

Temporary increased official controls on foods from certain countries – June 2025 update

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EU increases official controls on certain foods from specific non-EU countries (June 2025)

<u>Draft</u> Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third countries implementing Regulations (EU) 2017/625 and (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council [download]

Draft Annexes [download]

Update

When a potential risk to public health is identified, the European Union (EU) temporarily increases official controls on certain food products from specific countries. The latest of these Regulations increases controls for products from some countries, and reduces controls for others where the risk has reduced. The countries for which official controls have changed are: **Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Sri Lanka, Syria, Türkiye**. An updated list of all increased official controls is provided in the Annexes to the Regulation.

Further guidance on the requirements and implications of increased official controls can be found in the AGRINFO guidance <u>Temporary increase of o cial controls of food imports – Regulation</u> <u>2019/1793</u>.

Impacted products

Bay leaves, bottle gourd, curry, cumin seeds, dried figs, mixtures and products produced from dried figs, drumsticks (Moringa oleifera), ginger, granadilla, grapefruits, halva and tahini from Sesamum seeds, mango, passion fruits, peppers (Piper; dried, crushed or ground Capsicum/Pimenta), saffron, tomatoes, turmeric, thyme, vine leaves, yardlong beans.

What is changing?

Implementing Regulation <u>2019/1793</u> lays down the list of food and feed of non-animal origin subject to a temporary increase of official controls, and the rules for these controls.





This list is updated regularly according to the risk of contamination by mycotoxins (including aflatoxins), pesticide residues, pentachlorophenol and dioxins, microbiological contamination, Sudan dyes, Rhodamine B, and plant toxins.

The details of the temporary increases are given in:

- Annex I of the Regulation, which lists products from certain non-EU countries that are subject to a temporary increase of official controls at EU border control posts and control points, and the frequency of controls
- Annex II, which lists products and their countries of origin that are subject to special conditions as well as to a temporary increase of official controls on entering the EU, and the frequency of controls.

The listing in the Annexes is very specific: each item refers to a particular product (e.g. groundnut) for an identified hazard (e.g. mycotoxins) from a named country.

Being listed in Annex I or Annex II has significant implications for suppliers. Annex II listing requires laboratory analysis and checks by competent authorities in exporting countries for **each consignment** of the affected commodities (see below).

Changes to temporary increases in official controls (Annex I)

This latest proposed update of Regulation 2019/1793 makes the following changes to the list of consignments of food and feed subject to a temporary increase of official controls at EU border control posts (see Table 1 for details).

The following have been *added* to the list in Annex I.

For pesticide residues:

- mangoes from Egypt
- bottle gourd from India
- tomatoes from Türkiye.

The following have *increased frequency* of identity and physical checks.

For pesticide residues:

- granadilla and passion fruit from Colombia
- vine leaves from Egypt
- yardlong beans from Sri Lanka

For Salmonella:





• tahini and halva from Sesamum seeds from Syria.

The following have been *moved* from Annex II to Annex I (see "What are the major implications for exporting countries?")

For aflatoxins:

• peppers (Piper); dried, crushed, or ground fruit of Capsicum or Pimenta; and ginger, saffron, turmeric (Curcuma), thyme, bay leaves, curry, and other spices from Ethiopia.

The following have *decreased frequency* of identity and physical checks.

For pesticide residues:

• grapefruits from Türkiye.

Changes to special conditions and temporary increases in official controls (Annex II)

This new update of Regulation 2019/1793 makes the following changes under Annex II (see Table 2 for details).

The following have been moved from Annex I to Annex II.

For pesticide residues:

• drumsticks and yardlong beans from India.

The following products have *increased frequency* of identity checks (visual inspection to ensure documentation corresponds with the products) and physical checks (checks on the product including sampling and laboratory testing).

For aflatoxins:

 dried figs and products derived from figs from Türkiye; ochratoxin A will also now be checked for these products.

For pyrrolizidine alkaloids:

• cumin seeds from Türkiye.

For specific information on the products concerned (e.g. relevant customs codes, details of hazards that need to be analysed), and a complete list of all products/ product origins subject to increased frequency of controls, please consult the draft Annexes of Regulation <u>2024/3153</u>.





Why?

The EU assesses the potential risks, and the associated need for additional controls, based on information from various sources. These include: data from EU Member State authorities and exporting countries; European Commission audits carried out in exporting countries; and notifications reported to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) and the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES-NT). This information is normally reviewed every 6 months.

For commodities that are already listed, in consultation with Member States, the Commission decides on a case-by-case basis whether risks have changed as a result of action taken by exporting countries, and if the increased controls or special conditions can be relaxed or removed entirely. Further information on this decision-making process is provided in the <u>Commission Notice</u> on information related to risks and non-compliance.

Timeline

The changes to official controls are expected to apply from early August 2025.

Consignments of drumsticks and yardlong beans from India will be permitted to enter the EU for the first 2 months after the new controls apply without being accompanied by the official certificate and results of sampling, to allow consignments already dispatched to enter the EU.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Temporary increases of official controls place significant additional demands on private sector operators and competent authorities in exporting countries.

Exporters of the following products newly added to Annex I should urgently review current practices and adopt additional measures to ensure compliance.

For pesticide residues:

- mangoes from Egypt
- bottle gourd from India
- tomatoes from Türkiye.

Exporters of the following products must act urgently to ensure that any consignment dispatched is accompanied by the results of sampling and analyses, and the official certificate must be provided by their competent authorities.





- From August 2025: dried figs and products derived from figs from Türkiye for aflatoxins and ochratoxin A.
- From October 2025: drumsticks and yardlong beans from India for pesticide residues.

Implications of being put in Annex I

Increased controls create greater uncertainty in supply because of delays and possible rejections of consignments. This may weaken the reputation and competitive position of suppliers from a listed country. It also may have cost implications when operators must cover all or part of the cost of increased controls (e.g. storage, inspection, analysis, or destruction of consignments in an EU Member State).

Operators and competent authorities in countries supplying products listed in Annex I (additional controls) must ensure that they put in place the necessary measures to prevent any new non-compliances, and thus avoid a further increase in controls or listing in Annex II.

What does it mean to be put in Annex II instead of Annex I?

Annex II listing is triggered when there is evidence of a serious risk to human health, leading to stricter entry conditions for affected food and feed products exported to the EU.

For consignments of Annex II-listed food and feed, the following actions must be taken before export, in the country of origin (or the country from which the product is dispatched).

- Each consignment must be accompanied by the results of sampling and laboratory analyses conducted by the competent authorities in the country of origin, or the country where it is dispatched from, if different.
- Laboratory analyses must be performed by laboratories that are accredited with the ISO/IEC 17025 Standard.
- Each consignment must have an identification code, and each individual bag or packaging in the consignment must be identified with that code.
- Each consignment must be accompanied by an official certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country, or the non-EU country where it is dispatched from, if different. This certificate must be based on a specific model and must state the identification code; must be issued before the consignment leaves the control of the competent authority; and must be valid for not more than 4 months from the date of issue, and no longer than 6 months from the date of the results of laboratory analyses.
- Suppliers of products listed in Annex II may face practical problems and high costs when they try to access appropriate testing facilities, particularly if there is no in-country accredited laboratory. Competent authorities have to put in place all the necessary procedures before listed consignments can be exported. They may also face technical and administrative constraints that make it difficult to respond to requests for mandatory certification. In practice,





the listing of products in Annex II can lead to a temporary stop in exports from the countries concerned.

 Suppliers must ensure rigorous routine analysis of contaminants and pesticides to avoid listing in either of these Annexes.

Recommended Actions

Exporters of all products listed in Annexes I and II of Regulation <u>2024/3153</u> must take steps to ensure full compliance with EU rules.

- Exporters of dried figs and products derived from figs from Türkiye must ensure that any
 consignment dispatched after August 2025 is accompanied by the results of sampling and
 analyses for aflatoxins and ochratoxin A, and the official certificate provided by their
 competent authorities.
- Exporters of drumsticks and yardlong beans from India must ensure that any consignment dispatched after October 2025 is accompanied by the results of sampling and analyses for pesticide residues, and the official certificate provided by their competent authorities.
- Exporters of the following products should urgently review current practices regarding pesticide residues and adopt additional measures to ensure compliance:
 - mangoes from Egypt
 - bottle gourd from India
 - tomatoes from Türkiye.

Resources

Online resources from the European Commission:

- Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)
- Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES-NT)

<u>Commission Notice</u> on information related to risks and non-compliance in the context of periodic reviews of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 2022/C 265/01

Commission Implementing Regulation <u>2024/286</u> on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third countries

Commission Implementing Regulation <u>2019/1793</u> on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third





countries

Regulation <u>2017/625</u> on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products

Regulation (EC) No <u>178/2002</u> laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety

Sources

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Table & Figures

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Country	Commodity	Hazard	Annex I status	Frequency of identity and physical checks
Colombia	Granadilla and passion fruit	Pesticide residues		Increased from 10 to 20%
Egypt	Mango	Pesticide residues	Added	20%
	Vine leaves	Pesticide residues		Increased from 20 to 50%
Ethiopia	Peppers (<i>Piper</i> ; dried, crushed or ground <i>Capsicum/Pimenta</i>)	Aflatoxins	Moved from Annex II	30%
	Ginger, saffron, turmeric (<i>Curcuma</i>), thyme, bay leaves, curry, and other spices	Aflatoxins		
India	Bottle gourd	Pesticide residues	Added	20%
Sri Lanka	Yardlong beans	Pesticide residues		Increased from 20 to 30%
Syria	Tahini and halva from <i>Sesamum</i> seeds	Salmonella		Increased from 20 to 30%
Türkiye	Tomatoes	Pesticide residues	Added	20%
	Grapefruits	Pesticide residues		Decreased from 20 to 10%

Source: based on draft Annexes



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Table 2 Draft changes to Annex II of Regulation 2019/1793							
Country	Commodity	Hazard	Annex II status	Frequency of identity and physical checks			
India	Drumsticks	Pesticide residues	Moved from Annex I	30%			
	Yardlong beans	Pesticide residues	Moved from Annex I	50%			
Türkiye	Dried figs, mixtures, and derived products	Aflatoxins		Increased from 20 to 30%			
		Ochratoxin A	Included as additional hazard	30%			
	Cumin seeds	Pyrrolizidine alkaloids		Increased from 30 to 50%			
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Source: based on draft Annexes

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