

# Temporary increased official controls on foods from certain countries: January 2025 update

Published by AGRINFO on 03 Dec 2024; Revised 19 Dec 2024

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

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2024/3153](#) of 18 December 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

When a potential risk to public health is identified, the EU introduces Regulations to temporarily increase 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: **Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, and Vietnam**. An updated list of all increased official controls is provided in the Annexes to the Regulation.

## Impacted products

Black-eyed beans, cumin seeds, dried oregano, durians, food supplements containing botanicals, okra, oranges, peppers, sesamum seeds, turnips, yardlong beans, zara lemons

## 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 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 1 for details).

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

- zara lemons from Bangladesh for pesticide residues.

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

- cumin seeds and okra from India for pesticide residues
- black-eyed beans (*Vigna unguiculata*) from Madagascar for pesticide residues
- peppers (other than sweet) from Rwanda for pesticide residues
- dried oregano from Türkiye for pyrrolizidine alkaloids
- durians from Vietnam for pesticide residues.

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

- sesamum seeds from Ethiopia for Salmonella
- turnips from Lebanon for Rhodamine B
- peppers from Sri Lanka for aflatoxins.

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

- oranges from Egypt for pesticide residues.

The EU has **lifted temporary increased controls** and removed the following product from Annex I:

- yardlong beans from the Dominican Republic for pesticide residues.

## 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:

- cumin seeds from Türkiye for pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

The following products have **decreased 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):

- food supplements containing botanicals and sesamum seeds from India 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, please consult the Annexes of Regulation [2024/3153](#).

## 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 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 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 will apply from **8 January 2025**. Consignments of cumin seeds from Türkiye that have been dispatched before 8 January 2025 can enter the EU until 8 March 2025 without being accompanied by the official certificate and results of sampling.

## 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:

- zara lemons from Bangladesh 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 [2024/3153](#) must take steps to ensure full compliance with EU law.

- Exporters of cumin seeds from Türkiye must ensure that any consignment dispatched after 9 January 2025 is accompanied by the results of sampling and analyses for pyrrolizidine alkaloids, and the official certificate provided by their competent authorities.
- Exporters of zara lemons from Bangladesh should urgently review current practices and adopt additional measures to ensure compliance.

## 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

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) [2024/3153](#) 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 I of Regulation 2019/1793**

Country	Commodity	Hazard	Annex I status	Frequency of checks (%)*
Bangladesh	Zara lemons	Pesticide residues	Added	20
Dominican Republic	Yardlong beans	Pesticide residues	Removed	–
Egypt	Oranges	Pesticide residues		Decreased from 30 to 20
Ethiopia	Sesamum seeds	<i>Salmonella</i>	Moved from Annex II	50
India	Cumin seeds, okra	Pesticide residues		Increased from 20 to 30
Lebanon	Turnips	Rhodamine B	Moved from Annex II	50
Madagascar	Black eyed beans	Pesticide residues		Increased from 30 to 50
Rwanda	Peppers (other than sweet)	Pesticide residues		Increased from 20 to 30
Sri Lanka	Peppers	Aflatoxins	Moved from Annex II	50
Türkiye	Dried oregano	Pyrrolizidine alkaloids		Increased from 20 to 30
Vietnam	Durians	Ethylene oxide		Increased from 10 to 20

\* Includes identity checks: visual inspection to ensure documentation corresponds with the products; and physical checks on the product including sampling and laboratory testing.

Source: Commission Implementing Regulation [2024/3153](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3153)

**Table 2**  
**Changes to Annex II of Regulation 2019/1793**

Country	Commodity	Hazard	Frequency of checks (%) <sup>*</sup>
India	Food supplements containing botanicals	Ethylene oxide	Decreased from 20 to 10
	Sesamum seeds		Decreased from 30 to 20
Türkiye	Cumin seeds	Pyrrolizidine alkaloids	Moved to Annex II (frequency 30%)

<sup>\*</sup> Includes identity checks: visual inspection to ensure documentation corresponds with the products; and physical checks on the product including sampling and laboratory testing.

Source: Commission Implementing Regulation [2024/3153](#)

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