

July 9, 2026

## ABC Participates in SNACKEX in Lisbon



In June, the Almond Board of California (ABC) participated in SNACKEX in Lisbon, Portugal. SNACKEX is the only trade fair 100% focused on savory snacks and nuts and is organized every two years by the European Snacks Association.

SNACKEX elevated California almonds' visibility within the European snack sector, generated high-quality industry contacts, strengthened strategic relationships including Portuguese nut sector representatives, as well as identified actionable opportunities to drive future almond usage, innovation, and market development.

## 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:*

- On July 1, the United States declined to renew the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement for another 16 year term, triggering annual reviews and renegotiation of the agreement through 2036, while the pact itself remains in force and trade continues under its current rules for now.
- Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman (R-AR) released a draft text for the new Farm Bill, which includes increased USDA trade promotion funding and support to U.S. farmers.
- On June 2, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service confirmed the first U.S. detection of New World Screwworm (NWS) in Zavala County, Texas, since the pest was eradicated from the U.S. in 1996.
- A U.S. high level delegation was recently in India for additional negotiations on a bilateral agreement. However, no information has been announced to indicate if a deal is closer to finalization.

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).

## U.S.-EU Trade Deal Goes into Effect

As part of the U.S.-EU trade agreement, the tariff rate quota (TRQ) for US tree nuts took effect on July 1, 2026.

- The TRQ of 500,000MT will be at 0% duty, 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 individual 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>).

For more information, please contact Abhi at [akulkarni@almondboard.com](mailto:akulkarni@almondboard.com)

## Vietnam & Thailand MRL Setting Processes

Gabriele Ludwig was part of a delegation that visited Vietnam & Thailand regarding maximum residue limit (MRL) policies in June, under FAS' ASCE (Assisting Specialty Crop Exports) program. Thailand has a functioning system to register pesticides and associated MRLs for use in Thailand and defers to Codex or ASEAN MRLs if no Thai MRL exists. Otherwise, a default MRL of around 0.01 ppm holds (and for banned compounds no detectable residues are allowed). The Thai government also has a risk-based system to test imported products, with those of most concern tested more frequently and for more compounds, while those of least concern are just assessed via a quick test for 4 categories of pesticides (OPs, Organochlorines, Pyrethroids, & Carbamates). Vietnam has not set any new MRLs since 2016 though it has registered additional pesticides for use within Vietnam. They are currently working on a revised food safety regulation including pesticides. The current proposal includes deferring to Codex MRLs if no Vietnamese MRL. A draft regulation is to come out in the next couple of months. They are also not testing imports to any great extent.

Both countries are still heavily reliant on open markets for their main food supplies, with cities having versions of supermarkets. Maintaining nut quality was raised as an issue given the warm, humid climate. The other issue to keep an eye out, is that Thailand seems to be working on an extended producer responsibility for packaging legislation.

## USDA Reorganization

On June 17, USDA announced several new details in its broad reorganization efforts, including relocation of many Foreign Agricultural Service

(FAS) staff to Beltsville, Maryland, and Kansas City, Missouri with a smaller contingency to remain in Washington, D.C. Foreign service postings (U.S. and locally employed staff) are not expected to be reduced. ABC anticipates that many of the trade policy/market access related staff, along with those supporting the cooperator market promotion program, will remain the DC "National Capitol Region." Individual staff are expected to be receiving letters shortly, indicating whether or not they will be moving.

The Agricultural Marketing Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service also announced their reorganization plans. Given the high proportion of staff already located in field offices, they will continue uninterrupted, with no reduction in force. The agency will gradually reduce its National Capital Region footprint, with most future hiring occurring in USDA Hubs or field offices.

## India Labeling Update

Several handlers and shippers have been in contact with ABC about labeling requirements for bulk consignment of almonds to India. There have been ongoing questions about what is/is not required to be on the label, and what information can be in accompanying documents. A copy of the ABC overview of labeling requirements was provided to FSSAI in Delhi, requesting any updates or changes to the guidance.

**FSSAI did not advise of any changes** to the information being provided to industry members.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie ([jadams@almondboard.com](mailto:jadams@almondboard.com)) or Sudarshan ([smazumdar@almondboard.com](mailto:smazumdar@almondboard.com)).

## Upcoming Events & GTRA Activities

July 8-9 USAEDC conf in DC  
July 20-24 Morocco government delegation to California

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