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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Taiwan Notifies Draft Amendment to Plant Quarantine Requirements Related to Light Brown Apple Moth

- On January 8, Taiwan [notified](#) the WTO of a [draft amendment](#) to its “Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Plants or Plant Products”, establishing specific import conditions for the light brown apple moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*).
- The amendment requires that plant products listed, including US-origin sweet cherries, be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country’s plant quarantine authority, certifying that the products have been inspected and found free of light brown apple moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*).
- Taiwan has not indicated an entry into force date for this amendment.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Enquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is March 9, 2026.

South Korea Notifies Proposed Changes to Plastic Packaging Requirements

- On January 12, South Korea’s Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) [notified the WTO](#) of [Notice No. 2026-009](#) (in Korean) on proposed amendments to the *Standards and Specifications for Food Utensils, Containers and Packages*.
- The proposed amendments establish standards for recognizing mechanically recycled polypropylene as a raw material, reorganize the composition system of the *Standards and Specifications for Food Utensils, Containers and Packages* (including the establishment of term definitions), and revise migrant specifications for DEHP and DEHA in polyvinyl chloride (PVC).
- Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force have yet to be determined.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Enquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is March 13, 2026.

Thailand Notifies Consultation on Amendments to Food Labeling Regulations

- On January 8, Thailand [notified](#) the WTO of its consultation on [amendments](#) (in Thai) to its food labeling regulations.
- As previously reported (*BCI Monitor 12-30-25*), the amendments of potential interest include the following:
 - Allowances are made for voluntary digital labeling. All details required on a physical label must be included on a digital label, and the digital label system must be continuously accessible and maintained.
- Labels that do not comply with these new requirements may still be used for three years after the amendments’ gazettal. Thailand has not yet indicated an official gazettal date.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Enquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is March 9, 2026.

EU Publishes Guidelines on Ban of BPA Use in Food Contact Materials

- The European Union (EU) recently published [guidelines](#) on its [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2024/3190 on the use of bisphenol A \(BPA\) and other bisphenols in certain materials and articles intended to come into contact with food](#), amending Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/213 (BCI Monitors 7-2-24, 12-23-24, 2-11-25).
- As previously reported, Article 3 prohibits the use of BPA and its salts in the manufacture and placing on the EU market of the following food contact materials (FCMs): adhesives, rubbers, ion-exchange resins, plastics, printing inks, silicones, and varnishes and coatings. Article 4 prohibits food contact materials that have been manufactured using other bisphenol or bisphenol derivatives from containing any residual BPA.
- The guidelines emphasize the requirements do not cover recycled FCMs, clarify the differences between “intermediate FCMs” and “final FCMs,” explain compliance testing obligations, outline the Declaration of Compliance requirements, and further explain transitional provisions.
- The regulation entered into force on January 20, 2025, with a two-year transition period for most FCMs containing BPA. Final FCMs lawfully placed on the market before the end of the applicable transition period can be sold until stocks are exhausted.

EU Authorizes Signing of EU-Mercosur Trade Agreements

- On January 9, the Council of the European Union (EU) [authorized](#) the signing of both the [EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement](#) (EMPA) and the associated [Interim Trade Agreement](#) (ITA). The agreements will be formally signed on January 17 when the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, travels to Paraguay.
- Mercosur’s full members include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The EU, meanwhile, represents a [trading bloc of 27 countries](#) as of January 2026.
- These agreements are expected to eliminate more than 90 percent of tariffs between the trading partners and provide for [the protection of uniquely European foods](#) in Mercosur countries (champagne, parmesan cheese, etc.). As of January 2026, the tariff reduction schedule has yet to be published.
- Additionally, on December 17, 2025, the EU and Mercosur agreed to a [series of bilateral safeguards](#) meant to protect EU agri-food businesses. These safeguards would allow specific tariffs to be reimplemented if deemed necessary to protect EU agri-food businesses.
- Prior to the formal conclusion of the agreements the European Parliament will have to ratify both. A political majority will be required to pass the agreements.

Chile Notifies Amendments to Imported Food Manual

- On January 13, Chile’s Ministry of Health [notified the WTO](#) of [draft amendments](#) (in Spanish) to its Imported Food Manual.
- According to machine translation, the draft amendments establish procedures for previously undescribed situations and provide further clarification of other procedures, including:
 - Clarifying and standardizing the requirements and digital submission process for the Customs Destination Certificate (CDA).
 - Requiring declaration of the destination market (domestic or re-export) to support risk-based controls.
 - Strengthening coordination between the CDA, Authorization for Use and Disposal, and Temporary Entry procedures.
 - Updating and clarifying documentation and evaluation criteria for Authorization for Use and Disposal.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. TBT Enquiry Point at usatbtep@nist.gov. The WTO comment deadline is March 14, 2026.