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

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

European Commission: November 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 November 2024 report includes notifications concerning the following AGRINFO partner countries: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Serbia, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, 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; confectionery; cephalopods and their products; crustaceans and their products; dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods; eggs and egg products; feed materials; fats and oils; fish and fish products; food additives and flavourings; food contact materials; fruits and vegetables; herbs and spices; meat and meat products; milk and milk products; non-alcoholic beverages; other food products/ mixed (including honey and butter); poultry meat and its products; prepared dishes and snacks; soups, broths, sauces and condiments; wine

What is changing?

The November 2024 report includes notifications involving the following 28 AGRINFO partner countries:

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Serbia, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, 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 November 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

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
Bangladesh	Biscuits	Tartrazine (E 102)	Unapproved
China	Edible paint	Titanium dioxide (E 171)	
	Jellies	Carrageenan (E 407), xanthan gum (E 415), locust bean gum (E 410)	
	Food additives	Ethylene oxide	
	Enzymes, rice noodles	GMOs	Unauthorised
Ecuador	Shrimps	Sulphites (E 220–E 228)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Indonesia	Food supplements	Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*)	Unauthorised ingredients
Kosovo	Wine	Extraneous sugar and water	Adulteration (ingredient dilution)
Lebanon	Olive oil	Other oils	
	Tomato paste	Sorbic acid (E 200)	Unauthorised
Mexico	Papayas	GMOs	Uunauthorised
Serbia	Biscuits	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Syria	Jam	Sodium benzoate (E 211)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Thailand	Biscuits	Sunset yellow FCF (E 110)	Unauthorised
	Jellies	Konjac (E 425)	
	Drinks	Basil seeds (*Ocilum basilicum*)	Unauthorised ingredients
Türkiye	Dried apricots	Sulphite (E 220)	Unauthorised
	Olive oil	Other oils	Adulteration (ingredient dilution)
	Jellies	Carrageenan (E 407)	Unauthorised
Ukraine	Cranberries	Benzoic acid (E 210)	Unauthorised
Uzbekistan	Dried apricots	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	
Venezuela	Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)	Sulphite (253.7 mg/kg)	
Vietnam	Squid	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	Adulteration (ingredient dilution)
	Tuna	Carbon monoxide, nitric oxide, nitrous oxide (E 942), sodium citrate (E 331), water addition	Unauthorised
	Energy drink Drinks	Aspartame (E 951) basil seeds	

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

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Albania	Composite products	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
Algeria	Hazelnut spread	Presence of milk	Unauthorised origin
China	Kitchenware	Attempt to skip border controls	Implicit claim violations
	Tea	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
Egypt	Soups, broths, sauces, and condiments	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
	Rice	Changed, missing best before date, traceability defect	Product related dates, records, and information
Guatemala	Corn crisps	Undeclared GMO	Product related dates, records, and information
India	Copper chloride	Technical grade unfit for animal nutrition	Diversion
	Shrimps (*Penaeus monodon*)	Misdenomination (glaze not indicated)	Quantity (net, gross, weight, volume)
Indonesia	Biscuits	Unauthorised placing on the market	Unauthorised origin
Morocco	Various products including honey and butter	Absence of traceability	Implicit claim violations
Ukraine	Croissant	Unauthorised use of company's name	Unauthorised origin
	Eggs	Quality and traceability defects (documents mismatch)	Implicit claim violations
	Cheese starter cultures	Marketed for "home-made production" of "Montasio"	EU protected designation

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Table 3 Non-compliance with pesticide and veterinary medicine MRLs	
Country	Products
Albania	Clementines, peppers
Argentina	Chia seeds, herbal infusion
Burkina Faso	Aubergines
Cambodia	Rice
China	Chillies, cinnamon, mushrooms (*Boletus edulis*), pumpkin seeds, tea
Egypt	Eggplants, mangoes, peppers, pomegranates, vine leaves
Ethiopia	White beans
India	Yardlong beans, ginger (powder), rice
Iran	Raisins
Kenya	Beans, peppers
Morocco	Tomatoes
Pakistan	Rice
Syria	Cumin seeds
Thailand	Durians, pitahayas
Türkiye	Carrots, grapefruits, grapes, lemons, mandarins, nectarines, peppers, pomegranates, quinces, rose petals, sesame seeds, tomatoes, vine leaves
Ukraine	Apples, raspberries
Vietnam	Shrimps (*Penaeus 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: November 2024 Report on Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

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