

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **India and U.S. to Open Bilateral Trade Discussions**
- **Japan Publishes Consultation on Proposed Amendment to Food Expiration Date Labeling Guidelines**

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**India and U.S. to Open Bilateral Trade Discussions**

- On February 13, the United States Embassy in India released a [United States – India Joint Leader Statement](#) on the meeting between the two countries that happened the same day.
- Of potential interest to CCB is the stated intention of opening further discussions on a multi-sector bilateral trade agreement between the U.S. and India. While no relevant commodities of interest to CCB were noted in the *Joint Leader Statement*, the mutual goal of increased agricultural trade is cited as one of the key tenants of the proposed agreement.
- The U.S. reports planning to have negotiated the first tranche of the proposed agreement by fall of 2025. BCI will continue to monitor the developments around this potential agreement as they arise.

**Japan Publishes Consultation on Proposed Amendment to Food Expiration Date Labeling Guidelines**

- On February 7, Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) published a [consultation](#) on a [draft revision](#) (both In Japanese) of the "Guidelines for the Establishment of Food Expiration Date Labeling."
- According to machine translation, the revisions are based on further review of expiration date labeling guidelines designed to reduce food waste. The guide includes information regarding testing to determine expiration dates, storage methods, and the format of labeling, along with a detailed question and answer section.
- Comments can be sent through Japan's e-gov [public comment link](#) (in Japanese) and are due by March 10, 2025.
- Notably, bulk shipments of fresh fruit are not required to include the expiration date on the label. However, the CAA requires retail-packaged food to include the expiration date on labels.

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

**Bryant Christie Inc. – Seattle**  
2033 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1030  
Seattle, WA 98121  
Phone: (206) 292-6340 Fax: (206) 292-6341

**Bryant Christie Inc. – Sacramento**  
2005 "I" Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
Phone: (916) 492-7062 Fax: (916) 492-7061