Plant health interceptions (EUROPHYT) in December 2024

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December 2024 saw 93 interceptions due to harmful organisms involving 23 AGRINFO partner countries, and 368 interceptions due to other non-conformities involving 44 partner countries

TRACES: Number of occurrences of harmful organism(s) in commodities imported into the EU or Switzerland (December 2024)

Update

This report summarises EUROPHYT interceptions on products entering the European Union from low- and middle-income countries that occurred in December 2024.

In December 2024, there were 93 interceptions due to harmful organisms involving 23 AGRINFO partner countries, and 368 interceptions due to other non-conformities that involved 44 partner countries.

Impacted products

Plants and plant products

INTERCEPTIONS

Harmful organisms

In December 2024 there were 93 EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms involving 23 low- and middle-income (AGRINFO partner) countries (see Table 1).

Other non-conformities

There were also 368 interceptions due to other non-conformities, involving 44 partner countries (see Table 2).

For more detail see TRACES: Number of occurrences of harmful organism(s) in commodities imported into the EU or Switzerland (December 2024).

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Timeline

December 2024

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

EUROPHYT interceptions can have significant impacts on producers and exporters. A shipment is intercepted at EU border controls when products do not comply with the EU's phytosanitary requirements. As a result, the affected importer/ exporter/ producer may face a range of consequences including delayed shipments, additional costs of testing and inspection, and potential rejections or destruction of their products. These interceptions can also damage the reputation of the producer/ exporter in the EU market, which may affect their ability to conduct future trade with EU buyers. It can also have impacts on the export sector as a whole, particularly when repeated interceptions lead to more stringent plant health measures or bans.

Recommended Actions

To avoid the risk of interceptions, producers and exporters must take proactive measures to ensure their products comply with EU phytosanitary requirements. This can include implementing effective pest management strategies, using certified seeds and planting material, and complying with regulations and standards.

Background

EUROPHYT is the European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions.

The basis for EUROPHYT interceptions is the obligation for EU Member States (and Switzerland) to rapidly report the occurrence of harmful organisms and other non-conformities found during import controls, to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and diseases. Interceptions due to "other non-conformities" are usually caused by an inaccurate or missing phytosanitary certificate.

Notifications of such interceptions are disseminated EU-wide and to the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the exporting country. The legal framework for EUROPHYT interceptions is provided by Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on plant health. For more information about plant health law, see EU plant health law explained.

Also see Official Controls Regulation - explained.

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Resources

European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

European Commission (2024) Interceptions of harmful organisms in imported plants and other objects

Sources

TRACES: Number of occurrences of harmful organism(s) in commodities imported into the EU or Switzerland (December 2024)

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms on fruit and vegetables, leafy vegetables, and leaves – December 2024

Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Harmful organisms
Brazil	1	Persian limes	Scales
	5	Grapes	Mealybugs
Cambodia	2	Basil	Leaf-miner flies
	1	Basil	Butterflies and moths
Cameroon	1	Lemons	Fungus
	1	Avocado	False codling moth
China	1	Pomelo	Citrus black spot
	2	Pomelo	Midges
	2	Pomelo	Asiatic citrus canker
	4	Tomato	Virus
Colombia	1	Peruvian groundcherry	Moths
Congo (Republic of)	1	Onions, garlic, scallions, shallots, leeks, chives	Leaf-miner flies
	1	Amaranths	Nematodes
Egypt	2	Strawberry	Whiteflies
	2	Strawberry	Fall armyworm
	1	Common guava	Fruit flies
Ghana	1	Fishtail palm	Thrips
	1	Ficus tree	Thrips
	1	Monstera plant	Thrips
	1	Scindapsus plant	Thrips
	1	Ginger	Nematodes
India	2	Ivy gourds	Fruit flies
	1	Common guava	Fruit flies
	1	Indian jujube	Fruit flies
Indonesia	2	Pitahaya	Fruit flies
	4	Mango	Fruit flies
	2	Sapodilla	Fruit flies
	2	Common guava	Fruit flies
	1	Short-stemmed palms	Fruit flies
Kenya	1	Roses	False codling moth
	1	Fieldbriar	False codling moth

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Table 1
Continued

Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Harmful organisms
Mexico	1	Persian limes	Scales
Morocco	3	Tomato	Virus
Peru	1	Asparagus	Moths
	2	Mango	Fruit flies
	3	Tomato	Virus
Senegal	1	Ethiopian eggplants	Butterflies and moths
South Africa	4	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	Fruit flies
Sri Lanka	2	Moringa	Leaf-miner flies
	2	Holy basil	Whiteflies
	2	Snake gourd, pointed gourd, other *Trichosanthes* spp.	Fruit flies
Suriname	1	Bitterblad	Whiteflies
	1	Sweet potato	Nematodes
Tanzania	1	Bitter melon	Fall armyworm
	1	Bitter melon	Fruit flies
Thailand	2	Mixed plants	Leaf-miner flies
	9	Curcuma	Bacterias
	1	Orchids	Thrips
	1	Culantro	Whiteflies
	1	Tomato	Virus
Togo	1	Ginger	Nematodes
Uganda	1	Forest bitterberry	Moths
Vietnam	1	Culantro	Whiteflies
	1	Java apple	Fruit flies

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Source: based on EUROPHYT monthly report

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Table 2
EUROPHYT interceptions due to other non-conformities on plants – December 2024

Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity
Albania	1	Cabbages, kales, other brassica vegetables	PC: false information
	1	Sweet oranges	PC: false information
	1	Clementines	Others
Algeria	1	Carrots	PC non-compliant with Annex V to Reg. 2016/2031
	6	Horticultural plants	PC absent
Argentina	1	Sweet cherry	PC not addressed to relevant Member State NPPO
Bangladesh	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
Belarus	1	Bog cranberry	PC absent
Bolivia	1	Bolivian mountain coconut	PC fake/forged
	1	Potatoes	PC absent
	1	Potatoes	Prohibited plants, plants products, or other objects
	1	Sweet corn	PC absent
Brazil	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Watermelon	PC absent
	2	Persian limes	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
	2	Persian limes	PC: false information
	1	Melons (excl. watermelons)	Others
	1	Mango	Mismatch between identification mark and PC
	1	Mango	WPM: incorrect marking
	6	Grapes	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
	12	Grapes	Others
	2	Mixed plants	WPM: incorrect marking
	1	Pine	PC: expired date
Cameroon	1	Sweet potato	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	1	Arrowleaf elephant ear, other *Xanthosoma* spp.	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	1	Ginger	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Ginger	PC: false information
	1	Bananas and plantains	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
China	1	Lotus	PC absent
	1	Beans	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC: additional declaration missing
	4	Garlic	PC: expired date
	1	Rapeseed	PC: expired date
	1	Pomelo	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
	2	Pine	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	2	Pine	PC non-compliant with Annex V to Reg. 2016/2031
	1	Pine	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Incense cedar	PC: expired date
	1	Pine	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Pine	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Pine	PC: expired date

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Table 2
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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity
Colombia	1	Boat orchids	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Eucalyptus	PC absent
	1	Mexican cypress	PC absent
	1	Butcher's broom	PC absent
	1	Chrysanthemums	PC absent
	2	Baby's-breath	Others
	1	Hortensia	PC absent
	1	Goldenrods	PC absent
	1	Persian limes	PC: non-official EU-language
	1	Mango	Others
	1	Sweet granadilla	Others
	1	Peruvian groundcherry	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Common guava	Others
	1	Tamarillo	Others
	1	Tamarillo	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Coffee	PC absent
Comoros	2	Horticultural plants	PC absent
Costa Rica	1	Chinese evergreens	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Chinese evergreens	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Horticultural plants	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Horticultural plants	WPM: marking absent
Côte d'Ivoire	2	Ethiopian eggplants	PC absent
	1	Turkey berry	PC: additional declaration missing
Dominican Republic	2	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Cinnamon	Others
Ecuador	1	Chrysanthemums	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Sweet William, carnation, other *Dianthus* spp.	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Sweet William, carnation, other *Dianthus* spp.	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Culantro, other *Eryngium* spp.	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Baby's-breath	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Lisianthius	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	2	Roses	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Roses	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Blue throatwort	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Carambola	PC absent
	3	Mango	PC absent
	1	Peruvian lily	PC incomplete: no official NPPO stamp
	1	Peruvian lily	PC incomplete: no signature of certifying officer
	1	Peruvian lily	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Blue throatwort	PC incomplete: no official NPPO stamp
	1	Blue throatwort	PC incomplete: no signature of certifying officer
	1	Blue throatwort	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid

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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity
Egypt	1	Strawberry	PC: false information
	1	Strawberry	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Tomato	PC absent
	1	Mandarin	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
	1	Mandarin	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Mandarin	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Mandarin	PC: false information
	1	Bitter oranges	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Bitter oranges	PC: false information
	1	Taro	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	2	Strawberry	No pre-notification in TRACES (CHED Part I)
	1	Strawberry	Non-compliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Strawberry	PC incomplete: absence of consignor, importer
	1	Strawberry	PC: false information
	1	Sweet potato	PC: expired date
	1	Common guava	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	1	Eggplant	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	1	Groundcherries	PC incomplete: absence of consignor, importer
	1	Groundcherries	PC: false information
	1	Mixed plants	WPM: marking absent
Ethiopia	1	Chives	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Mints	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Basil	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Peas	Missing identification marks (Production unit, clips, etc)
	1	Peas	PC incomplete: absence of consignor, importer
	1	Peas	PC not addressed to relevant Member State NPPO
	1	Peas	PC: expired date
Ghana	2	Yams	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Yams	PC absent
Guatemala	1	Geranium	Non-compliance with special requirements (documentary)
Guinea	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Sesame	Unfit for inspection due to poor goods' quality

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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity
India	1	Bamboo shoots	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Bamboo shoots	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Cabbages, kales, other brassica vegetables	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	2	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Staff vine	PC absent
	1	Melons (excl. watermelons)	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	2	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Chrysanthemums, jasmine	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Chrysanthemums, jasmine	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Chrysanthemums, jasmine	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, etc.)	PC absent
	1	Indian gooseberry	PC absent
	1	Pomegranate	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC absent
	1	Beet	PC absent
	1	Gerbera	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	2	Mixed plants	WPM: marking absent
Indonesia	1	Anthurium	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Common plum	Others
	1	Anthurium	PC: additional declaration missing
Kazakhstan	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
Kenya	1	Eucalyptus	Others
	1	Chrysanthemums	Others
	1	Chrysanthemums	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Sweet William, carnation, other *Dianthus* spp.	Others
	1	Baby's-breath	Others
	1	peppercress	Others
	1	Roses	Others
	1	Roses	PC absent
	2	Roses	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Missing identification marks (Production unit, clips, etc)
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC incomplete : Production unit number not provided
	1	Basil	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Basil	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	1	Basil	PC: expired date
Mali	2	Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, etc.)	PC absent
Mexico	1	Asparagus	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Persian limes	PC: additional declaration missing
Moldova	1	Roses	Others
	1	Lemons	PC absent
	1	Lettuce	PC absent
Mongolia	1	Pine	PC: expired date
	2	Pine	PC: false information

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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity
Morocco	2	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Clementines	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Clementines	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Pomegranate	Others
	1	Tomato	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Sweet corn	PC: false information
	1	Tomato	PC absent
	1	Tomato	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
Nigeria	1	Ginger	PC: expired date
	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	1	Taro	PC absent
	1	Purple yam	PC absent
Peru	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Sweet corn	PC absent
	1	Onions, garlic, scallions, shallots, leeks, and chives	PC absent
	5	Asparagus	Others
	3	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	4	Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, etc.)	PC absent
	1	Caigua	PC absent
	3	Mango	Mismatch between identification mark and PC
	3	Passion fruit, sweet granadilla, other *Passiflora* spp.	PC absent
	2	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Groundcherries	PC absent
	5	Potatoes	PC absent
	5	Potatoes	Prohibited plants, plants products, or other objects
	1	Grapes	PC: mismatch between means of transport and declared means of transport in the CHED
	5	Sweet corn	PC absent
	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	4	Ulluco	PC absent
	4	Ulluco	Prohibited plants, plants products, or other objects
	2	Ginger	PC absent
	1	Cabbages, kales, other brassica vegetables	PC absent
	1	Carrots	PC absent
Philippines	1	Mango	PC absent
Rwanda	1	Avocado	PC incomplete: absence of consignor, importer
	1	Conifers	WPM: marking absent
Senegal	1	Sweet corn	PC absent
	1	Bay laurel	Others
	1	Tea	Others
	1	Roselle, Chinese hibiscus, other *Hibiscus* spp.	Others
	1	Persian limes	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Persian limes	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent

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Table 2
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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity
Serbia	1	Achimenes	No pre-notification in TRACES (CHED Part I)
	1	Achimenes	PC absent
	2	Roses	Others
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
South Africa	4	Tomato	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Wild leek	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Beet	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	2	Chilli pepper	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	2	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Carrots	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Eggplant	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Conifers	WPM: marking absent
Sri Lanka	1	Onions	PC absent
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	2	Papaya	PC absent
	1	Wood apple (other)	PC absent
	1	Mango	PC absent
	1	Curry tree	PC absent
	1	Curry tree	Prohibited plants, plants products, or other objects
	1	Common guava	PC absent
	1	Pitahaya	PC absent
	1	Ambarella	PC absent
	1	Holy basil	PC: additional declaration missing
	14	Horticultural plants	PC absent
Tanzania	1	Bitter melon	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
Thailand	1	Cactus	Others
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC absent
	1	Eggplant	PC: false information
	1	Waxflowers	PC: additional declaration missing
Tunisia	1	Onions	PC absent
	1	Sweet oranges	PC absent
	1	Sweet oranges	Prohibited plants, plants products, or other objects
	1	Lemons	PC absent
	1	Lemons	Prohibited plants, plants products, or other objects
	1	Olives	PC absent
	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	2	Pomegranate	PC absent
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
Türkiye	2	Horticultural plants	PC: additional declaration missing
	2	Petunia	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
	2	Sweet corn	PC: false information
	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	3	Cercis	PC: expired date
	3	American sweetgum	PC: expired date
	1	Mulberry	PC: expired date
	2	Pears	PC: expired date
	2	Mixed plants	WPM: marking absent
Uganda	1	Maidenhair	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
Ukraine	1	Oak	No pre-notification in TRACES (CHED Part I)
Vietnam	1	Tomato	Others

CHED, Common Health Entry Document; NPPO, National Plant Protection Organisation; PC, phytosanitary certificate; WPM, wood packaging material.

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Source: based on EUROPHYT monthly report

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