Plant health interceptions (EUROPHYT) in July 2024

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July 2024 saw 95 interceptions due to harmful organisms involving 21 AGRINFO partner countries, and 442 interceptions due to other non-conformities involving 35 partner countries

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

Update

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

In July 2024 there were 95 interceptions due to harmful organisms involving 21 AGRINFO partner countries, and 442 interceptions due to other non-conformities that invloved 35 partner countries.

Impacted products

Plants and plant products

INTERCEPTIONS

Harmful organisms

In July 2024 there were 95 EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms involving 21 low- and middle-income (AGRINFO partner) countries (see Table 1).

Other non-conformities

There were also 442 interceptions due to other non-conformities, involving 35 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 (July 2024).

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Timeline

July 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 (July 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 – July 2024

Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Harmful organisms
Argentina	2	Lemons	Fungus
Botswana	1	Bitter oranges	Fungus
Brazil	10	Persian limes	Fungus
	1	Persian limes	Weevils
	5	Persian limes	Bacteria
	2	Mango	Fruit flies
Cameroon	1	Mango	Fruit flies
Colombia	2	Persian limes	Fungus
Côte d'Ivoire	1	Mango	Fruit flies
Dominican Republic	1	Mango	Fruit flies
	1	Moringa	Leaf-miner flies
Ecuador	1	Asparagus	Moths
	2	Asparagus	Thrips
Egypt	1	Sweet oranges	Fruit flies
	1	Jute mallow and other *Corchorus* spp.	Whiteflies
	1	Jute mallow	Whiteflies
	12	Potatoes	Moths
Eswatini	1	Bitter oranges	Fungus
Guinea	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Flies
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Fruit flies
	1	Avocado	Butterflies and moths
	1	Ethiopian eggplants	Butterflies and moths
Kenya	1	Basil	Thrips
Mexico	3	Asparagus	Moths
Pakistan	1	Jambolan	Fruit flies
Peru	1	Asparagus	Moths
	9	Asparagus	Fall armyworm
	3	Ginger	Bacteria
Senegal	2	Mango	Fruit flies
South Africa	2	Chilli pepper	False codling moth
	1	Bitter oranges	Fungus
	1	Sweet oranges	Fungus
	1	Sweet oranges	False codling moth
	8	Lemons	Fungus
Thailand	1	Pitahaya	Fruit flies
	1	Yanang	Whiteflies
Uganda	1	Soursop	Fruit flies
	1	Mango	Fruit flies
	3	Ethiopian eggplants	Moths
Vietnam	1	Chilli pepper	Fruit flies
	1	Basil	Moths
	1	Turkey berry	Moths
Zimbabwe	2	Lowbush blueberry	False codling moth

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Source: based on EUROPHYT monthly report

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Table 2
EUROPHYT interceptions due to other non-conformities on fruit and vegetables, leafy vegetables, leaves – July 2024

Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity*
Argentina	2	Lemons	PC: mismatch between identification mark and PC
	1	Lemons	Non-compliance with special requirements (documentary)
	3	Lemons	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
Bangladesh	1	Papaya	PC absent
	1	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	PC absent
	4	Mango	PC absent
	2	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	3	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	1	Laurel/bay leaves	PC absent
Belarus	1	European blueberry	PC: non-official EU-language
Botswana	1	Bitter oranges	PC: additional declaration missing
Brazil	1	Papaya	PC incomplete: absence of consignor, importer
	1	Persian limes	PC: additional declaration missing
	4	Lemons	Non-compliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Sweet potato	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
	1	Tonka beans	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
Cameroon	1	Cassava	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Arrowleaf elephant ear	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Arrowleaf elephant ear, other *Xanthosoma* spp.	PC absent
China	2	Chinese strawberry	PC absent
	1	Japanese plum	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Sweet corn	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
Colombia	1	Persian limes	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Mango	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	1	Oca	PC absent
	1	Passion fruit (purple)	PC: additional declaration missing
	2	Common beans	PC absent
	2	Peruvian groundcherry	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Guavas	PC absent
	1	Ulluco	PC absent
	1	Potatoes	PC absent
Cuba	1	Avocado	PC absent
Dominican Republic	1	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Common sage	Other

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Table 2
Continued

Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity*
Ecuador	1	Sweet oranges	PC absent
	1	Prickly pear	PC absent
	1	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Common beans	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC absent
	1	Ulluco	PC absent
	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	1	Potatoes	PC absent
Egypt	1	Mandarin	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
	1	Sweet oranges	PC: mismatch between means of transport and the declared means of transport in CHED
	1	Key limes	PC absent
	11	Sweet oranges	PC: mismatch between identification mark and PC
	16	Sweet oranges	Missing identification marks (production unit, clips, etc.)
	6	Sweet oranges	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
	5	Sweet oranges	Wood packaging materials: illegible marking
	2	Sweet oranges	Wood packaging materials: marking absent
	1	Apple	PC absent
	1	Mango	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Sweet cherry	PC absent
	1	Potatoes	Unfit for inspection due to poor goods' quality
	4	Potatoes	Missing identification marks (production unit, clips, etc.)
El Salvador	1	Mango	PC absent
	1	Spanish lime	PC absent
	1	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Peruvian groundcherry	PC absent
Eswatini	1	Bitter oranges	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
Ethiopia	1	Cassava	PC absent
Ghana	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: additional declaration missing

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Table 2
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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity*
Guinea	1	Okra	Goods' nature does not correspond with PC
	1	Okra	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Okra	PC: false information
	1	Okra	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Okra	Unfit for inspection due to poor goods' quality
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Goods' nature does not correspond with PC
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: false information
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Unfit for inspection due to poor goods' quality
	1	Sweet potato	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Sweet potato	PC: false information
	1	Sweet potato	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Sweet potato	Unfit for inspection due to poor goods' quality
	1	Avocado	PC: false information
	1	Avocado	Unfit for inspection due to poor goods' quality
	1	Ethiopian eggplants	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Ethiopian eggplants	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Ethiopian eggplants	PC: false information
	1	Ethiopian eggplants	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Ethiopian eggplants	Unfit for inspection due to poor goods' quality
Kenya	1	Basil	PC: false information
Mexico	1	Avocado	PC absent
Morocco	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	2	Potatoes	Other
Nigeria	1	Mint	PC absent
	1	Mint	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	1	Horticultural plants	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Pakistan	14	Mango	PC absent
	2	Mango	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	3	Mango	PC: additional declaration missing
	12	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products or other objects
Panama	1	Papaya	Unfit for inspection due to poor goods' quality

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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity*
Peru	1	Onions, garlic, scallions, shallots, leeks, chives	PC absent
	1	Soursops, cherimoyas, custard apples, sweetsops	PC absent
	4	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	2	Mandarin	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Persian limes	PC absent
	1	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	PC absent
	1	Quinces, other *Cydonia* spp.	PC absent
	1	Apples	PC absent
	2	Passion fruit, sweet granadilla, other *Passiflora* spp.	PC absent
	1	Passion fruit (purple)	PC absent
	2	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Avocado	PC: false information
	1	Lucuma	PC absent
	1	Pitahaya	PC absent
	1	Naranjilla	PC absent
	4	Potatoes	PC absent
	4	Potatoes	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	7	Ulluco	PC absent
	7	Ulluco	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Broad bean	PC absent
	5	Sweet corn	PC absent
	1	Sweet corn	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	2	Oregano, marjoram, other *Origanum* spp.	Other
	2	Roselle, Chinese hibiscus, other *Hibiscus* spp.	Other
	1	Rue	PC absent
	2	Potatoes	PC absent
	2	Potatoes	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Philippines	2	Mango	PC absent
	1	Avocado	PC absent
Senegal	1	Quinces	PC absent
	1	Mango	PC absent
	2	Mango	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Teas	Other
	1	Roselle, Chinese hibiscus, other *Hibiscus* spp.	Other

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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity*
South Africa	1	Chilli pepper	PC: additional declaration missing
	3	Lemons	Non-compliance with special requirements (documentary)
	3	Lemons	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	1	Mandarin	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Mandarin	PC: additional declaration missing
	2	Mandarin	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	2	Bitter oranges	PC incomplete: production unit number not provided
	2	Bitter oranges	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Bitter oranges	PC: expired date
	2	Bitter oranges	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	1	Sweet oranges	PC: mismatch between identification mark and PC
	3	Sweet oranges	Non-compliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Sweet oranges	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
	1	Sweet oranges	PC incomplete: production unit number not provided
	8	Sweet oranges	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	6	Sweet oranges	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Sweet oranges	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	2	Sweet oranges	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Sweet oranges	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	2	Lemons	PC: mismatch between identification mark and PC
	1	Lemons	Missing identification marks (production unit, clips, etc)
	27	Lemons	Non-compliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Lemons	Other
	4	Lemons	PC incomplete: production unit number not provided
	9	Lemons	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Lemons	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Lemons	PC: false information
	38	Lemons	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	1	Lemons	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Apple	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	European pear	PC: false information

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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity*
Sri Lanka	1	Soursop	PC absent
	1	Soursop	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Jackfruit	PC absent
	2	Papaya	PC absent
	1	Papaya	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	2	Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, etc.)	PC absent
	1	Key limes	PC absent
	1	Bitter oranges	PC absent
	1	Mangosteen	PC absent
	5	Mango	PC absent
	2	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Moringa	PC absent
	1	Moringa	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Rambutan	PC absent
	1	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Avocado	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Guavas	PC absent
	1	Ginger	PC absent
	1	Curry tree, orange jessamine, other *Murraya* spp.	PC absent
	1	Curry tree, orange jessamine, other *Murraya* spp.	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	2	Laurel/bay leaves	PC absent
	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent
	1	Horticultural plants	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Thailand	1	–	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Papaya	PC absent
	1	Curcuma	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Mangosteen	PC absent
	2	Mango	PC absent
	2	Rambutan	PC absent
	4	Sweet corn	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Horticultural plants	PC absent

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Country of origin	No. of alerts	Intercepted products	Non-conformity*
Togo	1	Bitter cola	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Avocado	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Jute mallow	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Common guava	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	African eggplant	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Bitterleaves, other *Vernonia* spp.	Consignment not presented for official controls
Tunisia	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	2	Peach	PC absent
	1	Ginger	PC absent
Uruguay	1	Lemons	Non-compliance with special requirements (physical)
Uzbekistan	1	Onions	PC: mismatch between means of transport and the declared means of transport in CHED
Vietnam	1	Sweetsop, pitahaya	PC absent
	1	Celery	PC absent
	1	Lemons	PC absent
	1	Round kumquat	PC absent
	1	Mango, guava	PC absent
	1	Peaches, plums, other *Prunus* spp.	PC absent
	1	Potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, other *Solanaceae* spp.	PC absent
	1	Turkey berry	PC absent
Zimbabwe	1	Lemons	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid

* CHED, Common Health Entry Document; PC, phytosanitary certificate.

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Source: based on EUROPHYT monthly report

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