EU Health and food audits and analysis programme 2024

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What is changing and why?

The European Commission performs controls (audits and remote assessments) of European Member States and non-EU countries to ensure they have systems in place that guarantee food put on the EU market meets EU rules for food safety and plant and animal health.

In 2024, the following audits are planned:

Plant Health

- Cameroon – mangoes (phytosanitary conditions)
- Egypt – potatoes (phytosanitary conditions).

Animal health

- Argentina – beef
- Brazil – poultry
- Kosovo (official framework for animal health controls for accession into the EU)
- Thailand – horse.

Food

- Brazil – safety of fishery products; residues of veterinary drugs, pesticides, and contaminants in food of animal origin; safety and traceability of animal by-products
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – safety of poultry meat and products thereof
- China – pesticide residue controls in plant-based food; safety and traceability of animal by-products
- Colombia – safety of fishery products
- Egypt – microbiological safety of plant-based food
- India – pesticide residue controls in plant-based food; safety of fishery products
- Mexico – safety of horse meat
- Morocco – safety and traceability of animal by-products
- Montenegro – safety of beef, lamb, and pork meat

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- Paraguay – safety of beef and casings
- Peru – safety of fishery products
- Serbia – safety of milk and dairy products
- South Africa – residues of veterinary drugs, pesticides, and contaminants in food of animal origin
- Türkiye – contaminants in plant-based food
- Uganda – microbiological safety of plant-based food
- Vietnam – residues of veterinary drugs, pesticides, and contaminants in food of animal origin
- Iran – contaminants in plant-based food.

The audit process involves detailed pre-audit questionnaires, site visits, and reports with recommendations for addressing non-compliances. In addition, the EU uses questionnaires to assess compliance with EU standards, particularly regarding residue control plans.

Full details on control activities and planned audits can be found in the Annexes.

The Commission also performs "remote assessments": desk-based audits based on comprehensive questionnaires. Residue control plans in all non-EU exporting countries must be checked at least once every 5 years. In 2024, 20 non-EU countries will be assessed, including the 13 non-EU countries listed solely for honey.

Actions

Exporting countries must prepare for audits by maintaining detailed and organised records. This means documenting all procedures, controls, and corrective actions taken to meet EU requirements, and collecting clear evidence of system improvements, training logs, health and safety checks, and traceability.

Timeline

This document highlights the audits and remote assessments planned for 2024.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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