

ABC Global Issues Update

USTR Publishes Annual Trade Agenda

On March 1, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) published the Trump Administration's [2017 Trade Policy Agenda](#) and 2016 Annual Report. The document outlines four U.S. trade priorities for 2017: 1) promoting U.S. sovereignty; 2) enforcing U.S. trade laws; 3) leveraging American economic strength to expand goods and services exports; and 4) protecting U.S. intellectual property rights.

The report reassesses the right of the U.S. not to abide by World Trade Organization (WTO) decisions against its trade policies, and signaled that the U.S. will aggressively use trade remedy laws to challenge countries that refuse to open their markets.

The overarching theme of this administration's trade policy will be to "expand trade in a way that is freer and fairer for all Americans." The administration believes these goals can be achieved by focusing on bilateral negotiations as opposed to multilateral deals, and by renegotiating current trade deals. Regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the administration notes it will continue engaging in bilateral trade talks with TPP signatories as part of an effort to increase market access for American-made goods and agricultural products.

India Publishes Draft Guidelines and Regulatory Compliance FAQs

On January 16, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published [draft guidelines](#) for food business operators (FBOs). These guidelines apply to all food manufacturers, importers, distributors, storage units, marketers, retailers, and suppliers.

The guide includes information regarding registration, license requirements, liability, the handling of consumer complaints, and other obligations of FBOs selling products directly to consumers.

In addition, FSSAI also recently published a list of [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) related to common regulatory compliance issues.

Recently, ABC staff met with FSSAI to discuss nutrition programs. FSSAI is launching a "Safe and Nutrious Food" program, which may provide opportunities for almonds. Further discussions are anticipated to take place in May to better understand how almonds can collaborate with and leverage the government's strategy.

China Publishes 2017 Agricultural Policy Goals

China recently published what is referred to as the No. 1 Document, an annual report on the country's policy goals regarding agricultural and rural issues. The document outlines China's main agriculture-related goals for 2017.

This includes the country's effort to achieve staple grain self-sufficiency, although the focus on this issue has shifted from quantity to quality. Another key policy goal cited in the document is China's intention to utilize and enhance trade remedy measures to investigate questionable agricultural imports. This plan is connected to the government's goal of improving the country's food safety system. In 2017, China is aiming to improve agricultural product quality and safety standards by developing organic fertilizer options and by establishing a comprehensive traceability system. The importance of agricultural technology research and development is emphasized, although the document does not explicitly address goals regarding biotechnology or genetically modified crops.

An unofficial translation of the No. 1 Document is available in the following U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [GAIN report](#).

FDA Certificates of Free Sale

Starting February 20, 2017, certificates of free sale (COFS) for food products regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) will be issued online as downloadable PDFs. The change from paper to PDF certificates will make the process of issuing COFS more efficient for both exporters and the agency.

The FDA Certificate Application Process (CAP) is CFSAN's web-based application for accepting requests, reviewing, processing,

managing, tracking, and administering CFSAN export certificates. To access CAP, log in to FDA Industry Systems please [click here](#) select the "Certificate Application Process" option from the list of systems available. If you do not have an account with FDA Industry Systems, you will need to create one.

Please [click here](#) to read the full announcement.

New Specially Labeled Food Requirements for S. Korea

Starting January 1, 2017, all agencies that certify HACCP, ISO 22000, Halal, Kosher, GMP, and Vegan labeled products are required to register with the South Korean government. If the certifying body has not registered with Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS), these claims must be removed from the product label prior to import. Please [click here](#) to see the Korean site, regarding the Regulation for Approving Reliability of Certification Assurance Agency for Labels, Advertisements of Foods and Livestock Products.

Trans-Pacific Partnership Continues without the U.S.

A new report published by the Asia Society Policy Institute titled: Charting a Course for Trade and Economic Integration in the Asia Pacific, was published, stating the organization wants to "urge the United States to reconsider its position on the TPP, even with possible adjustments."

The report comes one week before a scheduled meeting in Chile of representatives from the remaining TPP members. During the meeting, the countries will discuss next steps for economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region, which is home to nine of the 15 fastest growing economies in 2016. The U.S. will also attend, along with two other non-TPP countries, China and South Korea, which are potential future members if

the agreement goes into force. To read the full report please [click here](#).

Working through the Transition Process.....

As the transition continues, many agencies are still working with acting heads. According to the Partnership for Public Service which tracks nominations, of the 552 key executive branch roles that require Senate confirmation, 18 people have been confirmed, 17 are awaiting confirmation and 517 have not been nominated.

Cabinet members that have been confirmed to date include: Nikki Haley, Representative to the United Nations; Lina McMahon, Small Business Administrator; Scott Pruitt, EPA Administrator; Mike Pompeo, Director of the CIA; John Kelly, Secretary of Homeland Security; David Shulkin, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Elizabeth DeVos, Secretary of Education; Rick Perry, Secretary of Energy; Ben Carson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Thomas Price, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce; Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior; Jeff Session, Attorney General; James Mathis, Secretary of Defense; Seve Mnuchin, Secretary of Treasury; and Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State.

USDA Announces Over \$60 Million in Grant Availability for the Specialty Crop Industry

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is making more than \$60 million in grants available to support farmers growing fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and nursery crops, also known as specialty crops. The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program grants are allocated to U.S. states and territories for projects that help support projects including research, agricultural extension

activities, and programs to address the needs of America's specialty crop industry. For more information about the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, go [here](#).

Save the Date! 2017 MRL Conference

The annual MRL Harmonization Workshop will be held May 31 and June 1 at the Hyatt-Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. The workshop is an excellent opportunity to engage with U.S. government authorities, and to learn more about current and/or emerging global pesticide issues.

We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

Upcoming Travel

- **March 16-21, 2017**
Julie Adams in Brussels for the European Snack Association meetings.
- **March 16-31, 2017**
Richard Waycott and Mike Mason in Spain and Israel, meeting with trade and government authorities.
- **March 23-31, 2017**
Spencer Cooper in Israel for meetings related to water and irrigation systems.
- **March 18-28, 2017**
Guangwei Huang in China for trade meetings
- **March 18-28, 2017**
Emily Fleischmann in India for a media event in Hyderabad and agency meetings in New Delhi.

ABC Trade/Regulatory Staff Contacts:

Julie: jadams@almondboard.com
Beth: evanmeter@almondboard.com
Gabriele: gludwig@almondboard.com
Bunnie: bibrahim@almondboard.com

Document #2017GTRA0005

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 staff@almondboard.com. The information reported in this document is correct to the best of our knowledge.

The Almond Board of California welcomes the participation of all industry members and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, religion, age, disability or political beliefs