Reports on non-compliance with EU food law and agri-food fraud: April–May 2024

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Latest EU overview of food found not to comply with EU law

European Commission: April 2024 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

European Commission: May 2024 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

Update

The European Commission publishes monthly overviews of foods that are not compliant with EU food law. The April and May 2024 reports include notifications concerning the following AGRINFO partner countries: Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Congo DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Macedonia (Republic of), Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam.

These monthly overviews highlight ongoing and emerging risks of non-compliance that will help agri-food exporters and competent authorities in non-EU countries to monitor and respond to risks that may affect agri-food trade.

Impacted products

Cereals and bakery products; coffee and tea; confectionery; crustaceans and their products; dietetic foods; feed materials; fish and fish products; food additives and flavourings; food contact materials; food supplements and fortified foods; fruits and vegetables; herbs and spices; meat and its products; non-alcoholic beverages; nuts, nut products and seeds; poultry meat and its products; prepared dishes and snacks; soups, broths, sauces, and condiments

Notifications

The April and May 2024 reports include notifications impacting the following AGRINFO partner countries:

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Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Congo DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Macedonia (Republic of), Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam.

These notifications concern:

- product non-compliance and tampering (Table 1)
- record tampering, avoidance of control, false or deficient documentation (including mislabelling), identification, origin, and traceability defects (Table 2)
- non-compliance with maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides and veterinary medicines (Table 3).

The April report includes 341 suspicions that were retrieved from 908 iRASFF notifications (access restricted to EU Member States' competent authorities).

The May report includes 281 suspicions that were retrieved from 727 iRASFF notifications (access restricted to EU Member States' competent authorities).

AGRINFO reports regularly on notifications to the EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASSF); see:

- RASFF notifications in April 2024
- RASFF notifications in May 2024

Timeline

These reports are issued every month.

Recommended Actions

Competent authorities in countries that are included in these monthly overviews should pay attention to any non-compliances identified in the reports. It is particularly important that the producers/export companies concerned are informed as soon as possible so that they can take action and prevent a recurrence. These incidents also potentially indicate a more widespread problem that may require a coordinated response by the food sector in the country concerned.

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Background

These monthly reports compile information notified to the EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed Network (RASSF), Administrative Assistance and Cooperation Network (AAC), and Agri-Food Fraud Network (FFN). The reports also include non-compliances with EU rules that do not present a risk, but have triggered investigations by the competent authorities of individual importing EU Member States.

Resources

Monthly reports on EU Agri-Food Fraud suspicions

Regulation 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing entry into the EU of certain goods from third countries

Regulation 2019/1873 on the procedures at border control posts for a coordinated performance by competent authorities of intensified official controls on products of animal origin, germinal products, animal by-products and composite products

Sources

European Commission: April 2024 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

European Commission: May 2024 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Product non-compliance and tampering

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Brazil	Gelatine	Amaranth (E 123)	Unapproved process
Cambodia	Spices	*Clitoria ternatea*	Unauthorised food/ingredient
China	Candies	Acesulfame K (E 950)	Not compliant with EU maximum levels (MLs)
	Squid	Water addition	Adulteration (dilution)
	Confectionery (jellies)	Konjac (E425)	Unapproved process
	Green tea flavour	Sodium erythorbate (E 316)	
	Lollipops, canned strawberries in syrup	Ponceau 4R/(E124); E110	
	Coffee powder	Chaga, oyster plant, turkey tail mushroom, cordyceps, lion's mane	Unauthorised ingredient
	Food supplements	Cardarine	Unauthorised food/ingredient
	Seeds	Job's tears seeds	
Côte d'Ivoire	Drinks	Sildenafil	Unauthorised ingredient
	Palm oil	Sudan 3, Sudan 4	Unapproved process
Egypt	Mango nectar, mixed-fruit nectar, tomato paste/concentrate	Benzoic acid (E210), sorbic acid (E200)	
India	Basmati rice	Presence of other species	Adulteration (substitution)
	Barbecue & curry sauces, chicken masala spices	2-chloroethanol	Unapproved process
	Masala spice mix, chicken masala spices, chilli powder, food supplements	Ethylene oxide	
Iran	Dried apricots, raisins	Sulphites (E220–E228)	Undeclared process
Nigeria	Drinks	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Pakistan	Mango fruit drink	Benzoic acid (E 210)	
Philippines	Cheese snacks	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	Unapproved process
Saint Lucia	Seaweed	*Eucheuma cottonii*	Unauthorised ingredient
Serbia	Cake decoration	Titanium dioxide (E171)	Unapproved process
	Preserved aubergines and sesame seeds	Sulphites (E220–E228)	Undeclared process
South Africa	Flavoured drink	Quinoline Yellow FCF (E104)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Sri Lanka	Tea	*Evolvulus alsinoides*, *Hedyotis corymbosa*	Unauthorised ingredient
Syria	Sugared almonds	Erythrosine (E 127)	Unapproved process
	Cheese powder substitute	Sudan I, Sudan 4, Sudan Red B	
	Flavoured instant drink	Titanium dioxide (E171)	
Thailand	Noodles	Tartrazine (E102)	
	Confectionery (jellies)	Carrageenan (E407), Konjac (E425)	
	Bamboo shoots	Yanang leaf extract	Unauthorised ingredient
Türkiye	Chicken stock	Absence of chicken	Adulteration (substitution)
	Food supplements	Sildenafil	Unauthorised food/ingredient
	Herbal tea	Sibutramine	Unauthorised ingredient
Ukraine	Popcorn	Erythrosine (E 127)	Unapproved process
	Cookies	Titanium dioxide (E 171)	
	Food supplements	DMAA (1,3-dimethylamylamine)	Unauthorised food/ingredient
Venezuela	Shrimps	Sulphites (E220–E228)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Vietnam	Flavoured drinks	Calcium disodium EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid) (E385)	Unapproved process
	Rice noodles	Genetically modified organism (GMO) (p35S)	Unauthorised ingredient

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Table 2
Record tampering, control, documentation, identification, origin, and traceability

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Brazil	Feed materials (maize)	Undeclared genetically modified organism (GMO) (p35S+)	Records and information
	Meat products	Label/document mismatch	Traceability defect
China	Food contact materials (ceramic bowls, kitchen ware, plastic box)	Absence of conformity declaration, traceability defects	Records and information
	Ice cream	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
	Noodles	Bovine, poultry DNA	
	Peppers	Misleading indication "EU origin"	
	Squid rings	Unauthorised establishment	
	Xanthan gum	Smuggling	
	Sweeteners	Skipped border controls	'Others'
Egypt	Candies with honey	Unauthorised placing on the market	Unauthorised origin
	Chocolate truffles with milk	Skipped border controls	'Others'
India	Shrimp	Missing indication of drained weight	Records and information
	Chapati	Skipped border controls	'Others'
Indonesia	Cookies		
Iran	Dairy products	Smuggling	Illegal import
Jordan	Biscuits	Skipped border controls	'Others'
Malaysia	Food supplement containing honey	Unauthorised placing on the market	Unauthorised origin
Moldova	Drinks, various food products	Absence of traceability/labelling	Traceability defect
Morocco	Berries, blueberries	Falsification of origin	Records and information
	Swordfish	Misdeclared weight	Illegal trade (IUU)
Myanmar	Fish products	Skipped border controls	'Others'
Nigeria	Chocolate drink		
	Sesame seeds	Documentation/container seal number mismatch	Traceability defect
Pakistan	Candies and biscuits	Skipped border controls	'Others'
	Composite products	Unauthorised operator	Unauthorised origin
	Rice	Label/document mismatch	Traceability defect
Peru	Milk chocolate	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
Philippines	Various products with ingredients of animal origin	Skipped border controls	'Others'
Serbia	Sausages	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
Türkiye	Composite products	Skipped border controls	'Others'
	Olives	Absence of traceability	Traceability defect
	Trout	Absence of identification mark	
Vietnam	Corn snacks	GMO (p35S, tNos, pFMV, PAT/PAT)	Records and information
	Fish collagen peptides	Skipped border controls	'Others'

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Table 3
Non-compliance with pesticide and veterinary medicine maximum residue levels (MRLs)

Country	Products
Albania	Peppers
Argentina	Sunflower seeds
Bangladesh	Lemons
Bolivia	Mung beans
Brazil	Atemoya, cinnamon apple, groundnut kernels, limes
Cambodia	Mint
China	Green tea, herbal infusion, mushrooms, peppers, pumpkin seeds, Sichuan pepper
Colombia	Mango, passion fruit
Congo DRC	Sweet potato leaves
Dominican Republic	Peppers
Ecuador	Bananas, plantains
Egypt	Beans, carrots, clover seeds, grapefruits, olive oil, oranges, peppers, potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes, vine leaves
Ghana	Okra
India	Ajwain, cardamom, coriander seeds, cumin (incl. seeds), curry leaves (incl. powder), drumsticks (*Moringa*), fennel seed powder, fenugreek leaves, grapefruits, guavas, okra, organic moringa powder, okra, pepper, raisins, rice, tea, turmeric
	Shrimps [V]
Iran	Orange juice
Jordan	Peppers
Kazakhstan	Buckwheat, linseeds
Kenya	Beans, green beans, peppers
Libya	Dates
Madagascar	Beans
Mauritius	Pineapples
Mexico	Eggplants
Morocco	Melons, mint, peppers, raspberries, tomatoes, watermelons
North Macedonia	Mixed salad
Pakistan	Rice
Paraguay	Herbal infusion
Rwanda	Peppers
Senegal	Beans
Serbia	Mushrooms
Sri Lanka	Beans
Syria	Vine leaves, vine leaves in brine
Thailand	Aubergines, coriander, longans, peppers, pitahayas
Tunisia	Olive oil
Türkiye	Apricots, grapefruits, greengages, lemons, mandarins, pears, peppers, pomegranates, tomatoes, vine leaves
Uganda	Peppers
Ukraine	Buckwheat, soya beans
Vietnam	Durians, instant noodle soup, peppers, okra, organic tea, pitahayas
	Pangasius, shrimps, yellow catfish [V]

All non-compliances are for pesticide residues except those marked [V] for Veterinary medicine.

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Sources: April 2024 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions; May 2024 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

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