

# ABC Global Issues Update

## China Notifies the WTO of New Standard on the Prevention of Aflatoxin in Food

On March 16, 2018 China notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its draft Code of Practice for Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Food.

The Code applies to peanuts, corn, cottonseeds, tree nuts, and feed for dairy cows. *But it is focused on best practices, NOT aflatoxin limits.*

The draft is open to comments until May 15, 2018. A date of entry into effect has not yet been determined.

## High-Ranking Delegation to China -- Outcome?

A high-level delegation of U.S. cabinet officials was in China last week to continue negotiations of proposed tariffs. At the conclusion of the trip, it was reported that both sides agreed to continue discussion, but with no specific outcomes from the meetings.

Reports did not include any information on whether the *existing* tariffs which have *already been applied* to horticultural crops and pork were part of the negotiations.

## India Publishes Draft Labeling and Display Regulations

On April 11, 2018 India notified the WTO of draft revisions to its food labeling and display regulations. The following are the most substantial changes.

The regulations are for labelling of pre-packaged foods and display of

essential information on premises where food is manufactured, processed, served and stored:

- The Nutritional Information labeling requirement has been revised to incorporate front-of-pack (FOP) labeling.
- Unless a nutrition or health claim is made on the label, the following products do not require nutritional information labeling: packaged fresh produce; fresh seafood, eggs, and meat.
- An 'Expiry' date is not required for fresh produce.
- Specific Mandatory Declarations must be prominently displayed on the label of all packaged food containing ingredient and/or additives listed in schedule IV of the Regulation (beginning on page 34). Products and ingredients with Mandatory Declarations include fresh fruit coated with wax.

The draft, submitted to the WTO, is open to public comment until June 10, 2018.

## EU Adopts Criteria for Identifying Endocrine Disruptors

On April 19, the European Union adopted scientific criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the context of plant protection products (PPPs) legislation.

The European Union is the first to have strict legally binding criteria to identify endocrine disruptors. Though EPA has criteria it has been using for several years now.

These criteria will become applicable on November 10, 2018. The

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) are finalizing a guidance document on the implementation of the criteria for both biocides and pesticides. The Guidance document will be available in June 2018

## EU Member States Endorse Ban on Outdoor Use of Three Neonicotinoids

On April 27, EU member states endorsed the EU Commission's draft regulations concerning the conditions of approval for neonicotinoids **clothianidin**, **imidacloprid**, and **thiamethoxam**, completely banning outdoor uses.

The Commission is expected to adopt the following draft regulations in the coming weeks:

- Clothianidin ( Annex )
- Imidacloprid ( Annex )
- Thiamethoxam ( Annex )

These regulations further restrict the use of plant protection products and treated seeds containing the three neonicotinoids to protect bees, extending the measures adopted by the Commission in 2013.

## Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Adopts New Measures Against the Spread of Plant Pests

This week the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) adopted new measures for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Those measures include:

- A standard on the use of various temperature treatments against agricultural pests.
- An update to the ISPM-15 standards for wood packing materials to include the use of sulphuryl fluoride and new generation heating technologies.
- An expanded standard on the use of heat vapor to kill Oriental Fruit Flies (OFF)
- Revisions to standards targeting fruit flies to improve countries' compliance and effectiveness.

The IPPC is a multilateral treaty that aims to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests. The treaty is overseen by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

congressional staffers is also planned, focusing on almond industry practices and priorities.

Visits will focus on the status of the crop, as well as the impact of recent trade actions, Farm Bill programs, marketing order administration, labeling issues, etc.

**Possible Effect of Iran Sanctions?**

On May 8, President Trump announced he is reimposing U.S. nuclear sanctions on Iran and will "withdraw" from the Iran nuclear deal, an action that could lead to the collapse of the agreement.

The decision is likely to exacerbate tensions between the U.S. and key European allies, at a time when the U.S. faces several global challenges.

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**Status of Iprodione Still Unknown**

It is still unclear how MRLs for iprodione will be handled in Europe. It is anticipated that in mid-June, the EU Standing Committee will take up discussions regarding the lowering of iprodione MRLs to the default level for all food crops. It is expected that the discussions will include how to address possible transitional periods for longer shelf-life crops (such as almonds).

Implementation of any regulation would only come into effect after completing the scrutiny period, publication of the regulation, grace periods, etc.

**ABC Delegation to Head to DC in June**

During the week of June 4-7, a delegation of ABC staff and industry members will travel to Washington, DC. The itinerary of meetings will include visits with USDA/Ag Marketing Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Trade Representative's Office, FDA, and EPA. An educational meeting for

**Upcoming Travel**

- **May 7-20, 2018.**  
Nan Nan in China for Bakery China and SIAL China.
- **May 15-19, 2018**  
Guangwei Huang and Karen Lapsley in Wuhan, China for International Conference on Insect Farming.
- **May 21-24, 2018**  
Richard Waycott, Julie Adams, and Karen Lapsley in Seville, Spain for INC.
- **May 30-31, 2018**  
Beth Van Meter, Gabriele Ludwig, Jesse Roseman at MRL Workshop in San Francisco
- **June 3-8, 2018**  
Richard Waycott, Julie Adams, Gabriele Ludwig, Daren Williams and an industry delegation in Washington, DC for meetings with regulators and congressional staff.

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The Global Update is a publication by the Almond Board of California. For more information, please contact the Almond Board at 209.549.8262 or [regulatoryissues@almondboard.com](mailto:regulatoryissues@almondboard.com). The information reported in this document is correct to the best of our knowledge.

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