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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USTR Opens Public Consultation on USMCA in Advance of Joint Review

- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) recently [opened](#) a public consultation in advance of a joint review of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which will be held on July 1, 2026.
- Under *USMCA Article 34.7*, the USMCA signatories must decide whether to extend the Agreement for another 16-year term and may submit recommendations in advance.
- USTR requests written public comments and oral testimony on how the USMCA has operated, compliance issues, investment climate, market access, economic security, and the role of the Competitiveness Committee.
- The deadline for written comments and requests to appear at the hearing is November 3, 2025.
- The public hearing will occur on November 17, 2025, in Washington, DC.
- Submissions must be made via USTR's [online portal](#) (dockets USTR-2025-0004 for comments, USTR-2025-0005 for hearing requests).

Japan to Allow Electronic Import Plan Submission

- On October 1, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) [announced](#) that it would be [amending](#) (both in Japanese) the [Food Sanitation Act](#) to allow import notifications containing import plans to be submitted electronically.
- While this amendment allows for electronic import plan submission, it does not preclude the submission of a physical plan, which will continue to be accepted by MHLW.
- The amendment will enter into force October 12, 2025.

**A REPORT FOR
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CHERRY BOARD**

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