



September 2026

## EU TRQ – COO Not a Requirement

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, the EU tariff-rate quota (TRQ) allows eligible U.S. nuts, including almond imports, to enter the EU at a 0% duty up to the quota volume of 500,000 MT per 12-month period.

Some industry members have received requests from EU buyers for specific Country of Origin (COO) Certificates to validate U.S. origin to qualify for the 0% duty. However, the EU has clarified that the principle of free evidence applies in order to prove origin. In other words, no specific Certificate of Origin form is required, but commercial documentation—such as invoices, shipping papers, supplier declarations, or other records—should be available to substantiate origin if customs request it. Furthermore, no shipments are being held for lack of specific COO documentation. Should handlers receive any specific format COO requests, please contact Abhi at [akulkarni@almondboard.com](mailto:akulkarni@almondboard.com)

## Japan Protocol – What is Included?

There continue to be questions about what products are – and are not – included under the Japan Pre-Test Protocol.

The Protocol applies to almonds under HS Code 0802.11 (inshell almonds) and 0802.12 (natural kernels, blanched/sliced/slivered/diced kernels). Manufactured products such as flour, paste, meal, roasted, etc. **are not** under Chapter 8 and **are not** included under the Pre-Test Protocol. These products are still subject to 100% testing on arrival in Japan. ABC has updated its FAQ document on the Protocol, confirming this information.

There have also been questions about the Protocol requirement for direct shipments. At this time, we are trying to get clarification from Japanese authorities as to whether they will allow indirect shipments (e.g. through Busan) to be entered under the Protocol specifically in those situations where it is the shipping line that has changed the routing. If you have other questions, please reach out to Julie, [jadams@almondboard.com](mailto:jadams@almondboard.com), or Tim, [tbirmingham@almondboard.com](mailto:tbirmingham@almondboard.com).

## EU PPWR Update

The **EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)** establishes new EU-wide requirements for packaging placed on the EU market, including primary, secondary, and transport packaging. For almond exporters, the key near-term priority is to prepare documentation on packaging materials, food-contact status, supplier declarations, heavy metals and PFAS compliance, recyclability, recycled content, and packaging weights/dimensions.

Beginning **August 12, 2026**, EU buyers and importers may request supporting documentation, while broader recyclability, recycled-content, minimization, and empty-space requirements phase in mainly from **2030** onward. ABC has created a guidance document to assist the industry in PPWR compliance and will be shared with the industry members soon. For any PPWR-related questions, please contact Abhi at [akulkarni@almondboard.com](mailto:akulkarni@almondboard.com)

## Morocco Ingredients – Sanitary Certificate

The recent visit by representatives from Morocco's food safety authority (ONSSA) and Customs was successful on several levels. Not only did the visit expand relationships with these important offices, it also resulted in resolution of two technical issues that have impacted imports of almonds. First, it was agreed that the 14-day requirement for phyto certificates would apply from the *date of inspection* which appears on the certificate. Second, ONSSA agreed that the certificate of free sale issued by California Department of Public Health (CDPH) would satisfy the requirement for a sanitary certificate for processed almonds (flour, blanched, sliced, diced, etc.).

Many thanks to the industry members who helped host the delegation, as well as those who attended the industry roundtable. If you have any questions, please contact Julie at [jadams@almondboard.com](mailto:jadams@almondboard.com).

## EU & UK Import Control/Port Delegation in Modesto

The Almond Board of California will host a delegation of European Union and United Kingdom regulatory and port health officials in California from

September 13–18. Funded through the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program, the visit will provide participants with a firsthand overview of California almond production, processing, quality systems, USDA collaboration, and the Pre-Export Check program, along with a visit to the Port of Oakland to highlight the export pathway for almonds bound for Europe.

Such visits have proven very valuable in the past in achieving satisfactory regulatory outcomes or clarifications for the industry. As part of this visit, ABC will host an informal Industry Roundtable discussion on September 16; an email about this meeting and RSVP instructions will be sent to the industry. For more information, contact Abhi at [akulkarni@almondboard.com](mailto:akulkarni@almondboard.com).

## South Korea Import Documentation Update: Scientific Name Requirement

Effective **July 1, 2026**, South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) requires certain agricultural, forestry, and aquatic products to be accompanied by documentation identifying the product's **scientific name** when filing an import declaration. Acceptable documentation may include **any one of** an exporter-issued certificate, invoice, bill of lading, government-issued or notarized certificate, or a phytosanitary certificate.

For almonds, if the phytosanitary certificate includes the scientific name ***Prunus dulcis***, it is then not needed on any other documents. However, exporters may encounter importer requests to also include the scientific name on commercial documents such as invoices and packing lists to facilitate customs clearance. For more information, contact Abhi at [akulkarni@almondboard.com](mailto:akulkarni@almondboard.com)

## Trade Updates

There have been a number of recent trade developments that ABC is following:

- Trade talks between the U.S. and Canada collapsed, triggering 50% tariffs on roughly \$20 billion of Canadian imports. Canada announced matching retaliatory tariffs as both sides blame

each other for the break down. No almond products are included in Canada's list of retaliatory tariffs.

- President Donald Trump signed a proclamation temporarily expanding the duty-free beef import quota by 300,000 metric tons to help ease high domestic beef prices.
- The European Commission released an economic study showing that eliminating import MRLs for just 18 active ingredients would reduce agricultural imports, increase domestic EU production, and raise EU consumer costs. The increased food cost would be 41% if exporting countries cannot adapt to the changes, and around 8% if they can. This report is in the context of ongoing discussions to ensure any MRLs banned from use in the EU based on hazard assessments cannot enter through imports. Some 150 compounds could be impacted. The assessment also pointed out where imported commodities could be reasonably sourced either within Europe or from a diversified number of 3<sup>rd</sup> countries. ABC is analyzing the impacts on California almonds.

## Upcoming Travel and Events

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| <b>Sept 14-18</b> | EU Port Delegation in Modesto     |
| <b>Oct 12-16</b>  | ABC meetings in India             |
| <b>Oct 15-16</b>  | Frucom Conference, Brussels       |
| <b>Nov 9-13</b>   | USDA Vietnam trade delegation     |
| <b>Dec 6-8</b>    | The Almond Conference, Sacramento |

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