FOOD FRAUD INCIDENT REPORT JAN 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.

MEAT & POULTRY

3 Egypt:
- Minced meat made from egg cartons

4 Italy:
- Meat products without traceability documentation

5 Hong Kong:
- Contraband frozen meat including beef, offal and pork knuckles

India:
- The authorities sealed a factory illegally packing meat, and seized meat and other material

Thailand:
- Contraband pork

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

4 Spain:
- Olives without traceability documentation, and suspected of being stolen

NUTRITIVE (INCL. SYRUPS) & NON-NUTRITIVE SWEETENERS

5 Sri Lanka:
- Illegally imported brown sugar from India; there is an ongoing ban on the importation of brown sugar

Philippines:
- Smuggled sugar from Thailand

JUICES & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

5 Pakistan:
- Counterfeit carbonated drinks of premium brands were made with non-food-grade colours, harmful chemicals and contaminated water

Japan:
- Deceptive marketing; a popular juice brand was selling a product as “melon taste” but which contained only 2% melon juice

MILK & DAIRY

5 India:
- Milk adulterated with hydrogen peroxide

India:
- Milk adulterated with formaldehyde, sucrose and ammonium sulphate

Pakistan:
- Milk chemically adulterated with sodium chloride, dry milk powder and sugar

CEREALS & GRAINS

5 India:
- Contraband rice meant for the Public Distribution System

Kyrgyzstan:
- Contraband rice without documents confirming custom clearance

Pakistan:
- Contraband wheat and flour

HONEY

1 Canada:
- Honey recalled after it was found to contain metronidazole, an antibiotic which is used to treat bee diseases

HERBS, SPICES & SEASONINGS

4 Netherlands:
- Illegal trade and selling of herb and spice products that were withdrawn from the market and intended for destruction

5 Pakistan:
- Spice production units sealed over poor sanitation and adulteration; celery powder and mixed spices were seized

Pakistan:
- Spice production unit was shut down due to severe violations and expired spices found, including banned ‘China salt’

COFFEE

3 Egypt:
Counterfeited products and labels from famous coffee brands

TEA

3 Egypt:
- Counterfeited products and labels from famous tea brands

facts Food & Allergy Consulting & Testing Services
the go-to-company for peace of mind

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

2 **Columbia:**
- Several people died after ingesting liquor (produced by one of the victims) adulterated with methanol

Costa Rica:
- Contraband liquor including beer, rum, rum with cola, tequila and whiskey

3 **Kenya:**
- Counterfeited premium brands of alcoholic drinks, including vodka

4 **Romania:**
- Smuggled alcohol

France:
- Contraband vodka illegally imported from Belgium

Germany:
- Untaxed contraband bottles of vodka and whiskey from Poland

5 **India:**
- Illegal alcohol

India:
- Various brands of liquor without all the necessary documentation

India:
- Bottles of substandard and illegal beer and whiskey

India:
- Smuggled liquor

India:
- Illegal rum and vodka

China:
- Bottles of counterfeited wine of known brands

Bangladesh:
- Illegal cholai wine

Pakistan:
- Contraband liquor and cans of beer

India:
- Several people died or were hospitalised after consuming adulterated alcohol

LEGUMES & PULSES

1 **USA:**
- A multinational corporation and multiple Individuals were charged for an organic-food fraud scheme involving soybeans

FATS & OILS

3 **Nigeria:**
- Contraband vegetable oils

4 **Italy:**
- Olive oil without traceability documentation

Belgium:
- Unauthorised colour Sudan III in palm oil from Ghana

5 **India:**
- Company accused of producing coconut oil allegedly containing mineral oil and insoluble impurities

FISH & SEAFOOD

1 **USA:**
- Illegal trade of European green crabs

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

5 **Bangladesh:**
- Shrimps injected with jelly-like substances

6 **Australia:**
- Researchers found IUCN red-listed threatened shark species in processed and cooked shark meat products, with only 27% of the samples identified coming from the sustainable shark population; and only 11% of retailers did not misrepresent the species that were sold

UNSPECIFIED FOOD

4 **Italy:**
- Food (meat, dairy products and vegetables) without traceability documentation and without the minimal hygiene requirements

5 **Cambodia:**
- Restaurants accused of misleading customers about the halal status of their foods

Malaysia:
- Organized crime syndicates have been importing large volumes of frozen food without customs approval, evading taxes and possibly violating halaal laws

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