FOOD FRAUD INCIDENT REPORT DEC 2022 | Food categories & related products

WHERE IN THE WORLD

1 North America
2 South America
3 Africa
4 Europe
5 Asia
6 Australia & Oceania

FRAUD CATEGORIES & TYPES

Adulteration: Product tampering by dilution, substitution, unapproved enhancement and/or concealment.

Mislabelling: Product misrepresentation by false claims or distorted information on product label.

Counterfeiting: Fake copies of popular brands and intellectual property infringements.

Grey market: Illegal trade including smuggling, diversion, theft and contraband products.

Document forgery: Falsified or fraudulent documentation.

FISH & SEAFOOD

4 **Italy:**
- Sardines seized due to non-compliances found in the traceability documentation

Italy:
- Tuna without traceability documentation

Italy:
- Multiple seizure involving seafood without traceability documentation; counterfeiting, expired and incorrect labelling, and/or unsuitable freezing practices

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

4 **Finland:**
- Fresh berries, country of origin misrepresented

5 **Philippines:**
- Yellow onions smuggled and misdeclared as bread pastries

CONFECTIONERY & SNACKS

4 **Italy:**
- Christmas sweets mislabelled as 'artisanal', or lacking a label or traceability documentation

UK:
- Cannabis edibles mispresented as 'traditional' sweets

5 **India:**
- Sweet products containing beef gelatine

CEREALS & GRAINS

2 **Argentina:**
- Contraband corn and wheat

3 **Nigeria:**
- Contraband rice

5 **Kyrgyzstan:**
- Contraband rice from Uzbekistan

India:
- Rice illegally traded meant for the Public Distribution System

Bangladesh:
- Stolen rice from a warehouse

Malaysia:
- Contraband flour from Argentina

Pakistan:
- Contraband flour

HONEY

1 **USA:**
- 144 imported honey samples tested for undeclared sweeteners revealed an adulteration rate of about 10%

LEGUMES & PULSES

2 **Argentina:**
- Contraband soy

5 **Pakistan:**
- GMO soybeans illegally imported

MEAT & POULTRY

2 **Paraguay:**
- Contraband chicken meat from Argentina

2 **Argentina:**
- Smuggled frozen beef ribs

4 **Spain:**
- Criminal organisation dismantled that had falsified registration documents and placed horse meat not suitable for human consumption on the market; meat was sold in Spain, Italy, Belgium and Germany

5 **Hong Kong:**
- Contraband frozen meat

Philippines:
- Illegally imported expired frozen meat (beef and pork)

Thailand:
- Contraband frozen pork

Singapore:
- Illegally imported pig blood curd

Thailand:
- Illegal meat and beef offal from a clandestine processing facility

Thailand:
- Formaldehyde found in meat and offal

FATS & OILS

4 **Portugal:**
- Pomace oil mislabelled as extra-virgin olive oil

5 **Myanmar:**
- Palm oil without official documents

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1 **Dominican Republic:**
- Contraband alcohol

2 **Columbia:**
- A large number of people died and several were hospitalised after consuming alcohol adulterated with methanol, possibly produced illegally; adulterated and contraband alcohol was destroyed

2 **Columbia:**
- Multiple operations involving adulterated and contraband liquor; clandestine factory discovered

2 **Costa Rica:**
- Bottles of liquor illegally produced

5 **India:**
- Illicit liquor

India:
- A large number of people died after consuming spurious liquor

China:
- Contraband Moutai liquor

Kosovo:
- Illegally produced wine

Malaysia:
- Contraband alcoholic beverages from Argentina

Malaysia:
- Contraband liquor

HERBS, SPICES & SEASONINGS

5 **Sri Lanka:**
- Chilli flakes adulterated with salt and wheat flour

India:
- Cardamon pods illegally dyed to appear bright green

NUTRITIVE (INCL. SYRUPS) & NON-NUTRITIVE SWEETENERS

5 **Pakistan:**
- Spurious jaggery made of substandard gur, sugar, chemicals, and non-food-grade colourants

MILK & DAIRY

5 **India:**
- Water was stored in a secret chamber inside lorries, causing milk to become adulterated when the vehicle was running

Pakistan:
- Analysis revealed milk adulterated with water

Pakistan:
- Milk adulterated with ghee, powder, detergent, polluted water and/or hazardous chemicals

UNSPECIFIED FOOD

1 **USA:**
- Warning letters have been sent to companies selling foods containing cannabidiol (CBD); these include gummies, fruit snacks, lollipops, biscuits, honey, teas and other beverages

3 **Côte d'Ivoire:**
- Contraband products, including cocoa from Ghana and sugar

4 **Italy:**
- Multiple foodstuffs without traceability documentation; including Christmas sweets, meat products and vegetables

5 **China:**
- Contraband frozen food worth millions of euros

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