Reports on non-compliance with EU food law and agri-food fraud – March 2024

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Latest overview of foods found not to comply with EU law

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

Update

The European Commission has published its latest monthly overview of foods that are not compliant with EU food law.

The March 2024 report includes notifications concerning Albania, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Namibia, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam.

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

What is changing?

The March 2024 report includes notifications concerning:

Product tampering

- Additives not compliant with EU maximum levels (MLs) (Table 1)
- Adulteration and unapproved process; concealment, enhancement, ingredient dilution/ substitution (Table 1)

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Record tampering

- Nutrition and health claims (Table 2)
- Product-related dates, records, and information (Table 2)

Implicit claim violations

- Unauthorised origin, border control, documentation, identification, traceability (Table 2)
- Non-compliance with pesticide maximium residue levels (MRLs) (Table 3)
- Non-compliance with veterinary medicine MRLs (Table 3)
- Food, food contact materials, ingredients not authorised in the EU (Table 4)

There are notifications concerning the following AGRINFO partner countries:

Albania, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Namibia, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam.

Why?

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.

Timeline

A report is 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

The European Commission publishes monthly overviews of foods that are not compliant with EU food law. 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).

Resources

February 2024 report on EU Agri-Food Fraud suspicions

January 2024 Report 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: March 2024 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Product non-compliance and tampering

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Bangladesh	Shrimps	Sulphites (E220–E228)	Not compliant with maximum levels (MLs)
Brazil	Soft drink	Benzoic acid (E210)	Not compliant with MLs
China	Organic mushrooms	Sulphites (E220–E228)	Not compliant with MLs
	Plums	Health claim	Nutrition and health claims
Ecuador	Shrimps	Sulphites (E220–E228)	Not compliant with MLs
Egypt	Mango nectar	Benzoic, sorbic acid (E210, E200)	Not compliant with MLs
	Artichokes	Sulphites (E220–E228)	Undeclared process
Georgia	Blackberry juice	Grape juice (tartaric acid)	Adulteration (dilution)
India	Spice mix	Ethylene oxide	Unapproved process
Malaysia	Candies	Carrageenan (E407)	Unapproved process
Namibia	Monkfish, pink cusk-eel	Identity defects	Adulteration (substitution)
Philippines	Snacks	Sunset yellow (E110)	Unapproved process
Sri Lanka	Cinnamon sticks	Sulphites (E220–E228)	Undeclared process
Syria	Tomato paste	Benzoic acid (E210)	Undeclared process
Thailand	Tea	Brilliant blue (E133); sunset yellow (E110); tartrazine (E102)	Unapproved process
Türkiye	Herb leaves, snacks	Ethylene oxide; sunset yellow, tartrazine (E110, E102)	Unapproved process
Venezuela	Shrimps	Sulphites (E220–E228)	Not compliant with MLs

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

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Blueberry jam	Identification code mismatch	Traceability defects
Brazil	Various food products	Document fraud	Records and information
China	Plums	Health claim	Nutrition, health claims
	Sausage	Presence of pork	Unauthorised origin
	Noodles, prepared dishes, snacks	Presence of poultry, pork, bovine DNA	
	Prepared dishes, soup	Illegal import	
	Food contact materials	Skipped border controls, absence of sanitary documents	Control, documentation
Egypt	Oranges	Documentation – shipment mismatch	Traceability defects
India	Food supplements	Document fraud	Records and information
	Herbs and spices	Identification code mismatch	Traceability defects
	Soy sauce	Skipped border controls	Control
Senegal	Sole fish	Identification code mismatch	Identification
Syria	Herbal infusion	Health claim	Nutrition, health claims

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Table 3
Non-compliance with pesticide and veterinary medicine MRLs

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Albania	Cabbage	Metalaxyl	Pesticide residues
Bangladesh	Beans	Chlorfenapyr, fenpropathrin	Pesticide residues
Brazil	Apples, carambolas, dragon fruits, groundnuts	Acetamiprid, azoxystrobin, chlorpyrifos, lambda-cyhalothrin, phosmet, thiamethoxam, thiophanate-methyl, triflumuron	Pesticide residues
China	Cumin, peppers, pomelos, tea	Acetamiprid, carbendazim, chlorpyrifos, ethiofencarb, imidacloprid, myclobutanil, propamocarb, pyraclostrobin, tebuconazole, thiamethoxam, tolfenpyrad, tricyclazole	Pesticide residues
Colombia	Avocados, passion fruits	Chlorfenapyr, cypermethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin	Pesticide residues
Egypt	Faba beans, onions, oranges, peppers, potatoes, spring onions	Carbofuran, chlorpropham, chlorpyrifos, chlorpyrifos-ethyl, dimethoate, imidacloprid, iprodione, lufenuron, propargite	Pesticide residues
Ghana	Okra	Flonicamid	Pesticide residues
India	Cardamom, cumin, curry, okra, peppers, rice	Acetamiprid, anthraquinone, azoxystrobin, carbendazim, chlorpyrifos, clothianidin, cypermethrin, ethion, fipronil, flonicamid, hexaconazole, imidacloprid, iprobenfos, kresoxim-methyl, metalaxyl, nicotine, orthophenylphenol, picoxystrobin, propamocarb, propargite, propiconazole, pyraclostrobin, thiamethoxam, tolfenpyrad, tricyclazole, trifloxystrobin	Pesticide residues
Indonesia	Pitahaya	Acephate, methamidophos, pyraclostrobin, triazophos	Pesticide residues
Iran	Vine leaves	Chlorpyrifos, dithiocarbamates, fenpropathrin, penconazole	Pesticide residues
Jordan	Peppers	Formetanate	Pesticide residues
Kenya	Beans, chilli peppers, peppers	Acephate, carbendazim, methamidophos	Pesticide residues
Madagascar	Cowpeas	Carbaryl, chlorpyrifos, dimethoate	Pesticide residues
Mexico	Beans, blackberries	6-benzyladenine, acephate, bifenthrin, methamidophos	Pesticide residues
Morocco	Peppers	Imidacloprid	Pesticide residues
Nigeria	Sesame seeds	Chlorate, chlorpyrifos	Pesticide residues
North Macedonia	Lettuce	Chlorpyrifos	Pesticide residues
Pakistan	Rice	Acetaprimid, chlorpyrifos, imidacloprid	Pesticide residues
Peru	Grapefruits	Glufosinate	Pesticide residues
Serbia	Cherries, corn	Dimethoate, pirimiphos-methyl	Pesticide residues
Sri Lanka	Beans	Carbofuran	Pesticide residues
Thailand	Dried chillis	Ethion, fenpropathrin, fipronil, profenofos, tolfenpyrad	Pesticide residues
	Chicken skewer	Dimetridazole	Veterinary medicine
Türkiye	Chestnuts, cucumbers, grapefruits, kiwis, lemons, mandarins, oranges, pears, peppers, pomegranates, vine leaves	Acetamiprid, buprofezin, chlormequat, chlorpyrifos, chlorpyrifos-methyl, cypermethrin, cyprodinil, didecyldimethylammonium chloride (DDAC), emamectin, etoxazole, fenbutatin oxide, fenvalerate, flutriafol, fludioxonil, fluxapyroxad, imazilil, malathion, pirimiphos-methyl, phosmet, prochloraz, pyraclostrobin, pyrimethanil, pyriproxyfen, spirotetramat, sulfoflaxor, tebufenpyrad, triadimenol	Pesticide residues
Uganda	Peppers	Carbendazim, cypermethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin	Pesticide residues
Ukraine	Buckwheat	Glyphosate	Pesticide residues
Vietnam	Shrimps	Ternidazole	Veterinary medicine

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Table 4
Unauthorised foods, feed, contact materials, additives, ingredients

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
China	Mushroom coffee	*Clavaria militaris, Cordyceps, Inonotus obliquus, Chaga, Trametes versicolor*	Unauthorised novel food ingredients
	Bento box	Wheat	Unauthorised food contact material (FCM)
	Rice noodles	Genetically modified organism (GMO)	Unauthorised ingredients
	Food supplements, seeds	*Castanea mollissima*, Job's tears seeds, sibutramine	Unauthorised species, substance
Egypt	Pickled turnips	EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid)	Unauthorised additive
India	Spice mix	Clove leaf	Unauthorised novel food
Jordan	Tea	*Althaea officinalis*	Unauthorised novel food
Mexico	Food supplements	Sibutramine	Unauthorised substance
Thailand	Tea	*Pandanus amaryllifolius*	Unauthorised novel food
	Papayas	GMO	Unauthorised food
Türkiye	Tea	Sibutramine	Unauthorised substance
Ukraine	Soybean meal	GMO	Unauthorised feed material
Vietnam	Rice noodles	GMO	Unauthorised ingredients

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