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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

UK Notifies Proposed Amendment to Plant Product Import Inspection Requirements

- On December 19, the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs [notified](#) the WTO regarding amendments to the *Official Controls (Plant Health) (Frequency of Checks) Regulations 2022*.
- The changes would extend risk-based documentary checks to plant products from non-EU countries classified as "medium A" risk, which includes *Prunus sp.* commodities from the U.S. such as fresh cherries. This is designed to facilitate trade, as these commodities are currently subject to 100% checks.
- The proposed date of adoption and publication is May 21, 2025. The proposed date of entry into force is June 11, 2025.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Enquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is February 17, 2025.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

APHIS Publishes Dates for Upcoming Plant Bilateral Meetings

- 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. – Canada Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been scheduled for February 5 or 6, 2025: (virtual). Contact Fan Wang-Cahill for details, wang-cahill@usda.gov.
- The date for the U.S. – Australia Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for February 17-22, 2025: (in-person, Australia). Contact John Crowe for details, john.f.crowe@usda.gov.
- The date for the U.S. – New Zealand Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for February 25-27, 2025: (in-person, New Zealand). Contact John Crowe for details, john.f.crowe@usda.gov.
- The date for the U.S. – South Africa Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for February 24-28, 2025: (in-person, South Africa). Contact Mohamed Sedegui for details, mohamed.sedegui@usda.gov.
- The date for the U.S. – EU Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for March 24-25, 2025: (in-person, Belgium). Contact Prakash Hebbar for details, prakash.hebbar@usda.gov.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

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EU Announces Adoption of Ban on BPA Use in Food Contact Materials

- On December 19, the European Commission (EC) [announced](#) its adoption of a ban on the [use of bisphenol A](#) (BPA) in food contact materials (FCMs), amending *Regulation (EU) No 10/2011* and repealing *Regulation (EU) 2018/213*.
- This follows the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) [re-evaluation research](#) finding that dietary exposure to BPA is a health concern. The latest [Draft Commission Regulation](#) (with [Annex](#)) was [notified the WTO](#) in June (*BCI Monitor 7-2-24*).
- Further analysis will be completed once the final text is published. According to the draft text (linked above), the use of BPA and its salts in the manufacture and the placing on the European Union (EU) market of the following FCMs manufactured will be banned: varnishes and coatings, printing inks, adhesives, ion-exchange resins, plastics, silicones, and rubbers. Draft Article 3 (2) allows BPA and its salts to be used in the manufacture of FCMs for a specific application as set out in Annex II and Article 6.
- The regulation will enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. An 18-month transition period will be given for most FCMs containing BPA and they may be sold until stocks are depleted.

Holiday Delivery Notice

- Due to the holidays, your next BCI Monitor will be delivered on January 7, 2025. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!