FOOD FRAUD INCIDENT REPORT MARCH 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

2 **Ecuador:**
- One person died after consuming alcohol adulterated with methanol

Argentina:
Contraband wine

4 **Portugal:**
- Bottles of counterfeit sparkling wine

Italy:
- Authorities uncovered a liquor production plant adulterating alcoholic beverages with alcohol not meant for human consumption and containing unsafe chemicals (isopropyl alcohol and methyl ethyl ketone) while counterfeiting labels from famous brands

Spain:
- Wine with counterfeit labels from a famous brand

5 **Bangladesh:**
- Alcoholic liquors with false import declarations

India:
- Contraband liquor

India:
- Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL)

Pakistan:
- Contraband liquor

FISH & SEAFOOD

3 **Republic of Mauritius:**
- Contraband fish

4 **Italy:**
- Seafood, including red tuna, illegally fished

Italy:
- Sea urchins without traceability documentation

Portugal:
- Frozen octopus without traceability documents

Italy:
- Presence of unauthorised nitrates and nitrites and ascorbic acid above legal limits in defrosted tuna from Spain

5 **Philippines:**
- Contraband seafood

HONEY

2 **Brazil:**
- Campaign executed to examine adulteration in honey samples collected in retail stores; 14% of 99 samples presented adulteration by C-4 sugars, and 31.5% of 109 samples were non-compliant for levels of hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) and amylase

4 **EU:**
- The European Commission initiated and coordinated the action 'From the Hives' aimed at evaluating the extent of adulteration of imported honey with sugars; 46% of 320 samples were suspected to be non-compliant

5 **Pakistan:**
- Expired honey ready to be smuggled and sold in the markets

MILK & DAIRY

2 **Brazil:**
- Milk suspected of being adulterated with water

4 **Italy:**
- Dairy products without traceability documentation

5 **Pakistan:**
- Milk adulterated with formalin, urea and polluted water

India:
- Milk adulterated with vegetable oil, milk powder and chemicals

NUTRITIVE (INCL. SYRUPS) & NON-NUTRITIVE SWEETENERS

5 **Pakistan:**
- Contraband sugar

Philippines:
- Smuggled sugar

EGGS

4 **Kosovo:**
Contraband eggs from Serbia

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MEAT & POULTRY

2 **Colombia:**
- Horse meat slaughtered illegally and ready to be sold as beef

4 **United Kingdom:**
- Smuggled pork

Italy:
- Meat products without any label and in some cases expired

Italy:
- Contraband meat

Netherlands:
- Rejected beef carcasses traded

United Kingdom:
- Major meat fraud incident; pre-packed sliced beef which was labelled as British but came from South America and Europe

United Kingdom:
- Major meat fraud incident; supplier sold foreign expired pork, falsely labelled as British, to supermarkets

5 **Singapore:**
- Contraband canned chicken from Malaysia

Philippines:
- Contraband poultry meat

JUICES & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

5 **Pakistan:**
- Illegal factory closed for production of carbonated drinks with fake labels; drinks were produced with unauthorised and unsafe chemicals

FATS & OILS

4 **Spain:**
- Mixture of vegetable oils and lampante oil labelled as virgin olive oil; may have also contained mineral oil

Italy:
- Bottles labelled as olive oil but instead contained seed oil

5 **Pakistan:**
- Ghee and vegetable oils seized from an illegal warehouse

CEREALS & GRAINS

2 **Bolivia:**
- Contraband flour from Argentina

3 **Nigeria:**
- Contraband parboiled rice

4 **Italy:**
- Wheat seeds, intended for the production of certified wheat flour, without their Intellectual Property Right certification and without paying the companies holding the rights for those plant varieties; furthermore, illicit mixing of products with non-certified wheat

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

India:
- Contraband rice meant for the Public Distribution System

Malaysia:
- Contraband glutinous rice flour from Thailand

China:
- Three factories charged with selling counterfeit Thai jasmine rice; rice adulterated with unauthorised artificial scent and flavouring (pyrazine and pyrrole)

Kyrgyzstan:
- Contraband rice

HERBS, SPICES & SEASONINGS

5 **India:**
- Adulterated cumin seeds

India:
- Adulterated spices that were marketed and packaged as known brands

GENERAL FOOD

4 **Italy:**
- Multiple commodities, including almonds and tomatoes, are suspected of being falsely labelled organic

5 **Pakistan:**
- Authorities discovered a factory producing dry milk and food cereals for kids counterfeiting the labels from famous brands

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