

OCTOBER 6, 2026

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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USTR Requests Comments, Announces Public Hearing Ahead of 2027 USMCA Joint Review

- On October 5, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) published a [Federal Register Notice](#) requesting public comments and announcing a public hearing of the 2027 annual joint review of the Agreement between the *United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada* (USMCA).
- The federal notice invites comments on:
 - Any aspect of the operation or implementation of the USMCA;
 - Compliance issues under the USMCA;
 - Recommendations for specific actions USTR should propose ahead of the joint review;
 - Factors affecting the investment climate in North America and in the territories of each Party, as well as the USMCA's effectiveness in promoting investment that strengthens U.S. competitiveness, productivity, and technological leadership; and
 - Strategies for strengthening North American economic security and competitiveness, including cooperation on non-market policies and practices of other countries.
- USTR will assemble a public hearing and post the date and location on [USTR's website](#). Remarks are limited to five minutes and should not include confidential business information.
- Written comments and requests to appear at the hearing are due by January 12, 2027. Requests to appear must include a summary of the proposed testimony. Post-hearing rebuttal comments are due seven calendar days after the last day of the hearing.
- Submissions must be in English and may be filled through the [online USTR portal](#). Comments and rebuttals may be submitted under docket USTR-2026-0595, and hearing appearance requests under USTR-2026-0596. Anyone submitting confidential business information must clearly mark it and submit a public version.

Thailand Opens Consultation on Revisions to Plastic Food Container Standards

- On September 16, Thailand's Food and Drug Administration (Thai FDA) and Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) [opened a public consultation](#) on [proposed revisions](#) (both in Thai) to the [Notification of the Ministry of Public Health \(No. 435\) B.E. 2565 \(2022\) on Prescribing the Quality or Standards of Plastic Containers](#).

*(Continued on Next Page)***A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD**

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Thailand Opens Consultation on Revisions to Plastic Food Container Standards (cont.)

- According to machine translation, the consultation provides two options for limiting polycarbonate plastic, citing restrictions on bisphenol A (BPA) in the European Union (EU) and other markets:
 - prohibiting polycarbonate after a five-year grace period; or
 - retaining it with BPA migration limited to a 1 µg/kg detection limit.
- The draft revisions would also require all plastic containers to meet new limits on epoxy derivatives and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), the latter referencing the EU's [*Regulation \(EU\) 2025/40*](#) on packaging and packaging waste.
- The draft also proposes adding plastic types for permitted food containers in Annex 1, including recycled high-density polyethylene, and revised migration limits for polyolefins (polyethylene and polypropylene).
- Comments are due by December 31, 2026, and may be submitted through the [questionnaire link](#) (in Thai) provided via the public consultation announcement