

Temporary increased official controls on foods from certain countries

Published by AGRINFO on 27 May 2024; Revised 18 Jun 2024

EU increases official controls on certain foods from specific non-EU countries

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2024/1662](#) of 11 June 2024 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

Update

The EU introduces Regulations to temporarily increase official controls on certain food products from specific countries when a potential risk to public health is identified. The latest such Regulation ([2024/1662](#)) brings in increased controls for products from some countries, as well as reducing controls for others where the risk has reduced. The countries for which official controls have changed are: **Brazil, Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Türkiye, Uganda, and Vietnam**. An updated list of all increased official controls is provided in the Annexes to the Regulation.

Impacted products

betel leaves, Brazil nuts, cardamom, cloves, drumsticks (Moringa), eggplants, figs (dried), ginger, gotu kola, grapefruits, groundnuts and derived products, guar gum, hazelnuts and derived products, instant noodles, locust beans, mixtures of food/food additives containing locust bean/guar gum, mace, nutmeg, peppers (other than sweet), pistachios, pitahaya (dragon fruit), sesamum seeds, spice mixes, vanilla, yardlong beans

What is changing?

Implementing Regulation (EU) [2019/1793](#) 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
- 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.

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

This new update of Regulation [2019/1793](#) makes a number of changes under Annex II (see Table 1 for details).

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):

- nutmeg, mace, and cardamom from India for ethylene oxide
- nutmeg from Indonesia for aflatoxins
- sesamum seeds from Uganda for Salmonella
- pitahaya (dragon fruit) from Vietnam for pesticide residues.

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

- peppers and ginger from Ethiopia for aflatoxins
- dried figs and pistachios from Türkiye for aflatoxins.

The following have been **moved** from Annex I to Annex II:

- gotu kola from Sri Lanka for pesticide residues
- peppers (other than sweet) from Vietnam for pesticide residues.

Changes to temporary increases in official controls (Annex I)

This new 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 2 for details).

The following has been **added** to the list in Annex I:

- eggplants from Burkina Faso for pesticide residues.

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

- betel leaves from India for Salmonella
- drumsticks (Moringa) from India for pesticide residues.

The following have been **moved** from Annex II to Annex I (see Implications below):

- yardlong beans from the Dominican Republic for pesticide residues
- groundnuts and derived products from Ghana for aflatoxins
- cloves, vanilla, and mixtures of food additives containing locust bean or guar gum from India for ethylene oxide
- mixtures of food containing locust bean gum from Malaysia
- mixtures of food additives containing locust bean gum from Türkiye.

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

- hazelnuts and derived products from Georgia for aflatoxins
- spice mixes from Pakistan for aflatoxins
- grapefruits from Türkiye for pesticide residues.

The EU has removed from Annex I – that is, **lifted temporary increased controls** on – the following products:

- Brazil nuts from Brazil for aflatoxins
- groundnuts and derived products from Brazil for pesticide residues
- groundnuts and derived products from Gambia for aflatoxins
- guar gum from India for ethylene oxide, pentachlorophenol, and dioxins
- locust beans from India for ethylene oxide
- peppers (other than sweet) from Pakistan for pesticide residues
- groundnuts and derived products from Sudan for aflatoxins
- locust beans from Türkiye for ethylene oxide
- instant noodles from Vietnam for ethylene oxide.

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, see the Annex of Regulation (EU) [2024/286](#).

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; Commission audits carried out in exporting countries; and notifications reported to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed ([RASFF](#)) and 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 European 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 the special conditions can be relaxed or removed entirely. Further information on this decision-making process is provided in the [Commission Notice](#) on information related to risks and non-compliance.

Timeline

The changes to official controls apply from **2 July 2024**.

Consignments of gotu kola (*Centella asiatica*) from Sri Lanka and peppers of the genus *Capsicum* (other than sweet) from Vietnam, which have been dispatched from these countries of origin, or from another non-EU country if different from the country of origin, may enter the EU until 2 months after this Regulation enters into force without being accompanied by the results of sampling and analyses and the official certificate.

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 from Sri Lanka and Vietnam must ensure that any consignment dispatched after 2 September 2024 must be accompanied by the results of sampling and analyses, and the official certificate must be provided by their competent authorities:

- gotu kola from Sri Lanka for pesticide residues

- peppers (other than sweet) from Vietnam 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.

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

- 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 (EU) [2024/286](#) must take steps to ensure full compliance with EU law.

Exporters of the following products from the countries indicated in Annex II must ensure that any consignment dispatched from 2 months after the date when this Regulation enters into force (that is, by 2 September 2024) is accompanied by the results of sampling and analyses, and the official certificate provided by their competent authorities:

- gotu kola from Sri Lanka for pesticide residues
- peppers (other than sweet) from Vietnam for pesticide residues.

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

- eggplants from Burkina Faso for pesticide residues.

Resources

Online resources from the European Commission:

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

[Commission Notice](#) 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 (EU) [2024/286](#) 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 (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

Regulation (EU) [2017/625](#) 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 [178/2002](#) 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


Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2024/1662](#) on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third countries

Visit the [AGRINFO website](#) to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and [search](#) the database.

Table & Figures

Table 1 Changes to Annex II of Regulation 2019/1793			
Country	Commodity	Hazard	Frequency of identity and physical checks
Ethiopia	Peppers, ginger	Aflatoxins	Decreased from 50 to 30%
India	Nutmeg, mace, cardamom	Ethylene oxide	Increased from 20 to 30%
Indonesia	Nutmeg	Aflatoxins	Increased from 30 to 50%
Sri Lanka	Gotu kola	Pesticide residues	Moved to Annex II (frequency 50%)
Türkiye	Figs (dried)	Aflatoxins	Decreased from 30 to 20%
	Pistachios	Aflatoxins	Decreased from 50 to 30%
Uganda	Sesamum seeds	<i>Salmonella</i>	Increased from 20 to 30%
Vietnam	Pitahaya (dragon fruit)	Pesticide residues	Increased from 20 to 30%
	Peppers (other than sweet)	Pesticide residues	Moved to Annex II (frequency 50%)
 AGRINFO www.agrininfo.eu			

Source: Regulation (EU) [2024/1662](#)

Table 2 Changes to Annex I of Regulation 2019/1793				
Country	Commodity	Hazard	Annex I status	Frequency of identity and physical checks
Burkina Faso	Eggplants	Pesticide residues	Added	20%
Brazil	Brazil nuts	Aflatoxins	Removed	–
	Groundnuts & derived products	Pesticide residues		
Dominican Republic	Yardlong beans	Pesticide residues	Moved from Annex II	30%
Gambia	Groundnuts & derived products	Aflatoxins	Removed	–
Georgia	Hazelnuts & derived products	Aflatoxins		Decreased from 30 to 20%
Ghana	Groundnuts & derived products	Aflatoxins	Moved from Annex II	50%
India	Cloves, vanilla, mixtures of food additives with locust bean/guar gum	Ethylene oxide	Moved from Annex II	20%
	Betel leaves	<i>Salmonella</i>		Increased from 30 to 50%
	Drumsticks (<i>Moringa</i>)	Pesticide residues		Increased from 20 to 30%
	Locust beans, guar gum	Ethylene oxide	Removed	–
	Guar gum	Pentachlorophenol, dioxins		
Malaysia	Mixtures of food with locust bean gum	Ethylene oxide	Moved from Annex II	30%
Pakistan	Spice mixes	Aflatoxins		Decreased from 50 to 30%
	Peppers (other than sweet)	Pesticide residues	Removed	–
Sudan	Groundnuts & derived products	Aflatoxins	Removed	–
Türkiye	Mixtures of food additives with locust bean gum	Ethylene oxide	Moved from Annex II	30%
	Locust beans		Removed	–
	Grapefruits	Pesticide residues		Decreased from 30 to 20%
Vietnam	Instant noodles	Ethylene oxide	Removed	–
 www.agrinfo.eu				

Source: Regulation (EU) [2024/1662](#)

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*