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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USDA Reports on UK Guidance for Proposed SPS Agreement with EU

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) has published a [GAIN report](#) summarizing UK government [guidance](#) on business preparation for its anticipated sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement with the European Union (EU), which would require the UK to broadly realign with EU food safety, feed, and agricultural production legislation (*BCI Monitors* 3-17-26, 12-9-25). The guidance targets implementation by mid-2027, with final legal provisions and transition arrangements expected at the second annual UK-EU Reset Summit scheduled for July 22, 2026.
- Key highlights from the guidance of potential interest include the following:
 - Routine SPS border checks will end for goods moving from the EU into Great Britain (GB) or from GB into Northern Ireland, and export health and phytosanitary certificates will no longer be required for such movements. Conversely, inspections on certain non-EU imports into GB will increase to align with EU levels, and phytosanitary certificates will be required for all non-EU plant and plant product imports.
 - Active substances and pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) will align with EU rules, with some pesticide products potentially withdrawn or restricted.

UK Sets Implementation Date for Agricultural Tariff Suspensions, Seeks Input on Additional Products

- On June 17, the United Kingdom's (UK) Department for Business and Trade [published](#) details regarding the suspension of tariffs on a selection of agricultural and food products to mitigate rising prices. The duty suspension was scheduled to be implemented from June 21, 2026.
- As previously reported, the full [list of tariff suspensions on agricultural goods](#) does not include cherries (*BCI Monitor* 5-26-26).
- Notably, the UK also added its previously announced [call for input](#) on potential tariff suspensions of an additional package of products. Comments are due by June 24, 2026.

Japan Publishes Revisions to Plant Protection Act Enforcement Rules

- On June 17, Japan [notified](#) the WTO of the publication of the revisions to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) *Ordinance for Enforcement of the Plant Protection Act* and the non-quarantine pest list (*BCI Monitor* 3-10-26).
- Most revisions, including updates to Annexed Tables [1](#), [1-2](#), [2](#), and [2-2](#), governing quarantine pests and plants subject to phytosanitary measures in exporting countries, will enter into force on December 17, 2026. Two trade-facilitating changes took effect from June 18, 2026: the deletion of one pest from Annexed Table 1 (quarantine pest list) and the deletion of Item 7 from Annexed Table 2-2 (import-prohibited plants subject to conditional exceptions). The revised [non-quarantine pest list](#) also entered into force June 18.
- There are no changes that appear directly relevant to imports of fresh sweet cherries from the U.S.

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