



September 11, 2025

ABC International Outreach

The annual China International Tree Nuts Conference was held in Ningbo early in August. During the almond panel, ABC staff provided an update on the long relationship that has been enjoyed in China, despite challenging times. Presentations also focused on opportunities for almond ingredients, given the growing food processing sector. The conference also included presentations on how customs authorities are viewing Rules of Origin – and important consideration with further processing happening in several Asian markets before being shipped to China.

U.S. and Chinese trade are closely following trade negotiations; Chinese tariffs on US-origin almonds remain at 45%, but only zero on Australian almonds due to their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) implemented in 2018. Industry members were encouraged to learn that Chinese authorities would continue to approve Section 301 waiver requests until the end of October. Without the waiver, duties on almonds would be 75%. Please contact Julie for more info at jadams@almondboard.com.

Latest Tariff Updates

Since the end of August, the administration has:

- Announced a [new deal with Japan](#) including tariff cuts on Japanese autos from 27.5% to 15%;
- announced another 90-day extension with China on new tariffs until November 10;
- ended the *de minimis* exemption that allowed duty-free imports of packages under \$800;
- extended a decision on additional tariffs applicable to goods from Mexico for 90 days;
- implemented a 25% tariff on imports from India based on Indian purchases of Russian oil bringing the new US tariff on imports from India to 50%.

On Aug. 29, a U.S. Federal Appeals Court issued a decision affirming the Court of International Trade's decision that reciprocal tariffs imposed by the Trump Administration exceeded the authority delegated to the President by the International Emergency Economics Powers Act (IEEPA). The decision allows for tariffs to remain in place through

October 14 to allow time for an appeal. The administration has asked the Supreme Court to fast track its review by deciding whether to take up the case by September 10 and holding arguments in November. Under such a scenario, the tariffs would likely remain in effect until the court issues its decision which could take until sometime in 2026, potentially as late as June 2026 when the court's next term ends. Please contact Keith for more info: kschneller@almondboard.com.

India Lowers Goods & Services Tax (GST) on Almonds from 12% to 5%

ABC has been working closely with industry and government stakeholders since 2017, building the case for GST harmonization across all tree nuts. Last week, India's GST council announced rate changes across a range of products, which take effect September 22. Almonds will now move from 12% GST to 5% GST! Previously, only walnuts/cashews/peanuts were at 5%, while almonds and other tree nuts were at 12%. This will definitely support efforts to increase consumer consumption and ingredient innovation in India.

EU Trade Negotiation Updates

The [EU Commission recently published a proposed list](#) of tariff concessions committed to in the August 2025 U.S.-EU trade agreement. The proposal will go to the European Parliament and Council for approval. The proposal includes a new Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for U.S. tree nuts (HS0802 and 200819) of **zero tariffs** on up to 500,000 MT. This would be in addition to the existing Most Favored Nation (MFN) TRQ for almonds with an in-quota tariff of 2% on up to 86,000 Metric Tons of almonds. Please contact Julie or Keith for more information.

Almond Conference Trade Sessions Dec 10-12

Plans are moving forward for several trade and logistics focused sessions at The Almond Conference (TAC). US Trade Representative (USTR) and Industry experts have been invited to speak about the current trade environment, while a session on logistics and transportation will take a look at Port of Oakland developments. Registration opens soon for the conference in Sacramento!

Aflatoxin Retesting Issues in Europe

Several industry members have reported that buyers in Germany are increasingly conducting their own aflatoxin testing after the goods have already cleared customs. Due to recent German legislation, any adverse findings, even for companies doing own testing, are now *required to be reported* to the local authorities. This regulatory shift has led to the issuance of Rapid Alerts, which, while not attributed to the product's country of origin, are nonetheless viewed by certain EU member states such as Spain as a basis for heightened scrutiny and additional testing for affected shippers.

Importantly, local German authorities are not obligated to permit retesting, unlike EU port authorities operating under the EU import control framework. This discrepancy certainly poses operational challenges for shippers. ABC is reaching out to German industry association partners and authorities about the situation. Efforts are also targeting engagement with the European Commission to raise awareness of the impact on trade due to lack of consistent enforcement practices across member states. For more information, please contact Abhi at akulkarni@almondboard.com.

New USDA-supported MRL Database

The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), through its Assisting Specialty Crop Exports (ASCE) initiative, has released free, downloadable Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Quick Reference Sheets to support U.S. specialty crop exporters. Currently, the reference database covers ten major specialty crop export markets, including the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, as well as the United States and Codex MRLs. The resource is available at mrlquicksheets.foodchainid.com and includes MRLs for almonds.

The reference sheets will be updated every six months. FAS is also working to add more markets to the reference sheets in the near future.

USDA Personnel Updates

Luke Lindberg was confirmed as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs at USDA on August 2, 2025. Within the first month of his

confirmation, he held roundtables with Commodity cooperators to discuss USDA's market development programs. ABC participated in the August 28th roundtable. Various USDA programs were discussed and ABC was given the opportunity to highlight some of the market access issues the almond industry faces.

China Facility Registration Renewals

Please note the following if you haven't submitted your General Administration of Customs (GACC) registration extension requests:

- Each handler must confirm their FDA registration and FDA/Export Listing Module (ELM) applications for China Nuts and Seeds are up to date (check here: <https://www.access.fda.gov/>)
- Most GACC registrations will expire at the end of 2025, but some will expire later. China Import Food Enterprise Registration(CIFER) portal renewals can only be made within 6-months of expiration. Check your GACC expiration date here (use 12 for nut category and USA for region): <https://ciferquery.singlewindow.cn/>
- If your FDA/ELM is up to date, go to <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> to request the 5-year extension. You will need to sign/stamp and upload/submit two documents: The one-page GACC Declaration of Conformity and the FDA approved GACC Checklist (sign at Section 13.1).

GACC will require full, new registrations if original approvals expire. Contact Keith at kschneller@almondboard.com for assistance.

Upcoming Events & GTRA Activities

Nov 1-7	Ag Cooperator Trip to China/ CIIE Show
Nov 18-20	USAEDC Conference in Baltimore
Dec 10-12	The Almond Conference in Sacramento

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