which must also comply with recyclability requirements (Article 6).
- According to Article 11(1), packaging must be marked with a harmonized label containing information on its material composition by August 12, 2028, or 24 months from the date of entry into force of the implementing act, whichever is latest. To establish all labeling specifications, the Commission will adopt implementing acts by August 12, 2026.
- Article 25 prohibits economic operators from placing on the market items in packaging formats and for specific uses listed in Annex V from January 1, 2030. Of note to CCB, the list includes single use plastic packaging for unprocessed fresh fruit and vegetables, if the product is sold in units smaller than 1.5 kg. Exemptions may be granted if there is a demonstrated need to avoid water loss or turgidity loss, microbiological hazards, physical shocks, oxidation, or if there is no other possibility to avoid commingling of organic fruits and vegetables with non-organic fruits and vegetables without entailing disproportionate economic and administrative costs.