Plant health interceptions (EUROPHYT) in September 2024

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September 2024 saw 68 interceptions due to harmful organisms involving 23 AGRINFO partner countries, and 396 interceptions due to other non-conformities involving 43 partner countries

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

Update

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

In September 2024, there were 68 interceptions due to harmful organisms involving 23 AGRINFO partner countries, and 396 interceptions due to other non-conformities involving 43 partner countries.

Impacted products

Plants and plant products

Interceptions

Harmful organisms

In September 2024 there were 68 EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms in consignments imported from from 23 low- and middle-income (AGRINFO partner) countries (see Table 1).

Other non-conformities

There were also 396 interceptions due to other non-conformities, in consignments imported from 43 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 (September 2024).

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Timeline

September 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 (September 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 – September 2024

Country of origin	No.	Intercepted products	Harmful organisms
Brazil	2	Persian limes	Fungus
	1	Persian limes	Bacterias
	1	Mango	Fruit flies
	1	Tomato	Bacterias
Cambodia	1	Rice paddy herb and other *Limnophila* spp.	Whiteflies
Cameroon	1	Ginger	Bacterias
China	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Virus
	1	Pomelo	Fruit flies
	1	Tomato	Virus
	1	Tomato	Virus
	1	Ginger	Bacterias
Colombia	1	Persian limes	Fungus
	1	Tamarillo	Moths
Ecuador	1	Baby's-breath	Thrips
	1	Goldenrod flowers	Thrips
Egypt	1	Sweet oranges	Fruit flies
	1	Mango	Fruit flies
Ethiopia	1	Roses	False codling moth
India	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Virus
	1	Tomato	Virus
	1	Jujube	Fruit flies
Jordan	1	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	Whiteflies
	1	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	Fruit flies
Kenya	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	False codling moth
	1	Culantro and other *Eryngium* spp.	Fall armyworm
	3	Basil	Thrips
	1	Roses	False codling moth
Peru	3	Asparagus	Moths
	1	Asparagus	Fall armyworm
Rwanda	1	Roses	False codling moth
South Africa	1	Mandarin	Fungus
	3	Sweet oranges	Fungus
	3	Lemons	Fungus
	1	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	Fruit flies
Sri Lanka	1	Mango	Fruit flies
	1	Common guava	Fruit flies
Suriname	1	Inga fruit	Fruit flies
Thailand	1	Celery	Whiteflies
	2	Curcuma	Bacterias
	6	Curcuma	Bacterias
	1	Ginger	Bacterias
Togo	1	Sweet potato, other *Ipomoea* spp.	Whiteflies
Türkiye	1	Tomato	Virus
Uganda	1	Ethiopian eggplants	Moths
	1	Ethiopian eggplants	Moths
Uruguay	1	Lemons	Bacterias
Vietnam	1	Mango	Fruit flies
	1	Mango	Fruit flies
Zimbabwe	5	Sweet oranges	Fungus

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Table 2
EUROPHYT interceptions due to other nonconformities on fruit and vegetables, leafy vegetables, and leaves – September 2024

Country of origin	No.	Intercepted products	Nonconformity
Algeria	1	Mixed plants	No pre-notification in TRACES (CHED Part I)
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Unspecified plants	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC absent
	1	Tomato	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Eggplant	PC absent
	1	Eggplant	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Mints	Other
Argentina	1	Sweet oranges	Mismatch between identification mark and PC
	2	Sweet oranges	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Sweet oranges	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Sweet oranges	WPM: marking absent
	1	Lemons	Mismatch between identification mark and PC
	1	Lemons	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
Bangladesh	1	Pomelo	PC absent
	1	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	PC absent
	3	Mango	PC absent
	3	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Mangoes, other *Mangifera* spp.	PC absent
	2	Betel leaves	PC absent
	4	Unspecified plants	PC absent
	1	European pear	PC absent
	1	European pear	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	PC absent
	1	Common beans	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC absent
	1	Cornsalad	PC absent
Brazil	1	Chestnut	PC absent
	1	Persian limes	Noncompliance with a derogation: noncompliance with treatment specifications
	2	Persian limes	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Persian limes	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Yams	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Cameroon	1	Curcuma and other *Curcuma* spp.	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Curcuma and other *Curcuma* spp.	PC noncompliant with Annex V to Regulation 2016/2031
	1	Purple yam	Noncompliance with a derogation: others
	1	Mangosteen	PC absent
	1	Sweet potato	Noncompliance with a derogation: others
	1	Arrowleaf elephant ear	Noncompliance with a derogation: others
	1	Ginger	PC noncompliant with Annex V to Regulation 2016/2031

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Table 2
Continued

Country of origin	No.	Intercepted products	Nonconformity
China	1	Onions	PC absent
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC fake/forged
	1	Watermelon	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Watermelon	PC absent
	1	Foxtail lilies	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Foxtail lilies	PC absent
	1	Lettuce	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	1	Lotus	No pre-notification in TRACES (CHED Part I)
	1	Lotus	PC absent
	6	Lotus	Consignee not listed in official register of producers/importers
	12	Lotus	No pre-notification in TRACES (CHED Part I)
	12	Lotus	PC absent
	1	*Pinus*	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	*Pinus*	PC absent
	1	Tomato	Noncompliance with special requirements (physical)
	1	Common zinnia	PC absent
	1	Crocus	No pre-notification in TRACES (CHED Part I)
	1	Crocus	PC absent
	1	Golden kiwi	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Peanut	PC: expired date
	1	Mango	PC absent
	1	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Colombia	1	Palm hearts	PC absent
	1	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Ulluco	PC absent
Côte d'Ivoire	1	Ethiopian eggplants	PC absent
Cuba	1	Mango	PC absent
	1	Avocado	PC absent
Dominican Republic	1	Garlic	PC absent
	1	Papaya	PC absent
	3	Mango	PC absent
	1	Cassava	PC absent
	1	Spanish lime	PC absent
	1	Passion fruit (purple)	PC absent
	6	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Coriander	Other
	1	Chamomile	Other

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Table 2
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Country of origin	No.	Intercepted products	Nonconformity
Ecuador	1	Pumpkin	PC absent
	1	Sweet corn	PC absent
	1	Key limes	PC absent
	2	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Pitahaya	PC absent
	1	Tomato	PC absent
	1	Potatoes	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Egypt	1	Papaya	Missing identification marks (production unit, clips, etc)
	1	Papaya	WPM: marking absent
	1	Persian limes	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Mango	Missing identification marks (production unit, clips, etc)
	1	Mango	PC absent
	1	Mango	WPM: marking absent
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
	1	Sweet potato	WPM: marking absent
Ethiopia	1	Beans	PC absent
	1	Cassava	PC absent
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Avocado	PC absent
	6	Mixed plants	PC absent
	1	Sweet corn	PC absent
Ghana	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Papaya	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons etc.)	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Mango	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Mamey sapote	PC absent
	1	Potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, other Solanaceae spp.	PC absent
	1	Eggplant	PC absent
	1	Turkey berry	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Turkey berry	PC: false information
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
Honduras	1	Sweet corn	PC absent
	1	Avocado	PC absent
India	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Melons (excl. watermelons)	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Pumpkin	PC absent
	1	Crookneck pumpkin	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Tahitian gardenia	PC absent
	1	Tomato	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Eggplant	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Mango	PC absent
	1	Bananas and plantains	Consignment not presented for official controls

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Country of origin	No.	Intercepted products	Nonconformity
Indonesia	1	Myrmecodia	PC: additional declaration missing
	1	Mango	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Mango	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Cassava	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Cassava	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Basils	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Basils	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Pommarosas, water apples, other *Syzygium* spp.	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Pommarosas, water apples, other *Syzygium* spp.	PC: false information
Jordan	1	Common guava	PC: additional declaration missing
Kenya	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	1	Snake gourd	Consignment not presented for official controls
Kosovo	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Courgettes, pumpkins, other *Cucurbita* spp.	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Grapes	PC incomplete: botanical name not included
	1	Grapes	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
Malaysia	1	Tomato	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
Mexico	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Tamarind	PC absent
Morocco	1	Sweet oranges	Noncompliance with special requirements (physical)
	1	Common beans	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
Namibia	1	Sweet oranges	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Sweet oranges	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
Nigeria	1	Mango	PC absent
	1	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Pakistan	1	Wild rue	PC absent
Peru	1	Tomato	Others
	1	Tomato	PC: additional declaration missing
	2	Sweet corn	PC absent
	1	Asparagus	Others
	1	Mango	PC absent
	1	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Avocado	PC absent
	1	Groundcherries	PC absent
	1	Cocona	Others
	1	Potatoes	PC absent
	2	Potatoes	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects

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Country of origin	No.	Intercepted products	Nonconformity
Philippines	1	Papaya	PC absent
	1	Mangosteen	PC absent
	2	Mango	PC absent
	1	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Rambutan	PC absent
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
Senegal	1	Peanut	PC absent
	2	Mango	PC absent
	1	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	2	Teas	Others
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
Serbia	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Common plum	No pre-notification in TRACES (CHED Part I)
South Africa	2	Mandarin	Mismatch between identification mark and PC
	1	Mandarin	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	2	Mandarin	PC: additional declaration missing
	5	Mandarin	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	1	Bitter oranges	PC: additional declaration missing
	3	Sweet oranges	Mismatch between identification mark and PC
	3	Sweet oranges	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
	4	Sweet oranges	PC incomplete : Production unit number not provided
	4	Sweet oranges	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	1	Sweet oranges	PC: additional declaration missing
	2	Sweet oranges	PC: false information
	15	Sweet oranges	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	1	Sweet oranges	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	2	Sweet oranges	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	5	Lemons	Mismatch between identification mark and PC
	21	Lemons	Noncompliance with special requirements (documentary)
	1	Lemons	PC absent
	4	Lemons	PC: additional declaration inadequate or invalid
	21	Lemons	PC: production unit number invalid (unlisted)
	2	Lemons	Presence of goods not mentioned on PC
	1	Lowbush blueberry	Consignment not presented for official controls

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Table 2
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Country of origin	No.	Intercepted products	Nonconformity
Sri Lanka	1	Soursops, cherimoyas, custard apples, sweetsops	PC absent
	1	Cinnamon seeds	PC absent
	1	Darwin pea	PC absent
	1	Coconut	PC absent
	3	Bird's-foot trefoil	PC absent
	1	Beans	PC absent
	2	Cassava	PC absent
	1	Jackfruit	PC absent
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Papaya	PC absent
	1	Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, etc.)	PC absent
	2	Mangosteen	PC absent
	1	Apples	PC absent
	4	Mango	PC absent
	1	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	1	Bitter melon, other *Momordica* spp.	PC absent
	4	Curry tree	PC absent
	2	Curry tree	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
	5	Unspecified plants	PC absent
	1	Ambarella, other *Spondias* spp.	PC absent
	1	Ambarella	PC absent
	2	Mixed plants	PC absent
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
	1	Plantains	PC absent
Suriname	1	Mixed plants	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
Thailand	1	Signalgrass	Consignee not listed in official register of producers/importers
	1	Signalgrass	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC: non-certified copy or non-authenticated copy
	1	Guinea grass	Consignee not listed in official register of producers/importers
	1	Guinea grass	Consignment not presented for official controls
	1	Taro, eddoe, other *Colocasia* spp.	No pre-notification in TRACES (CHED Part I)
	1	Taro, eddoe, other *Colocasia* spp.	PC absent
	1	Mango	PC absent
	1	Mango	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Togo	1	Mixed plants	PC absent
Tunisia	2	Mixed plants	PC absent
Türkiye	1	Tomato	Goods' quantity does not correspond with PC
	1	Sweet corn	Mismatch between identification mark and PC
	1	Garlic	PC absent
	2	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent
	1	Unspecified plants	PC absent
Uganda	1	Ethiopian eggplants	Mismatch between identification mark and PC
Ukraine	1	Watermelon	PC absent
Uruguay	1	Lemons	Prohibited plants, plant products, or other objects
Uzbekistan	1	Garlic	PC: mismatch between means of transport and declared means of transport in the CHED
Venezuela	1	Sweet and chilli peppers	PC absent

CHED, Common Health Entry Document; PC, phytosanitary certificate; WPM, wood packaging material.

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