



June 11, 2026

## ABC Joins TRUMP Trade Mission to Argentina and Ecuador



In June, ABC participated in a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) led Trade Reciprocity for U.S. Manufacturers and Producers (TRUMP) trade mission to Argentina and Ecuador headed by Under Secretary Luke Lindberg. ABC was one of only seven USDA cooperators invited to join the delegation. During the mission, ABC engaged with government officials, agricultural industry leaders, importers, and business organizations in both countries to strengthen relationships, explore market opportunities, and advance California almond interests.

Argentina is a growing market that increased imports of California almonds by about 50% in 2025 to around \$10 million. The U.S.-Argentina Agreement on Reciprocal Trade creates a tariff rate quota that allows up to 870 metric tons of California almonds to enter Argentina at 0% duty that currently fall under a 9% tariff rate.

## Latest Tariff and Trade Updates

Following is a quick rundown of recent tariff and trade activities. ABC is closely monitoring the announcements, to identify where these framework agreements directly benefit almonds. Unless noted, *implementation dates have not been announced*:

- United States Trade Representative (USTR) India negotiators were in India recently for additional discussions; reports are that progress

was made and an additional meeting is planned for later this month. Both sides are cautiously optimistic that an announcement on Tranche 1 will be made before the end of July.

- UK announcements related to tariff suspensions are anticipated this month. A request for almonds and manufactured almond products is under consideration.
- The European Union (EU) is scheduled to vote June 16 on adoption of the EU-US Framework agreement, which includes the 500,000MT Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for tree nuts. The EU Council will then have to approve the agreed text; the TRQ will go into effect the day after publication in the Official Journal.

ABC's tariff chart is on the [ABC website](#) along with a chart reflecting the pending agreements. For more information, please contact Lindsay at [ltello@almondboard.com](mailto:ltello@almondboard.com).

## EU Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

The EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), Regulation (EU) 2025/40, which was approved on 11 February 2025, will apply starting 12 August 2026. The regulation introduces broad packaging requirements covering recyclability, labeling, packaging minimization, hazardous substance restrictions, and recycled content targets for plastic packaging in 2030 and 2040. It applies widely across the supply chain, including importers, and extends to transport packaging such as pallets, wraps, and straps. **For transport packaging, while reuse is the primary mechanism, with a target of 40% by 2030, rising to 70% by 2040, recyclability requirements also apply.**

**Key compliance implications include manufacturer-signed Declarations of Conformity for each packaging type, including transport packaging, by 12 August 2026, plus compliance with PFAS and heavy metal limits from that date and fulfillment of extended producer responsibility obligations, including market-specific registration, authorized representative requirements for non-EU producers, and reporting. There are different requirements/timelines for transport**

packaging, so ABC is putting together a factsheet with more details. In the meantime, it is recommended that California almond industry members assess packaging used for EU shipments and prepare packaging-family dossiers, supplier documentation, plastics audits, and assignment of EPR responsibilities. Early preparation and coordination with packaging suppliers and EU buyers will be critical to support timely compliance and reduce potential disruption to EU market access. For more information, please contact Abhi at [akulkarni@almondboard.com](mailto:akulkarni@almondboard.com)

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## More about the EU TRQ

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As the EU moves closer to implementing reduced tariffs for tree nuts under the US-EU Framework, the following points will apply:

- The TRQ will be 0% duty for the 500,000MT, covering *CN 0802 Other nuts, fresh or dried, whether or not shelled or peeled*, and *CN 2008 19 Nuts and other seeds, including mixtures, prepared or preserved (excluding groundnuts)*.
- The order number of the quota is 09.9005; there are no specific quotas by tree nut.
- The quota will be open for imports on a first-come-first serve basis, on the date of acceptance of customs declarations for release for free circulation.
- Rules of origin will apply; it is expected that Directorate - General for Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD) will prepare an implementing act that will make imports subject to the direct transportation rule (<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/direct-transport-or-non-manipulation-or-non-alteration-rules>).

GTRA team is closely following the discussions. Please reach out if you have any questions.

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## USTR Board of Trade – A Benefit for Ag?

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The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is [seeking comments](#) on the scope and operations on the newly proposed U.S.-China Board of Trade. USTR requests information on which “non-sensitive” products pose a minimal risk to the national security or supply chain and could be eligible for tariff reductions. The aim is to

balance trade by identifying \$30 billion basket of goods each way.

ABC is evaluating possible comments related to almonds being a “non-sensitive” product, and the positive role California almonds play in promoting a mutually beneficial economic success for Chinese manufacturing and consumers as well as the California almond industry. For more information, please contact Lindsay at [ltello@almondboard.com](mailto:ltello@almondboard.com).

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## California Implements Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Requirements for Single-Use Packaging– SB54

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California’s SB 54 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework took effect on May 1, 2026. It aims to cut single-use packaging by 25% and shift to 100% recyclable or compostable single-use packaging by 2032. The law mainly applies to single-use packaged products and food service items sold in California and also covers certain transport packaging.

For the almond industry, these requirements mainly affect handlers selling branded single-use packaged products or importing and distributing **finished retail products in California**. Entities that grow, harvest, and package agricultural commodities on-site may qualify for the agricultural carve-out. Industry members covered by the regulation must join a Producer Responsibility Organization, such as Circular Action Alliance, for data reporting, tracking, and compliance. For more information, contact Abhi at [akulkarni@almondboard.com](mailto:akulkarni@almondboard.com).

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## Upcoming Events & GTRA Activities

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- June 27-28 European Snacks Assn SNACKEX in Lisbon
- July 8-9 USAEDC conf in DC
- July 20-24 Morocco government delegation to California

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