



April 10, 2025

Reciprocal Tariffs Rolled Out

On April 2, President Trump announced new tariffs including 10% across-the-board and some higher, [country-specific rates](#). The executive order can be found [here](#) along with a [fact sheet](#) and video from an insider's [White House interview](#).

All countries (except Canada and Mexico) are subject to a minimum floor duty of 10% with about 60 countries subject to a higher rate. The 10% tariffs were implemented on April 5; the country-specific duties were anticipated to go into effect on April 9 but have been paused for 90 days (except for China). United States Trade Representative (USTR) office reported that the reciprocal tariffs are calculated as the tariff rate necessary to balance bilateral trade deficits by lowering imports from our trading partners. The calculations can be [found here](#).

The higher reciprocal tariffs would impact imports from several key almond markets, including the EU (20%), India (26%), Vietnam (46%), and China (34%).

The Global Response is...Mixed

► On April 1, **Israel** notified the U.S. it would eliminate all tariffs on imports of U.S. agricultural products (eliminating their Tariff Rate Quota on U.S. almonds). **Vietnam** made a similar offer to eliminate tariffs.

► On April 4, **China** responded with an additional 34% tariff on all imports from the U.S., effective April 10. The U.S. announced it would increase the reciprocal duty by a further 50% – which China matched. The U.S. increased the reciprocal duty to 125%, which is likely to draw further action from China.

► In response to previous steel and aluminum duties, the **EU** voted to move forward with duties of 10% and 25% on a range of commodities, effective April 15 and May 15. *Raw almonds and soybeans will be subject to a 25% duty effective December 1.*

It is hoped that ongoing negotiations between the U.S. and global partners will mitigate further trade

impacts. ABC is monitoring this evolving situation and will report accordingly. Please contact Keith at kschneller@almondboard.com or Julie at jadams@almondboard.com for more information.

Opposition to the New Tariffs

There has been some opposition from congressional leaders proposing [new legislation](#) that would reassert Congress' authority over tariffs via the [Commerce Clause of the Constitution](#). A [bill was passed](#) in the Senate on April 2 that would limit the President's authority to implement tariffs on Canada without congressional review/approval, but a similar bill has not been voted on by Congress. CSIS published an [article](#) by a former USTR general counsel and White House staffer to President George W. Bush questioning the legality of the administration's tariff actions.

Ag Groups Send Letter Requesting Ag Friendly Trade Policy

On April 1, several Ag industry groups [sent a letter](#) to senior administration officials requesting a trade policy that supports U.S. ag producers. *"More than 20% of U.S. farm income is based on agricultural exports, and it is much higher for many commodities,"* the groups wrote in a letter to Ag Secretary Rollins, Commerce Secretary Lutnick, Treasury Secretary Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative Greer.

The American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farmers Union, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and groups from the soybean, wheat, cotton, corn, fresh produce, milk, grain, feed, pork and fertilizer industries were among the signatories. The letter ended with, *"We support the administration's goal of increasing domestic security and ensuring fair trade with other nations, but additional tariffs on these nations' imports run the risk of significant retaliatory measures against U.S. agricultural exports, which have already been implemented by Canada and China."*

Japan Aflatoxin Pre-testing Protocol Signed

The USDA and Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor & Welfare (MHLW) signed an agreement on a

voluntary aflatoxin pre-testing protocol for the export of California almonds to Japan. In addition, a procedure is also being finalized that will allow reprocessing rejected shipments locally, rather than having to bring them back to U.S.

The key highlights of the voluntary protocol, which was many years in the making, are reduction of inspection frequency by Japan from 100% to no more than 5% for protocol participants. Other key points include:

- Handlers sign a MOU with ABC to participate in the protocol;
- Consignment is tested by a USDA-approved lab prior to shipment (contact your lab to ensure they have applied to USDA to be approved for the protocol);
- Handler pulls 20 kg sample, of which the Lab will test 10 kg. If results are ≤ 10 ppb total, Lab issues COA with required attestation;
- No USDA signature is required;
- If a load fails after random testing in Japan, shipper is back to 100% testing (current system) until 3 consecutive clean consignments.

The protocol went into effect **April 1**, but full implementation will be slightly delayed pending Japan's final registration of labs. ABC envisions a summer meeting with MHLW officials and local nut processors to iron out any protocol issues. For more information, please contact Julie Adams at jadams@almondboard.com

EU Vision for Agriculture & Food

On February 19, the European Commission published its "[Vision for Agriculture and Food](#)" which outlines its policy objectives for the coming years. The document was developed in response to the farmer protests last year and includes a number of proposals relevant to imports. This "Vision" will inform the development of new policies, as well as the implementation of current regulations. Below are key objectives related to imports to which the European Commission commits:

- **Apply EU production standards to imported products** to level the playing field for EU farmers (*mirror clause*).

- Establish a principle that the most hazardous **pesticides banned in the EU** for health and environmental reasons **are not allowed back** into the EU through imported products.
- Require imports **to meet EU food safety, labor, and sustainability requirements**
- Work with **international standard-setting bodies** to strengthen the implementation of internationally agreed commitments and to raise global standards in plant protection products and animal welfare.
- Strengthen **monitoring and enforcement mechanisms** through improved surveillance, data collection, and transparency regarding pesticide use and residues.

EU proposes easing of Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive Requirements

EU Commission has proposed to reduce the requirements of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. The proposal will limit the reporting requirements to companies with more than 1000 employees rather than 250; limit the reporting to include direct suppliers only, not the whole supply chain; and, provide more time for the reporting to take effect. This is a proposal and now starts the process for review and changes by the European Parliament, as well as the European Council. The goal is to reduce the regulatory burdens and simplify some of the regulations.

Upcoming Events

Apr 25-27	Tuksiad Conference in Antalya
Apr 29-30	Almond Alliance Conference
May 5	Almond Workshop Morocco
May 7-11	INC Congress Mallorca
May 6-7	MRL Conference San Diego
May 19-24	CCPR Meeting Chile
Jul 9-11	USAEDC/Attache Conference DC

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