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

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

European Commission: October 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 October 2024 report includes notifications concerning the following AGRINFO partner countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of North Macedonia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Syria, Thailand, 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 address risks that may affect trade.

Impacted products

Cereals and bakery products; cocoa, coffee, tea; confectionery; 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; fruits and vegetables; herbs and spices; meat and meat products; milk and milk products; non-alcoholic beverages; nuts, nut products, seeds; other food products/ mixed; poultry meat and its products; prepared dishes and snacks; soups, broths, sauces and condiments.

Notifications

The October 2024 report includes notifications involving the following 32 AGRINFO partner countries:

Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of North Macedonia, Senegal, Serbia, South

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Africa, Syria, Thailand, 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 October 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: October 2024 Report on Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Product non-compliance and tampering

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Brazil	Fruit preparations	Sodium benzoate (E 211), sodium metabisulphite (E 223), cochineal carmine (E 120)	Unapproved
	Noodles	Diphosphates (E 450), polyphosphates (E 452), sodium phosphates (E 339)	
China	Candies	Titanium dioxide (E 171)	
	Dried mangoes, sweet potato snacks	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Undeclared, not compliant with EU maximum levels (MLs)
	Jellies	Carrageenan (E 407), xanthan gum (E 415), locust bean gum (E 410)	Unapproved
	Snacks	Gardenia Yellow, Gardenia Blue (dyes)	
	Food supplements	Sildenafil, tadalafil	Unauthorised ingredients
		L-theanine, health claims	
Ecuador	Shrimps	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Not compliant with EU MLs
India	Food supplements	*Azadirachta indica*	Unauthorised foods, ingredients
	Nuts	Betel nuts	
	Food supplements, psyllium powder	Ethylene oxide	Unapproved
Indonesia	Biscuits	Tertiary-butyl hydroquinone (TBHQ) (E 319)	
	Snacks (chips)	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	
Mexico	Soft drinks	Benzoic acid (E 210), brominated vegetable oil (BVO), dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate (DSS)	Unauthorised ingredients
Morocco	Prepared lemons and olives	Sodium benzoate (E 211)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Philippines	Noodles	Tartrazine (E 102)	Unapproved
Syria	Sugar-coated almonds	Erythrosin (E 127)	
Thailand	Biscuits	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	
	Dried mangoes	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	
	Teriyaki mayo sauce	Benzoic acid (E 210), sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Unapproved, undeclared
	Food supplements	*Pueraria mirifica* extract, sildenafil	Unauthorised ingredients
Türkiye	Dried apricots	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Not compliant with EU MLs
	Confectionery, roasted chickpeas	Titanium dioxide (E 171)	Unapproved
	Food supplements	1,3-dimethylamylamine (DMAA)	Unauthorised ingredients
Vietnam	Dried cinnamon bark	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Unapproved
	Shrimp chips		

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Table 2 Record tampering, control, documentation, identification, origin, and traceability			
Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Belarus	Vegetable oil	Non-food-grade oil possibly diverted to food after import	Diversion
China	Crystallised ginger	Health claims	Nutrition and health claims
	Dried hog casings	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
	Fish products preparation		
Russia, processed in China	Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)	Unauthorised reefer vessel	
Paraguay	Food supplements	Health claims	Nutrition and health claim
Peru	Fish and fish products	Traceability defects (lack of container transfer certificate and means of transport mismatch)	Implicit claim violations
Türkiye	Cheese	Misleading denomination “halloumi”	EU protected designation
	Coffee drink with milk	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
Vietnam	Broth	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
	Products of animal origin	Skipped border controls	
	Poultry meat products	Transport temperature and traceability defects	Implicit claim violations
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Table 3 Non-compliance with pesticide and veterinary medicine MRLs	
Country	Products*
Afghanistan	Raisins
Albania	Peppers
Bangladesh	Masala
Bolivia	Quinoa (organic)
Brazil	Limes, papayas, peanuts, soybean lecithin
Cambodia	Rice
China	Egg products, hog casings (dried) [V]
	Mushrooms (dried), tea (green, black), pepper (spices)
Colombia	Passion fruits, tamarillo
Ecuador	Calcium salt of fatty acids (feed material)
Egypt	Apricots, beans, groundnuts (organic), mangoes, salads, vine leaves
Guatemala	Sesame seeds
India	Beans (long, tuvar), calabash, chickpea (flour), cumin (powder, seeds), rice
Indonesia	Cinnamon (ground), rambutan
Iran	Raisins, pistachios
Israel	Basil, lemons
Kenya	Peas, peppers
Madagascar	Beans
Pakistan	Rice
Peru	Beans, ginger roots (organic), turmeric (organic)
Republic of North Macedonia	Grapefruits, vegetable mix (pickled)
Senegal	Hibiscus flowers (organic)
Serbia	Cucumbers
South Africa	Avocados, oranges, raisins
Thailand	Pitahayas
Türkiye	Cucumbers, grapefruits, pears, peppers, pomegranates, tomatoes, vine leaves, pistachios
Ukraine	Millet (feed materials)
	Chicken [V]
Vietnam	Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*), shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) [V]

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

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