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

Published by AGRINFO on 07 Nov 2024

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

European Commission: September 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 September 2024 report includes notifications concerning the following AGRINFO partner countries: Albania, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iran, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of North Macedonia, 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; dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods; feed materials; 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.

What is changing?

The September 2024 report includes notifications involving the following 23 AGRINFO partner countries:

Albania, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iran, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of North Macedonia, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Vietnam.

These notifications concern:

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- 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 September 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

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

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Sources

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Product non-compliance and tampering

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Bangladesh	Nuts, nut products, seeds	Betel nut	Unauthorised food, ingredient
	Mustard sauce	*Senna alexandrina*	
China	Canned dough	Lily flower	Unauthorised food, ingredient
	Food supplements	Tongkat ali	
	Rice noodles	Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)	
	Miso soybean paste	GMO	
	Shiitake mushrooms (dried)	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Undeclared process
	Tomato soup base	Fat content	Higher content than declared
	Xanthan gum	Ethylene oxide	Unapproved process
Côte d'Ivoire	Food supplements	Sildenafil	Unauthorised food, ingredient
Egypt	Peppers, vegetables (pickled)	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Unapproved process
	Turnips (pickled)	Allura Red AC (E 129)	
India	Food supplements	*Emblica officinalis*, *Terminalio chebula*, *Terminalia belerico*, *Withania somnifera*, *Bacopa monnieri*, *Asparagus racemosus*	Unauthorised ingredients
Iran	Raisins	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Undeclared process
	Snacks (chips)	Sunset Yellow FCF (E 110)	Unapproved process
Mexico	Fish meal	Ethoxyquin (E 324)	
Morocco	Lemons in brine	Sodium benzoate (E 211)	
Peru	Ginger	Griseofulvin	
Thailand	Energy drinks	Allura Red AC (E 129), tartrazine (E 102)	
	Coconut milk	Sulphur dioxide (E 220)	
Türkiye	Food supplements, honey herbal paste	Sildenafil, tadalafil	Unauthorised ingredients
Vietnam	Jellies	Carrageenan (E 407), konjac (E 425), xanthan gum (E 415), titanium dioxide (E 171)	Undeclared process
	Pangasius fillets	Water content	Adulteration (dilution)
	Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)	Carbon monoxide	Unapproved process
	Ground cinnamon	Possible enhancement with lead chromate	

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

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
China	Xanthan gum (E 415)	Forgery of health certificate	Product related dates, records, and information
Iran	Toffee (milk ingredient)	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
Moldova	Cheese	Misleading denomination “Montasio”	EU protected designation
Pakistan	Rice	Label-document mismatch	Traceability defect
Philippines	Sauce, tomato sauce	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
Syria	Biscuits with milk	Illegal import	Unauthorised origin
	Stuffed aubergines	Forgery of OMR (optical mark recognition) document	Record tampering
Thailand	Chilli paste	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations
Vietnam	Dipping sauce with anchovies	Skipped border controls	Implicit claim violations

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Table 3 Non-compliance with pesticide and veterinary medicine MRLs	
Country	Products
Albania	Peppers
Brazil	Limes
Cambodia	Spearmint
China	Dried mushrooms, green tea, oolong tea, tea, peppers, raisins, yams
Colombia	Passion fruit
Ecuador	Bananas
Egypt	Fennel seeds
India	Cumin (powder, seeds), masala spice, rice, palm fatty acids (feed materials)
Iran	Saffron
Pakistan	Rice
Peru	Blueberries
Republic of North Macedonia	Peppers
Syria	Cumin (ground), rice
Thailand	Peppers
Türkiye	Peaches, pears, peppers, pomegranates, tomatoes
Ukraine	Mustard seeds, flax seeds (feed materials)
Vietnam	Pitahayas, turmeric (ground), water celery
	Catfish (*Clarias macrocephalus*) [V]
All non-compliances are for pesticide residues except those marked [V] for Veterinary medicine. AGRINFO www.agrinfo.eu	

Source: based on September 2024 report on EU agri-food fraud suspicions

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