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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

Japan Notifies Proposed Revisions to Plant Protection Act Enforcement Rules

- On March 6, Japan [notified](#) the WTO of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) proposed revisions to the *Ordinance for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act*, updating multiple annexed tables that govern quarantine pests and plants subject to specific phytosanitary measures in exporting countries.
- The changes are intended to reflect the latest scientific evidence and risk assessments. A [summary of the proposed revisions](#) is included in the WTO notification. There are no changes that appear directly relevant to imports of fresh sweet cherries from the U.S.
- Japan proposes to adopt and publish the revisions in June 2026, with most measures entering into force six months after publication. However, changes identified as trade-facilitating would take effect the day after publication.
- Comments can be sent to the U.S. SPS Enquiry Point at us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov. The WTO comment deadline is May 5, 2026.

Japan to Implement Updated Annual Imported Food Monitoring Plan April 1st

- Japan's updated annual imported food monitoring plan will enter into force on April 1, 2026.
- According to machine translation of the [Imported Food Monitoring Guidance Plan \(Draft\)](#) (in Japanese) circulated in January, the guidance establishes the annual framework for the monitoring and inspection of imported food and for responding to food safety violations (*BCI Monitor 1-27-26*).
- 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.

Japan Extends Transition Period for Positive List System for Food Contact Materials

- On February 13, Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) published a [Partial Revision of the Standards for Food, Food Additives, etc.](#) on the reorganization of use-specific standards for utensils, containers, and packaging under Japan's [positive list system](#) (both in Japanese) for food contact materials. The amendment extends the transition period during which products may continue to comply with the previous rules.
- Under the amendment, utensils and containers/packaging that are sold, manufactured or imported for sale, or used in business before June 1, 2030, may continue to follow the previous requirements. This extends the prior transition deadline of June 1, 2027.
- The amendment also clarifies that "similar products" covered by the transition include utensils and containers/packaging manufactured or imported using substances already used in existing products, so long as those substances remain within their previously used scope.
- Japan's positive list system entered into force June 1, 2025, while provisions related to changes in specifications and test methods enter into force June 1, 2026 (*BCI Monitors 6-27-23, 5-7-24, 1-14-25, 5-27-25, 6-24-25*).

**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