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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

EU Announces Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S.

- On March 11, in response to the U.S. imposing additional tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, the European Commission [announced](#) countermeasures on U.S. imports into the European Union (EU).
- First, the EU will allow previously suspended retaliatory tariffs on the U.S. from [2018](#) and [2020](#) to enter into effect on April 1. These tariffs do not include fresh cherries (HS 0809.29).
- Second, the Commission [opened a consultation](#) until March 26 regarding [additional tariffs](#) on U.S. exports to be imposed by mid-April. A Commission [memo](#) provides more information about the consultation and proposed tariffs. This list does not include fresh cherries.

Japan Notifies Proposed Revisions to Quarantine Pest List

- On March 18, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) [notified](#) the WTO of proposed revisions to the *Ordinance for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act* regarding quarantine pests.
- The notification includes various changes, as covered in a [summary of the proposed revisions](#). The changes do not include any of direct relevance to fresh cherries from the U.S.
- The proposed date for adoption and publication is June 2025. Entry into force will occur six months from the date of publication, apart from amendments to the non-quarantine pest list which will enter into force on the day following the date of publication.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Enquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is May 17, 2025.

Vietnam Notifies Draft Amendments to Food Safety Law

- On March 18, Vietnam [notified the WTO](#) of [Draft Decree amending Decree No 15/2018/NĐ-CP](#) (in Vietnamese; [unofficial English translation](#)), amending Vietnam's Food Safety Law to streamline trade facilitative measures.
- According to machine translation, draft amendments of interest to CCB include:
 - Eliminating the requirement for translating and notarizing English legal documents after consular legalization and the acceptance of electronic copies.
 - Controlling changes to products after announcement by allowing for reannouncement if there is a change in the organization or individual responsible for bringing the product to the market; manufacturing facility or origin; product name; ingredients; uses, subjects; dosage; concentration, content, volume of ingredients that create the product's uses, dosage form; or quality and safety indicators.
- The draft decree was promulgated after publication and enters into force March 2025.

USDA Publishes Guidance on Vietnam's Government Restructuring

- On March 13, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) published a [GAIN report](#) on Vietnam's recent government restructuring, which merged the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to form the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE).
- In the coming months, the new director of MAE aims to better define the ministry's focus on what has been called a green transformation for more sustainable economic and environmental development in Vietnam.
- FAS advises that businesses may experience delays in administrative processes such as approvals, licensing, and permits as Vietnam transitions to this new governmental structure.