FOOD FRAUD INCIDENT REPORT FEB 2023 | 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.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1 **Dominican Republic:**
- Two people died after drinking illegal adulterated liquor

2 **Ecuador:**
- Contraband liquor

4 **Ireland:**
- Contraband wine and beer

Italy:
- Contraband alcoholic beverages

France:
- Contraband alcohol

5 **Malaysia:**
- Contraband cans of various brands of alcohol

Malaysia:
- Liquor with unpaid taxes

China:
- Wine with counterfeit labels of famous brands and geographical indications

India:
- Illegal and spurious liquor

India:
- Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL)

Pakistan:
- Contraband liquor

UNSPECIFIED FOOD

1 **Canada:**
- Annual food fraud report released detailed findings on Canadian Food Inspection Agency's efforts to detect and prevent fraud; targeted highly vulnerable food categories, namely fish, honey, meat, olive oil, other high-value oils, and spices

3 **Namibia:**
- Videos depicting supermarket workers repackaging expired foods for resale prompted an investigation by authorities, resulting in the confiscation and disposal of the expired items

4 **Italy:**
- Authorities uncovered a criminal organisation selling conventional products (especially almonds and tomato sauce) as organic

MEAT & POULTRY

2 **Paraguay:**
- Horse meat sold as beef

Paraguay:
- Beef without any documentation

4 **Romania:**
- Frozen beef with poor traceability records or double labelling

Italy:
- Contraband meat

5 **Cambodia:**
- Contraband frozen pork

Vietnam:
- Authorities seized live cats and frozen cat carcasses, illegally butchered in an unapproved facility

Thailand:
- Smuggled frozen pork from Brazil

FISH & SEAFOOD

2 **Argentina:**
- Shellfish with no documentation

4 **Italy:**
- Sardines illegally fished

Italy:
- Red tuna illegally fished

Italy:
- Sea urchins without traceability documentation

Italy:
- Mussels without traceability documentation

5 **Philippines:**
- Authorities seized contraband agri-fishery products

China:
- A seafood importer is currently under suspicion for allegedly falsifying health certificates pertaining to raw oysters

JUICES & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

2 **Brazil:**
- Orange juice mislabelled as 'whole juice'; contained concentrated juice diluted with water and adulterated with added sugars

NUTRITIVE (INCL. SYRUPS) & NON-NUTRITIVE SWEETENERS

5 **Bangladesh:**
- Sugar smuggled from India

Philippines:
- Smuggled white sugar from Thailand

CEREALS & GRAINS

1 **Guatemala:**
- Contraband corn from Mexico

2 **Argentina:**
- Contraband wheat

5 **Pakistan:**
- Contraband wheat and flour

India:
- Contraband rice meant for the Public Distribution System

MILK & DAIRY

4 **Italy:**
- Unauthorised plant producing illegal cheese

Italy:
- Contraband dairy products

5 **Pakistan:**
- Milk adulterated with thickening agents and other ingredients

CONFECTIONERY & SNACKS

4 **Italy:**
- Sweets without traceability documentation

5 **India:**
- Candyfloss was found to contain unauthorised dye Rhodamine B

India:
- A sweet vendor was fined by a court after being found guilty of adulterating festival sweets with unsuitable colourants

TEA

5 **Pakistan:**
- Tea leaves adulterated with dyes, spoiled leaves, and other substandard ingredients

HONEY

2 **Brazil:**
- Honey adulterated with glucose, dextrin and other chemical products

4 **Spain:**
- Investigators allege that honey imported from Turkey to Europe is affected by adulteration and tax fraud

EGGS

5 **Philippines:**
- Undocumented eggs; may have been misrepresented with respect to their origin

COFFEE

3 **Egypt:**
- Authorities seized counterfeit beverage products including counterfeit versions of Nescafe instant coffee; raw materials at a manufacturing facility was also unlicensed

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+27 21 882 9883 | www.factssa.com | info@factssa.com | FACTS Laboratory . The Woodmill . Office 11 . 1st Floor . Vredenburg Road . Stellenbosch . 7600 |

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