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General Issues of Interest to the CCB:

USDA Publishes Translation of China's Updated Food Contact Materials Standard

- On September 18, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) published a [GAIN report](#) including an English translation of China's draft updated food contact materials (FCM) standard.
- The proposed changes were first announced on August 1 and subsequently notified to the WTO on August 29 (*BCI Monitor* 8-5-25, 9-2-25).
- Once finalized, the standard will replace the *General Safety Requirements for Food Contact Materials and Articles (GB 4806.1-2016)* and *National Food Safety Standard Food Contact Composite Materials and Articles (GB 4806.13-2023)*.
- The latest amendments to the standard include removal of the definition and requirements regarding "complete barrier", revision of the "Principle of Compliance" and "Product Information" sections, and integration of *GB 4806.13* with *GB 4806.1*.

South Korea Notifies Updates to QR Code Design Requirements for Food Labeling

- On September 22, South Korea [notified the WTO](#) of an [amendment](#) (in Korean) to its *Labeling Standard for Foods*, updating the design requirements for QR codes when used on food labeling (*BCI Monitor* 9-2-25).
- As previously reported, this update includes details on what should be contained within a QR code if used on food packaging as well as display location, font size, and QR code size for various types of packaging.
- The amendment will enter into force upon its publication in the South Korean gazette.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Enquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is October 12, 2025.

EU, Indonesia Conclude Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

- On September 22, the European Union (EU) [announced](#) that it had concluded negotiations with Indonesia on a free trade agreement.
- While the exact details of the deal have not been released, it will reportedly remove import duties on 98.5% of tariff lines and simplify export procedures for both countries. The EU has published a [factsheet](#) on the main benefits of the trade deal.
- The free trade agreement must now go through both parties' national ratification process before it enters into force.

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