Foods subject to controls of radioactive contamination related to Chernobyl

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Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/256 on the conditions governing imports of food and feed originating in third countries following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station

What is changing and why?

Certain foods and food products exported to the EU from countries impacted by the Chernobyl accident must be accompanied by certificates demonstrating that they are free from radioactive contamination.

This new Regulation amends the list of impacted products, as shown in Table 1.

The affected countries are: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, and UK excluding Northern Ireland (Great Britain).

These changes are intended to protect EU consumers from potential risks of radioactive contamination.

Actions

Exporters of products containing wild mushrooms or wild *Vaccinium* fruits should urgently check whether they are affected by this revised list of products. Exporters of affected products must ensure compliance with maximum levels of radioactivity, and must obtain official certificates from their competent authorities prior to export.

Businesses and competent authorities in the affected exporting countries must expand controls of radioactive contamination in wild mushrooms and *Vaccinium* fruits to mixtures and processed foods that contain these mushrooms/fruits.

Timeline

Date of application: 7 February 2024.

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Products that are new to the list (mixtures and processed foods containing wild mushrooms/wild fruits of the genus *Vaccinium*) that were produced before 7 February 2024 can enter the EU without mandatory certificates until 7 March 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.

Tables & Figures

Table 1
Changes to list of foods subject to EU controls of radioactive contamination

Products	Controls now extended to include foods containing:	
	>20% wild *Vaccinium* fruits	>20% wild mushrooms
Mixtures of cultivated and wild mushrooms		✓
Mixtures of wild and cultivated fruits	✓	
Mixtures of nuts and dried fruits	✓	
Jams, fruit jellies, marmalades, fruit or nut purées, fruit or nut pastes	✓	
Mixtures of juices	✓	
Flavoured waters	✓	
Sugar confectionery	✓	✓
Chocolate	✓	✓
Bread, pastry, cakes, etc.	✓	✓

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Source: based on Regulation (EU) 2024/256 (Annex)

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