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

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

European Commission: December 2024 Report on Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

Update

The European Commission publishes monthly overviews of foods that are not compliant with EU food law. The December 2024 report includes notifications concerning the following AGRINFO partner countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Rwanda, Serbia, 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 address risks that may affect trade.

Impacted products

Cereals and bakery products; cocoa, coffee, tea; compound feeds, confectionery; crustaceans and their products; dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods; eggs and egg products; feed additives and materials; fats and oils; fish and fish products; food additives and flavourings; fruits and vegetables; herbs and spices; meat and meat products (other than poultry); milk and milk products, non-alcoholic beverages; other food products/ mixed; poultry meat and its products; prepared dishes and snacks, soups, broths, sauces and condiments, water for human consumption

Notifications

The December 2024 report includes notifications involving the following 29 AGRINFO partner countries:

Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Rwanda,

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Serbia, 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).

See RASFF notifications in December 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.

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

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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: December 2024 Report on Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

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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)
		Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Unauthorised
Bangladesh	Shrimps (*Metapenaeus monoceros*)	Water content	Adulteration (ingredient dilution)
	Chilli powder	Rhodamine B	Unauthorised
	Java plum (*Syzygium cumini*)		Unauthorised novel food
	Mustard sauce	*Cassia angustifolia* leaves	
China	Edible gold leaf flakes	85% copper, 14.7% zinc	Adulteration (ingredient substitution)
	Rice cakes	Genetically modified organism (GMO)	Unauthorised GMO
	Candies	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	Not compliant with EU MLs
	Jellies	Carrageenan (E 407), xanthan gum (E 415), locust bean gum (E 410)	
	Bamboo	D-sodium erythorbate (E 316)	Unauthorised enhancement
	Food supplements	Dihydromyricetin (DHM)	
	Xanthan gum	Ethylene oxide	
Ecuador	Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)	Sulphites (E 220–E 228)	Not compliant with EU MLs
		Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	
Egypt	Chamomile flowers (organic)	Ethylene oxide	Unauthorised
Ghana	Chilli powder	Orange II	
Guatemala	Sesame seeds	Ethylene oxide	
India	Dried coconut	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	
	Food supplements	Ethylene oxide	
	Neem powder (organic)	*Azadirachta indica*	
	Rice	Pigment Red 53	
Jordan	Hummus	Sodium metabisulphite (E 223), calcium disodium EDTA (E 385)	Unauthorised
Lebanon	Turmeric	Other plant materials	Adulteration (ingredient substitution)
	Jam	Benzoic acid (E 211)	Unauthorised
Mexico	Corn-based snacks	Calcium hydroxide (E 526)	Unauthorised
Peru	Cocona (*Solanum sessiliflorum*)		Unauthorised novel food
Sri Lanka	Chamomile tea (organic)	Ethylene oxide	Unauthorised
	Blue butterfly tea	*Clitoria ternatea*	Unauthorised novel food
	Tea	*Anoda cristata*, *Nymphaea stellata*	
Syria	Olive oil	Other vegetable oils (37%)	Adulteration (ingredient dilution)
	Tomato paste	Benzoic acid (E 210)	Unauthorised
Thailand	Tea	Brilliant Blue FCF (E 133), Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110), tartrazine (E 102)	Unauthorised
Türkiye	Corn-based snacks	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110), Allura Red AC (E 129), tartrazine (E 102)	
	Food supplements	Sildenafil, tadalafil	
Ukraine	Raspberries (organic)	Ethylene oxide	
Venezuela	Shrimps	Sulphites (E 220–E 228)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Vietnam	Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)	Ascorbic acid (E 300)	
	Tuna	Carbon monoxide and nitrites	Unauthorised

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Table 2 Record tampering, control, documentation, identification, origin, and traceability			
Country	Products	Issue	Classification
China	Corn-based snacks	Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)	Undeclared
India	Corn-based snacks	GMOs	Undeclared
	Food supplements	Improper health certificate (issued after shipment)	Implicit claim violations
	Curcumin extract	Traceability defects (certificates mismatch)	
	Piperine extract		
	Shilajit resin		
Sri Lanka	Tea	Unsubstantiated claims	Organic claims
Syria	Biscuits containing dairy ingredient	Illegal import	Smuggling
	Biscuits		Unauthorised origin
	Chocolate snacks with milk cream filling		
Thailand	Canned mango	Sugar content	Product related dates, records, and information
	Lemonade		
Türkiye	Food supplements	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
Vietnam	Dried mangoes	Claim “without added sugar”	Product attribute(s) claims
	Soy drinks	GMOs	Undeclared
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Table 3 Non-compliance with pesticide and veterinary medicine MRLs	
Country	Products
Albania	Clementines
Brazil	Mung beans
Cambodia	Rice
China	Feed additive (hydroxyvitamin D3), peaches, pomelos, tea
Colombia	Passion fruits
Egypt	Beans, oranges, peppers, strawberries, vine leaves
India	Beans, cumin (powder, seeds), drumsticks (*Moringa*), ginger (powder), okras, rice
Kenya	Beans (*Vigna* spp., *Phaseolus* spp.), green beans, tarragon
Madagascar	Black-eyed beans/peas (via Türkiye)
Myanmar	Black-eyed beans/peas (via Türkiye)
Peru	Granadillas, table grapes
Rwanda	Peppers
Serbia	Broccoli
Sri Lanka	Black tea, yardlong beans
Thailand	Aubergines, coriander, passion fruits, pennywort leaves, peppers
Türkiye	Lemons, mandarins, peppers, pomegranates, tomatoes, vine leaves
Uganda	Peppers (other than sweet)
Ukraine	Durum wheat, sorghum (feed materials)
	Poultry carcasses, poultry meat **[V]**
Vietnam	Peppers, pitahayas, tea
	Catfish (*Clarias macrocephalus*), shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) **[V]**
All non-compliances are for pesticide residues except those marked **[V]** for Veterinary medicine. AGRINFO www.agrinfo.eu	

Source: based on European Commission: December 2024 Report on Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

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