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A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD

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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Vietnam Reduces Tariff on Cherries**

- On April 1, Vietnam's Ministry of Finance [announced](#) (in Vietnamese) the Government issued *Decree No. 73/2025/ND-CP* amending and supplementing the preferential import tax rates of several items, including fresh cherries.
- The Decree reduces the most favored nation (MFN) tariff on cherries from 10% to 5%, effective immediately.

**USTR Publishes 2025 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers**

- On March 31, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) [announced](#) the publication of the [2025 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers \(NTE Report\)](#). The report outlines significant barriers to U.S. exports in foreign markets and actions taken to remedy those obstacles.
- The report highlights several barriers to U.S. agricultural exports including import policies, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers, and other categories. This includes tariffs on agricultural products including fruit in India and the Philippines, pending improvements to the cherry import program in South Korea, and non-scientific SPS measures in other markets.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**China Publishes 50 Updated Food Safety Standards, including Prepackaged Food Labeling Standards**

- On March 27, China's National Health Commission (NHC) [announced](#) (in Chinese) the publication of 50 updated food safety standards, including the following of potential interest:
  - *GB 7718-2025 General Rules for Labeling of Prepackaged Foods*
  - *GB 28050-2025 General Rules for Nutrition Labeling of Prepackaged Foods*
- As previously reported, *GB 7718-2025* and *GB 28050-2025* have gone through several draft consultations and will replace 2011 standards by the same names (*BCI Monitors 10-16-21, 1-30-24, 2-13-24, 2-20-24, 3-19-24, 7-30-24*).
- At this time, the final copies of the standards published in this announcement are not immediately available from the U.S. BCI has reached out to the U.S. embassy in China to obtain copies of the standards of interest and will provide a full analysis upon receipt.
- The specific applicability of the regulations to cherries is unclear without accessing documents and obtaining professional translations. Fresh fruit sold in bulk is not subject to China's current prepackaged food labeling regulations.

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### India Gazettes Amendment on Recycled Plastic Food Packaging

- On March 28, India gazetted the [Food Safety and Standards \(Packaging\) First Amendment Regulations, 2025](#), amending regulation 4, sub-regulation 4, clause (e) of the *Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018*, following a consultation in May 2022 (*BCI Monitor 5-24-22*).
- The revision only permits the use of recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) for packaging, storing, carrying, or dispensing of food products as and when standards and guidelines are notified by the Food Authority or when such packaging materials comply with national standards or regulations.
- The amendment entered into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

### Brazil Notifies Draft Food Contact Material Regulation

- On April 1, Brazil [notified](#) the WTO of draft [Resolution 1317](#) (in Portuguese) on health requirements for food-grade post-consumer recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET-PCR) used in food contact material (FCM).
- The draft establishes definitions, packaging manufacturer requirements, and labeling requirements. The labeling provisions, in particular, require that PET-PCR packaging display the name of the packaging producer, a batch number or coding that allows for traceability, and the phrase “PET-PCR” somewhere on the packaging.
- Brazil has not included a proposed adoption date for this draft resolution in its notification to the WTO.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Enquiry Point at [usatbtep@nist.gov](mailto:usatbtep@nist.gov). The WTO comment deadline is May 19, 2025.