

JANUARY 27, 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Japan Opens Consultation on Annual Imported Food Monitoring Plan**
- **Singapore's Amendment to Food Labeling Exempting Fresh Fruits Enters into Force**
- **Mexico Enacts Customs Law Decree**
- **EU and India Conclude Free Trade Agreement Negotiations**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Japan Opens Consultation on Annual Imported Food Monitoring Plan

- On January 20, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) [published for consultation](#) the [Imported Food Monitoring Guidance Plan \(Draft\)](#) (both in Japanese) to be applied from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.
- According to machine translation, the guidance establishes the annual framework for the monitoring and inspection of imported food and for responding to food safety violations. Appendix 1 of the plan lists the estimated number of categories of inspection for imported food covering pesticide residues, additives, pathogenic microorganisms, and genetically modified (GM) or irradiated food, among others.
- Comments may be submitted through the consultation announcement and are due by February 18, 2026.

Singapore's Amendment to Food Labeling Exempting Fresh Fruits Enters into Force

- On January 30, Singapore's previously reported [amendment](#) to its food labeling law, exempting prepacked fresh, whole, and unpeeled fruits and vegetables from Singapore's requirement to include lot identification on labeling, enters into force (*BCI Monitor 4-22-25*).

Mexico Enacts Customs Law Decree

- According to a recent USDA FAS [GAIN report](#), Mexico implemented major [customs reforms](#) (in Spanish) effective January 1, 2026, requiring full digitization of customs valuation through the mandatory Electronic Value Declaration (MVE) via the Single Window for Foreign Trade (VUCEM).
- Physical declarations are no longer accepted, and importers are now fully responsible for submitting supporting documentation, including invoices, transport and insurance documents, contracts, and proof of payment. All must be signed with a valid e-signature.
- The reforms also require customs facilities and authorized operators to implement advanced technology systems, including inventory control, surveillance, traceability, and real-time monitoring interoperable with national customs systems.
- According to USDA, the reforms increase the risk of product loss or damage for perishable goods if errors occur in the MVE or its attachments, as last-minute corrections are time-consuming and technological oversight may cause delays.
- Authorities have 120 days to adapt implementing regulations and 90 days to issue detailed guidance.

**A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

Bryant Christie Inc. – Seattle
2033 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1030
Seattle, WA 98121
Phone: (206) 292-6340 Fax: (206) 292-6341

Bryant Christie Inc. – Sacramento
2005 "I" Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone: (916) 492-7062 Fax: (916) 492-7061

EU and India Conclude Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

- According to a European Commission [announcement](#), the European Union (EU) and India have concluded negotiations on a landmark free trade agreement (FTA).
- According to an [EU chapter-by-chapter summary of the EU–India FTA](#), the agreement delivers near-comprehensive tariff liberalization (covering 96.6% of Indian and 99.3% of EU trade). It establishes detailed rules of origin based on self-certification and provides enhanced customs facilitation. The deal also includes enforceable sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and technical barriers to trade (TBT) disciplines, among other provisions.
- While the agreement highlights tariff reductions for certain fresh fruits, fresh cherries are not specifically referenced in the publicly released summaries, suggesting that market access outcomes for cherries may depend on final tariff schedules, quota provisions, or existing phytosanitary requirements once the full negotiated texts are published.
- The European Commission indicated that negotiated draft texts will be published shortly, followed by legal scrubbing and translation. The Commission will then submit the agreement to the Council for signature and conclusion. After signature, the agreement will require European Parliament consent, Council approval, and ratification by India before it can enter into force.