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

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

European Commission: July 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 July 2024 report includes notifications concerning the following 38 AGRINFO partner countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea, India, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of North Macedonia, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, 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 respond to risks that may affect trade.

Impacted products

Cephalopods and their products; cereals and bakery products; cocoa, coffee and tea; confectionery; crustaceans and their products; dietetic foods; fats and oils; fish and fish products; food contact materials; food supplements and fortified foods; fruits and vegetables; herbs and spices; honey and royal jelly; ices and deserts; meat and its products; milk and milk 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 July 2024 report includes notifications impacting the following 38 AGRINFO partner countries:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea, India, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan,

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Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of North Macedonia, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, 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 July 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

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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: July 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
Afghanistan	Dried apricots	Sulphites (E 220–E 228)	Not compliant with EU maximum levels (MLs)
	Chilli powder	Sudan 1, Sudan 3	Unapproved process
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Filled croissants	Sorbic acid (E 200)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Brazil	Açai	Sodium benzoate (E 211), sodium metabisulphite (E 223), sulphite ammonia caramel (E 150d)	Unapproved process
China	Dried mushrooms	Sulphite (E 220)	Not compliant with EU MLs
	Sugar for cotton candy machine	Amaranth (E 123)	
	Rice cakes	Genetically modified organism (GMO)	Unauthorised ingredient
	Food supplements	*Rhizoma pinelliae* preparation	Unauthorised food/ingredient
	Spice mix	*Angelica dahurica*	Unauthorised ingredient
	Plastic chopping boards	Bamboo	Unauthorised food contact materials
	Recycled polypropylene food contact materials	Unauthorised placing on the market	
	Tableware	Wheat fibres	
Guinea	Palm oil	Sudan 4	Unapproved process
India	Fruit jellies	Sulphite (E 220)	
	Boswellia serrata extract, cardamom powder, chilli peppers, coriander powder, food supplements, sesame seeds, spice mix	Ethylene oxide	
	Food supplements	Tadalafil	Unauthorised ingredient
Jordan	Wheat semolina	Casein	Adulteration (substitution)
Lebanon	Syrups	Sodium benzoate (E 211)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Mexico	Snacks	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	Unapproved process
Pakistan	Mango drink	Benzoic acid (E 210)	Not compliant with EU MLs
	Concentrated syrup	*Parmotrema perlatum* (*Parmelia perlata*)	Unauthorised ingredient
Philippines	Jelly, snacks	Allura Red AC (E 129), Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	Unapproved process
R. of North Macedonia	Ice pops	Potassium sorbate (E 202), sucrose acetate isobutyrate (E 444), glycerol esters of wood rosins (E 445)	
Syria	Candies	Azorubine (E 122)	
Thailand	Herbal tea	*Senna alexandrina*	Unauthorised food/ingredient
Thailand	Wheat flour	Benzoyl peroxide (E 928), chlorine (E 925)	Unapproved process
Türkiye	Dried apricots	Sulphite (E 220)	Not compliant with EU MLs
	Curry	Sudan	Unapproved process
	Pomegranate sauce	Sulphites (E 220- E 228)	Undeclared process
	Food supplements, tea	Sibutramine, sildenafil	Unauthorised ingredient
Ukraine	Food supplements	Benzoic acid (E 210)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Vietnam	*Pangasius*	Water content and undeclared carbonate	Adulteration (substitution)
	Jelly cups	Carrageenan (E 407), konjac (E 425), xanthan gum (E 415)	Unapproved process
	Hot chilli sauce	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110), Ponceau 4R (E 124)	
	Rice noodles	GMOs	Unauthorised ingredient

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

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Albania	Various food products	Transport temperature	'Others'
Brazil	Snacks	Skipped border controls	
	Bovine meat products		
China	*Tilapia*	Water content (glaze)	Quantity (net gross, weight, volume)
	Xanthan gum	Analytical certificate issued after health certificate	Document fraud
	Food contact materials	Missing declaration of conformity	Records and information
	Kitchenware	Absence of declaration of compliance	
Ecuador	Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)	Absence of health certificate and identification mark	
Egypt	Broad beans	Additives free claim	Product attribute(s) claims
	Olives	Absence of traceability, past expiration date	'Others'
India	Wraps and breads	Skipped border controls	
	Food preparations		
	Chocolate	Milk ingredient	Unauthorised origin
Iran	Sauce		
Kazakhstan	Linseed	Origin relabelling (Kazakhstan replaced by Ukraine)	Records and information
Mauritania	Octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*)	Unclear traceability	
Moldova	Various products (animal origin)	Absence of traceability	'Others'
Syria	Coffee	Additives free claim	Product attribute(s) claims
Türkiye	Olive oil	Quality classification	Records and information
	Rhododendron honey	Misleading botanical labelling	
Vietnam	Condiments	Skipped border controls	'Others'

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

Country	Products
Albania	Carrots, peppers
Algeria	Organic dates
Argentina	Chickpeas, kiwis
Bolivia	Organic quinoa
Brazil	Papayas
Cambodia	Basil, rice
China	Black tea, green tea, lychees, raisins
Colombia	*Physalis*
Dominican Republic	Peppers
Egypt	Grapefruits, oranges, strawberries
India	Chilli peppers, cumin seeds, drumsticks (*Moringa*), guava, mangoes, rice, turmeric powder
	Shrimps [V]
Iran	Raisins, saffron
Kenya	Beans, green beans, chilli peppers
Lebanon	Mint (dried)
Pakistan	Basmati rice, rice
Paraguay	Maté tea
Peru	Coffee (organic)
Rwanda	Chilli peppers
Serbia	Gherkins
South Africa	Grapefruits
Sri Lanka	Curry powder, yardlong beans
Thailand	Rambutans
Tunisia	Oranges
Türkiye	Cherries, grape leaves, peppers, sunflower seeds
Uganda	Chilli peppers
Ukraine	Sunflower oil
	Chicken meat [V]
Vietnam	Chillies, chilli peppers, durians, lychees
	Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*), pangasius fillets [V]

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

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