Reports on non-compliance with EU food law and agri-food fraud: August 2024

Published by AGRINFO on 09 Oct 2024

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

European Commission: August 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 August 2024 report includes notifications concerning the following 27 AGRINFO partner countries: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, 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 address risks that may affect trade.

Impacted products

Cereals and bakery products; cocoa, coffee, tea; confectionery; crustaceans and their products; dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods; feed materials; fish and fish products; food contact materials; fruits and vegetables; herbs and spices; honey and royal jelly; ices and desserts; meat and meat products; milk and milk products; non-alcoholic beverages; nuts, nut products, seeds; poultry meat and its products; prepared dishes and snacks.

What is changing?

The August 2024 report includes notifications impacting the following 27 AGRINFO partner countries:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Vietnam.

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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).

See RASFF notifications in August 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 producer-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.

Background

These monthly reports compile information notified to the EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed Network (RASFF), 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

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products, animal by-products and composite products

Sources

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Product non-compliance and tampering

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Afghanistan	Dried apricots	Sulphites (E 220–E 228)	Not compliant with EU maximum levels (MLs)
Argentina	Beef	Freezing time-limit requirements	Unapproved process
China	Dried organic mushrooms	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	
	Jelly cups	Carrageenan (E 407), xanthan gum (E 415), konjac (E 425)	
	Kitchenware	Wheat fibres	Unauthorised food contact material
	Organic rice noodles	Genetically modified organism (GMO)	Unauthorised food, ingredient
	Pickled radish	Tartrazine (E 102), acesulfame K (E 950), sucralose (E 955)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Egypt	Jelly	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	Unapproved process
Guatemala	Corn-based snacks		
India	Garam masala, psyllium husk	Ethylene oxide	Unauthorised ingredient
	Instant coffee	Glucose and fructose	Higher content than declared
Iran	Raisins	Sulphites (E 220–E 228)	Undeclared process
Morocco	Shrimps	Sulphites (E 220–E 228)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Pakistan	Organic rice	GMO	Unauthorised food, ingredient
Philippines	Snacks	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	Unapproved process
Thailand	Coconut milk	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	
Türkiye	Dried apricots	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	Undeclared/unapproved process
	Curry powder	Sudan 1, Sudan 4	
	Chickpeas	Titanium dioxide (E 171)	
	Honey	Sugar content	Adulteration
	Food supplements	Sibutramine, sildenafil, tadalafil	Unauthorised ingredients
Ukraine	Food supplements	Benzoic acid (E 210)	Unapproved process
Vietnam	Black pepper	Low piperine content	Adulteration (others)
	Pangasius fillets	Water content	Adulteration (dilution)
		Sodium carbonates (E 500)	Unapproved process
	Ground cinnamon	Possible enhancement with lead chromate	

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

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Brazil	Beverage preparations, whey protein powder	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
China	Sole	Illegal catch and substitution of species	Illegal trade (CITES, IUU)[a]
Egypt	Various	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
Morocco	Sole	Higher quantity than certified	Smuggling
	Bonito, mackerel	Label/document mismatch	Traceability defects
	Casings		
South Africa	Hake		
Thailand	Biscuits	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
Ukraine	Acacia honey	Document forgery, veterinary medicine residues	Record tampering
	Poultry sausages	Transport temperature	Implicit claim violations
	Products of animal origin	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin

[a] CITES, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; IUU, Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

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Table 3 Non-compliance with pesticide and veterinary medicine MRLs	
Country	Products
Argentina	Chickpeas
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Pears
Brazil	Ginger, papayas, shelled peanuts
Cambodia	Chilli peppers, mint, rice
China	Tea
Colombia	Coffee beans, granadillas
Costa Rica	Taro
Ecuador	Bananas
Egypt	Mangoes, red onions
India	Chilli peppers, cumin (ground, seeds), fenugreek (ground), rice, rice protein
Kenya	Chilli peppers, green beans, wax beans, string beans
Madagascar	Cinnamon, pink peppercorns
Mexico	Chilli pepper
Pakistan	Rice
Peru	Chilli peppers
Serbia	Peaches, plums
Sri Lanka	Curry powder
Thailand	Peppers
Türkiye	Apples, pears, peppers, vine leaves (in brine)
Ukraine	Food supplements, soybean oil
Vietnam	Celery tea
	Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*, *Clarias macrocephalus*) [V]
All non-compliances are for pesticide residues except those marked [V] for Veterinary medicine.	
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Adapted from Monthly reports on EU Agri-Food Fraud suspicions – August 2024

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