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**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

France Publishes Pesticide Decree, Reporting from USDA and Risk to U.S. Fruit Exports

- On January 7, France published a [decree](#) (in French), as authorized under the European Union (EU) safeguard clause (Article 53 of [Regulation \(EC\) No. 178/2002](#)), banning the import and marketing of grains, soybeans, fruits, and vegetables containing any quantifiable residue of five pesticides that are banned in the European Union (EU) but, in most cases, are still legally used in the U.S.
 - The five pesticides are carbendazim, benomyl, glufosinate, thiophanate-methyl, and mancozeb.
- The decree applies to products entering France directly or via another EU Member State. Sweet cherries are explicitly listed among the affected fruits requiring the absence of any quantifiable residue of the listed pesticides.
- The ultimate impact on U.S. fruit exports will depend on how strictly France enforces the decree, whether it is upheld by French courts, and whether similar action is taken at the EU level. Additional details and analysis are included in a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) [GAIN Report](#).
- The decree enters into force February 6, 2026, for a one-year period.

EU–Mercosur Trade Agreements Signed

- The [EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement](#) (EMPA) and the associated [Interim Trade Agreement](#) (ITA) were [signed](#) on January 17, 2026 (*BCI Monitor 1-13-26*).
- On the EU side, the EMPA will require ratification by all Member States in accordance with their respective national procedures. In parallel, the ITA will proceed through the EU-only ratification process, as it falls within the EU's exclusive competences, requiring the consent of the European Parliament and the adoption of a Council decision on conclusion, after which it will enter into force. The ITA will cease to apply once the EMPA enters into force.
- Tariff reduction details on cherries will be published once the ITA has been ratified and an entry into force date has been set.

India Updates Universal Food Labeling Transition Period

- On January 6, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published [SS-GOSP08\(MISC\)/1/2025-Standard-FSSAI](#), providing for a 365-day minimum transition period of all food labeling regulations.
- This replaces a similar order previously published January 3, 2025, which only provided for a 180-day transition period. Notably, the universal July 1st entry into force date for all labeling regulations in this replaced order is maintained by [SS-GOSP08\(MISC\)/1/2025-Standard-FSSAI](#).
- Notably, USDA published a [GAIN Report](#) on this new order, which emphasizes the improved predictability for exporters that the new transition period provides.