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

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European Commission: September 2024 report on EU agri-food fraud suspicions

What is changing and why?

The European Commission publishes monthly overviews of foods that are not compliant with EU food law, including potentially fraudulent practices identified and reported by EU Member State authorities, based on Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed Network (RASFF) notifications among other sources. These reports help stakeholders in the agri-food sector to identify risks and adapt monitoring strategies.

The September 2024 report includes notifications involving 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.

See Tables 1–3 for details.

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.

Timeline

A report is issued every month.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also 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	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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