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SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Canada Gazettes Amendments to Fresh Fruit Grading and Labeling Regulations

- On October 8, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) [gazetted amendments \(overview of changes\)](#) to the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) (SFCR), modernizing the development and maintenance of Canadian grade standards for fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV) (*BCI Monitor* 7-30-24). On October 9, CFIA also [notified the WTO](#). Of note to CCB, the amendments:
- Hand oversight of most FFV grade standards, including cherries, to a third-party industry body, the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC). They will manage these standards in their *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grade Requirements* published on their [website](#) and incorporated by reference into SFCR. The CFIA will establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DRC to set appropriate terms regarding grade updates. This update should not have any immediate, direct impacts on grade requirements for U.S. cherries exported to Canada.
- Removed overly prescriptive labeling requirements, including:
 - Exempting consumer prepackaged FFV from net quantity declaration requirements when the quantity of the FFV is 6 or fewer in a transparent container or when the FFV are packaged using a confining band.
 - Exempting the FFV that are packaged in clear transparent protective wrappers or bags from mandatory labeling requirements as they are now considered “unpackaged”.
 - Amending the minimum type height for mandatory labelling information (country of origin, grade, size designation, and net quantity) to 1.6 mm for consumer and non-consumer prepackaged FFV.
 - Making FFV size designation statements optional and, if used, the minimum type height 1.6mm.
 - Updating the [Units of Measurement for the Net Quantity Declaration of Certain Foods](#) document to allow declaration by weight, volume or numerical count for non-consumer prepackaged FFV packaged in a bag.
- The regulations entered into force on the date they were registered.

A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD

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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. – European Union (EU) Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for October 30-31, 2025: (in-person, Belgium). Contact Lisa Kohl for details, ppq.pim.requestsmanagement@usda.gov.
- The date for the U.S. – Colombia Plant Health Bilateral Meeting has been scheduled for December 8-12, 2025: (in-person, Maryland). Contact Sarah Heiskill for details, ppq.pim.requestsmanagement@usda.gov.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

India Proposes to Ban PFAs, BPA Used in Food Contact Materials

- On October 13, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published [Draft Food Safety and Standards \(Packaging\) Amendment Regulations, 2025](#) (English starting page 3), amending its *Food Safety and Standards (Packaging)* regulation regarding poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) and bisphenol A (BPA) used as food contact materials (FCMs).
- The draft amendments:
 - Ban the use of PFAs used in manufacturing FCMs.
 - Require FCMs manufactured with polycarbonate and epoxy resins to be free from BPA and its derivatives.
- Comments are due by December 12, 2025, and can be submitted via email to regulation@fssai.gov.in using the [comment form](#).