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## SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**Taiwan Notifies Entry into Force of Updated Plant Quarantine Requirements Related to Light Brown Apple Moth**

- On March 17, Taiwan [notified](#) the WTO of its [amended](#) “Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Plants or Plant Products”, establishing specific import conditions for the light brown apple moth (*BCI Monitor 1-13-26*).
- As previously reported, 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*).
- The amendment enters into force on April 1, 2026.

## GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

**USTR Opens Section 301 Investigations on Trade Partners**

- On March 11, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [opened](#) investigations into various trade partners under Section 301(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 relating to structural excess capacity and production in manufacturing sectors.
- The countries under investigation include the following: China, the European Union, Singapore, Switzerland, Norway, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, South Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Mexico, Japan, and India.
- USTR expects to open the public comment period for these investigations on March 17, 2026, and hold a public hearing on May 5, 2026.

**USTR Opens RFA for Industry Trade Advisory Committees**

- On March 12, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [opened](#) a request for applications (RFA) from qualified individuals interested in serving as members of the Industry Trade Advisory Committees (ITACs).
- ITACs provide feedback and recommendations to the USTR on the operation and negotiation of trade agreements as well as other relevant U.S. trade policy matters.
- Of potential interest, ITAC 13 on ‘Customs Matters and Trade Facilitation’ has openings available for application.
- Applications close on April 2, 2026. The application form as well as associated requirements can be found on [the notification itself](#).

**A REPORT FOR  
THE CALIFORNIA  
CHERRY BOARD**

### UK Outlines Scope of Proposed SPS Alignment with EU

- On March 9, the United Kingdom’s (UK) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) [published](#) an outline of the legislation within the scope of the UK–European Union (EU) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. Formal negotiations began in November 2025 following the EU’s adoption of its negotiating mandate (*BCI Monitor 12-9-25*).
- The outline reflects the comprehensive scope of proposed UK-EU alignment by detailing multiple legislative areas expected to fall within the Agreement.
- The update confirms that food-contact materials are now included within the Agreement’s scope, meaning EU authorizations for food-contact substances would automatically apply across the entire UK once the Agreement takes effect.
- Negotiations may still refine which areas the UK retains full regulatory control over, and DEFRA has indicated that targeted transitional arrangements may be established for sectors facing substantial adjustments. Detailed business guidance will follow once negotiations conclude.

### India Publishes Draft Amendments to Food Packaging, Food Contact Material Definitions

- On March 11, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India published [draft Food Safety and Standards \(Packaging\) Amendment Regulations, 2026](#), adding additional definitions for food contact materials (FCM) and food packaging to the *Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018*.
- The draft adds the following definitions to the regulation:
  - FCM: “any material, including active and intelligent materials, article, and product intended to come into contact with food and should not have any undesirable effect on the food and health”.
  - Food grade contact material: “any material(s) that are used for manufacturing, processing, handling (including kitchenware, tableware, etc.), packaging, storage and transportation of food contact material should have demonstrated their compliance with specific safety standards under prescribed conditions and shall not endanger human and animal health and result in an unacceptable change in the composition and characteristics of food during its intended use”.
  - Modified atmosphere packaging: “enclosure of food in a package in which the atmosphere inside the package is modified or altered to provide an optimum atmosphere for increasing shelf life and maintaining food quality”.
  - Food packaging: “package to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery, and storage, transport and presentation of food, from raw materials to processed food, from the producer to the user or consumer, including processor, assembler or other intermediary”.
  - Non-intentionally added substances (NIAS): “chemicals that are present in a food contact material (FCM) or food contact article (FCA) but have not been added for a technical reason during the production process”.
  - Aseptic packaging: “process where a sterilized product is filled into a sterilized container and sealed in a sterile environment to prevent contamination”.
- Comments are due by May 10, 2026, and can be submitted via the [online comment platform](#).