Reports on non-compliance with EU food law and agri-food fraud: February 2025

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

European Commission: February 2025 Report on Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

Update

The European Commission publishes monthly overviews of foods that are not compliant with EU food law. The February 2025 report includes notifications concerning the following AGRINFO partner countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, 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, fats and oils; food supplements and fortified foods; food contact materials; feed additives and materials; fish and fish products; fruits and vegetables; herbs and spices; nuts, nut products and seeds; other food products/mixed; poultry meat and its products; prepared dishes and snacks

What is changing?

The February 2025 report includes notifications involving the following 32 AGRINFO partner countries:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, 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 February 2025.

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

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	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	Undeclared enhancement
Brazil	Chicken meat	Chlorate	Unauthorised process
	Poultry meat preparations		
	Food supplements	Sibutramine, furosemide, fluoxetine, bisacodyl	Unauthorised ingredients
China	Corn-based snacks	Genetically modified organism (GMO)	Unauthorised ingredient
	Dried mushrooms	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	Not compliant with EU maximum levels (MLs)
	Kitchenware	Pulp cellulose	Unauthorised food contact material
	Mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) in tomato sauce	Skipped border controls	Others (implicit claim violations)
Colombia	Food supplements	Tadalafil	Unauthorised ingredient
Côte d'Ivoire	Palm oil	Sudan 4, Sudan Red B	Unauthorised enhancement
Ecuador	Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)	Sulphites (E 220–E 228)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Egypt	Chamomile (organic)	Ethylene oxide	Unauthorised process
Ghana	Egusi ground melon seeds (*Cucumeropsis manii*)	*Salmonella*, *Bacillus cereus* (presumptive)	Unauthorised novel food
India	Food supplements	Ethylene oxide	Unauthorised process
Iran	Dried plums	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	Not compliant with EU MLs
	Raisins		Undeclared enhancement
Lebanon	Apricot paste	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	Not compliant with EU MLs
	Pumpkin jam	Sorbic acid (E 200), benzoic acid (E 210)	Unauthorised enhancement
Mexico	Snacks	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	Unauthorised enhancement
Syria	Herbal mixture	Absence of *Artemista* sp., *Melissa* sp., *Ficus* sp, undeclared lemon verbena (*Aloysia citrodora*) and Leguminosae flowers	Adulteration (substitution)
Türkiye	Dubai chocolates	Brilliant Blue FCF (E 133), tartrazine (E 102), higher fat content than declared	Adulteration (substitution)
	Candies (Turkish delights)	Yellow 2G	Unauthorised enhancement
	Herbal tea extract	Sibutramine	Unauthorised ingredient
	Poppy seed paste	Sesame seeds, peanuts	Adulteration (substitution)
Vietnam	Basil seeds (*Ocimum basilicum)*		Unauthorised novel food ingredient
	Tuna	Ascorbic acid (E 300)	Not compliant with EU MLs
	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)		

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

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Algeria*	Biscuits with milk	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
China	Instant noodles	Traceability defects (destination)	Product-related dates, records, and information
	Salmon fillets (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)	Unauthorised vessel	Unauthorised operator
	Spice mix	Sugar, rice starch, monosodium glutamate (E 621), higher content of salt than declared	Product-related dates, records, and information
China (via Uzbekistan)	Walnut kernels	Traceability defects (label/document origin mismatch)	Product-related dates, records, and information
Egypt*	Biscuits with milk	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
India	Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)	Water undeclared (>7.4%)	Product-related dates, records, and information
Jordan*	Biscuits with milk	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
Nigeria	Beans	Traceability defects, forgery of lot numbers and best-before dates	Record tampering
	Sesame seeds	Improper health certificate, doubtful analytical report	Product related dates, records, and information
	Various food products	Forgery of invoices, labels, and best-before dates	Record tampering
Pakistan*	Biscuits with milk	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
Türkiye	Gluten-free nut mix	Gluten	Dietary claims
Vietnam	Spice mix	Self-evident claims (“100% natural ingredients”, “No synthetic color”, “No artificial preservatives”)	Product attribute(s) claims

* Based on official control and withdrawal from the EU market.

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Table 3 Non-compliance with pesticide and veterinary medicine MRLs	
Country	Products
Armenia	Vine leaves
Bangladesh	Chilli powder, cumin powder
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Pears
Cambodia	Peppers (other than sweet)
China	Ginger (dried)
Colombia	Passion fruits
Egypt	Oranges, peppers, strawberries
India	Black tea, bottle gourd, cumin (ground), rice, sesame seeds
Indonesia	Cloves
Kenya	Green beans
Pakistan	Rice
Peru	Avocados, chilli (paste), grapes
Rwanda	Peppers (other than sweet)
Senegal	Peppers (other than sweet)
South Africa	Grapes
Sri Lanka	Beans (yardlong)
Syria	Vine leaves
Thailand	Durians, lemongrass
Türkiye	Courgettes, cucumbers, lemons, pears, peppers, tomatoes, vine leaves
Ukraine	Strawberries
Vietnam	Pitahayas
	Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) [Veterinary medicine]
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