

May & June 2025

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

Retrieved mainly from the JRC tool Medisys (http://medisys.newsbrief.eu)

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Food Fraud Cases

A total of 345 000 bottles of liquor have been seized so far this year, in an effort to combat smuggling and counterfeit goods. 01/01/2025 - 01/06/2025 <u>crhoy</u>

The Balearic Islands' agricultural authorities have reportedly uncovered a suspected food fraud involving the weight misrepresentation of 7 200 eggs imported from the mainland. An inspection revealed that the eggs were labelled as heavier than their actual weight, potentially deceiving consumers and violating trade standards. The authorities are conducting further investigations to determine the extent of the fraud and to hold responsible parties accountable. This incident highlights the ongoing challenges in ensuring food quality and authenticity in the market.

01/05/2025 <u>noticiasde</u>

In Şırnak, Turkish authorities have seized 2.5 t of illegal meat in a recent operation. The meat, lacking proper documentation and traceability, was discovered during inspections aimed at combating food fraud and ensuring public health. The authorities have taken action to prevent the distribution of this unregulated meat, highlighting ongoing efforts to enforce food safety standards and protect consumers from potential health risks associated with unverified products.

04/05/2025 <u>haberler</u>

The National Administration of Drugs, Foods and Medical Devices in Argentina has prohibited the sale of several products, including a brand of honey, olive oils, hair care products, and a laser hair removal device. The bans were imposed due to violations such as lack of proper registration, inadequate labelling, and concerns over safety and authenticity. These measures are part of ANMAT's ongoing efforts to ensure consumer safety and maintain product standards in the market. The authorities urge consumers to be cautious and verify the legitimacy of products before purchase.

05/05/2025 <u>canal26</u>



Costa Rica

Türkiye

Meat and meat products (other than poultry) Poultry meat and poultry meat products Document forgery Grey market



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Fats and oils Honey and royal jelly Document forgery Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding In a recent operation, the police intercepted a lorry carrying 24 000 kg of sugar suspected to be smuggled into Peru. The authorities stopped the vehicle as part of efforts to combat illegal trade and protect the local economy. The sugar, lacking proper documentation, was likely intended for the black market, highlighting ongoing challenges in addressing cross-border smuggling activities. The incident underscores the importance of vigilant enforcement to prevent economic losses and ensure regulatory compliance. 06/05/2025 <u>eju</u>

Four individuals in Mallorca have been sentenced for a significant fraud involving the sale of counterfeit olive oil. They admitted to selling low-quality and sunflower oils as extra virgin and organic, falsely labelling them as 'Oli de Mallorca' while sourcing them from mainland Spain. The Guardia Civil seized nearly 4 000 l of fraudulent oil. The defendants, including a family and a printer responsible for false labels, were convicted of industrial property crimes, forgery, and fraud. They received two-year prison sentences, fines, and were ordered to compensate affected businesses, although the prison terms were suspended. 06/05/2025 diariodemallorca

Authorities in Italy have seized approximately 5 t of bluefin tuna due to a lack of traceability. The operation was part of a broader effort to combat food fraud and ensure consumer safety. The absence of proper documentation raised significant concerns about the origin and handling of the tuna, leading to its confiscation. This incident underscores the critical need for rigorous traceability in the food supply chain to prevent illegal activities and protect public siracusapost health.12/05/2025

In Italy, law enforcement officials have seized hundreds of kilograms of counterfeit chestnuts destined for the Rome market. These chestnuts were fraudulently labelled to mislead consumers about their quality and origin. The seizure is part of ongoing efforts to combat food fraud and protect consumers from deceptive practices in the food industry. Authorities are investigating further to identify those involved and prevent similar incidents, highlighting the importance of authenticity and traceability in food products. 14/05/2025 <u>canaledieci</u>

Vietnam's chief of food safety has been arrested amid a major bribery scandal involving counterfeit dietary supplements. The official is accused of receiving bribes to ignore violations concerning the manufacture and sale of fake health supplements, which posed significant health risks to consumers. This scandal has sparked widespread concern about the effectiveness of regulatory oversight and the integrity of food safety practices in the country. Authorities are undertaking a comprehensive investigation to tackle the corruption and enforce stricter food safety regulations to protect public health. 14/05/2025 vietnamnews

In Catania, authorities have seized a large quantity of illegally caught bluefin tuna as part of efforts to combat unlawful fishing activities. The operation uncovered significant breaches of fishing regulations, leading to fines for those involved. This seizure highlights the ongoing struggle against illegal fishing practices that threaten marine ecosystems and undermine legal fishing industries. The authorities are committed to enforcing regulations to ensure sustainable fishing and the protection of marine life.

15/05/2025 <u>qds</u>

In Peshawar, authorities have uncovered a fake tea manufacturing operation, seizing 1 500 kg of harmful counterfeit tea products. The raid was conducted as part of a broader crackdown on food fraud, aiming to protect consumers from potentially dangerous and substandard products. The fake tea was found to contain hazardous ingredients, posing serious health risks. This incident highlights the need for stringent regulatory enforcement and consumer vigilance to prevent food fraud and ensure the safety of food products in the market. 15/05/2025 menafn









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Dietetic foods, food supplements, fortified foods Counterfeit



Fish and fish products

Document forgery Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

2/9





Counterfeit

Authorities have seized nearly 3 t of spoiled food products from a supermarket. The operation was part of routine inspections to ensure food safety and compliance with health regulations. The confiscated items, found in poor condition, posed potential health risks to consumers. This action underscores the importance of regular monitoring and strict enforcement of food safety standards to protect public health and maintain consumer trust in the food supply chain. 20/05/2025 lavo2901

A significant food fraud incident has been uncovered involving cheddar cheese. Authorities discovered that several tons of cheddar cheese were mislabelled and fraudulently sold as premium quality. This deception not only misled consumers but also violated food labelling regulations. The investigation is ongoing to identify those responsible and to prevent similar occurrences in the future. This case highlights the necessity for stringent oversight and transparency in food production and labelling to protect consumers and ensure market integrity.

20/05/2025 <u>haberler</u>

In Altivole, authorities have conducted a major seizure of over 25 t of food products deemed hazardous to health. The confiscated items, lacking proper documentation and traceability, were found to violate food safety regulations. This operation is part of ongoing efforts to protect consumers from potential health risks associated with unsafe food products. The incident underscores the importance of stringent food safety standards and the need for rigorous enforcement to ensure public health and safety. 21/05/2025 oggitreviso

In Bolivia, authorities have seized 27 000 l of contraband cooking oil. The operation was conducted as part of a broader initiative to combat smuggling and protect the local economy. The confiscated oil, which entered the country illegally, posed potential risks to consumers due to the lack of regulation and quality control. This incident highlights the ongoing challenges of tackling smuggling operations and underscores the importance of enforcing trade regulations to ensure the integrity and safety of products in the market.

Authorities in Long An, Vietnam, have seized 12 000 cans of formula milk of unknown origin. The seizure was part of an effort to crack down on food fraud and ensure consumer safety. The confiscated milk lacked proper documentation and traceability, raising concerns about its quality and safety. This incident underscores the need for stringent regulatory oversight and the importance of ensuring that all food products are subject to thorough quality checks to protect public health.

26/05/2025 vietnamnews

In Colombia, authorities have seized 5 000 bottles of adulterated alcohol in a significant operation targeting food and beverage fraud. The counterfeit products, which posed serious health risks to consumers, were discovered during an investigation aimed at curbing the distribution of unsafe alcohol. This seizure highlights the ongoing challenges faced by regulators in combating the production and sale of fraudulent alcoholic beverages. The authorities continue to intensify efforts to enforce regulations and protect public health from the dangers posed by such illicit activities.

28/05/2025 <u>hsbnoticias</u>

A chicken farm in Mallorca has been accused of keeping hens in squalid conditions and fraudulently selling eggs labelled as "free-range." An investigation revealed that the farm's practices did not meet the standards required for free-range certification, deceiving consumers about the quality and ethical sourcing of the eggs. This incident underscores the importance of transparency and compliance with animal welfare and food labelling regulations. Authorities are taking action to address the violations and ensure that consumers are not misled about the products they purchase.

28/05/2025 murciatoday



In Sicily, authorities have seized 25 t of bluefin tuna lacking proper traceability, in a series of operations across Cefalù, Gela, and the islands. The tuna, without necessary documentation, posed significant risks to consumer safety and undermined legal fishing practices. This crackdown is part of ongoing efforts to combat food fraud and illegal fishing, ensuring that seafood products meet regulatory standards. The incident highlights the critical need for stringent oversight and traceability in the fishing industry to protect both consumers and the environment.

29/05/2025 – 30/05/2025 <u>newsicilia</u>

In Bathinda, Punjab, authorities have seized 80 000 l of ethanol in a major crackdown on illicit liquor operations. Eight individuals have been arrested in connection with the illegal production and distribution of alcohol. The operation is part of the Punjab government's efforts to combat the underground liquor trade, which poses significant health risks to consumers. This seizure highlights the ongoing challenges in tackling illegal alcohol production and the importance of stringent enforcement to protect public safety and ensure compliance with the law. 30/05/2025 deccanherald

Approximately 1.2 t of illegally imported fresh and processed produce were seized in a joint operation between the Singapore Food Agency and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority. 30/05/2025 <u>sfa</u>

Authorities have seized over 1 500 kg of contraband chicken and several animals whose hunting is prohibited. The operation was conducted to tackle illegal food trafficking and protect wildlife, ensuring compliance with food safety and conservation laws. The confiscated goods posed potential health risks due to the lack of proper regulation and traceability. This incident underscores the importance of enforcing strict controls to prevent illegal trade and safeguard public health and biodiversity.

30/05/2025 <u>subrayado</u>

A clandestine meat processing facility in Desamparados was raided, resulting in the seizure of 8 000 kg of dubious origin meat. The operation was carried out by the National Animal Health Service, the Judicial Investigation Body, and the Municipal Police. 01/06/2025 teletica

Approximat	ely 1 000 kg of impure paneer and khowa were seized in Ramgarh, India, due to	D					
alleged adulteration							
02/06/2025	<u>timesofindia</u>						

Approximately 1 000 kg of red tuna were seized by the Coast Guard in Taureana di Palmi, Italy, due to alleged illegal fishing.								
03/06/2025	lanuovacalabria zoom24	5	<u>cn24tv</u>	<u>ansa</u>	<u>ilreggino</u>	<u>ecodellalocride</u>		

Approximately 60 000 l of counterfeit wine were seized and 18 business activities were suspended in a company due to alleged wine counterfeiting. 03/06/2025 piacenzasera



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Approximately 2 000 kg of unsafe meat were seized near Chakri, Pakistan, due to alleged unhygienic and unauthorized handling. 03/06/2025 app

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Meat and meat products (other than poultry) Grey market

Pakistan



Alcoholic beverages

Grey market

Pakistan

Non-alcoholic beverages

Counterfeit Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Meat and meat products (other than poultry) Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Vietnam

Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea Adulteration/ Product tampering

Italy

Fish and fish products

Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Italy

Fruits and vegetables

Counterfeit Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

5/9

Approximately 1 500 kg of meat and cured meats were seized in a butcher shop in Pesaro, Italy, due to alleged irregularities in their origin and documentation. 04/06/2025 <u>viverecivitanova</u> <u>vivereancona</u> <u>ilrestodelcarlino</u>

An Asian expat was caught smuggling over 9 200 bottles of alcohol at Al Wajajah port in Oman.

04/06/2025 muscatdaily

Authorities in Pakistan have seized 8 000 l of spurious drinks in a crackdown on counterfeit beverage production. The drinks, which were found to be fake, pose potential health risks to consumers. This incident underscores the persistent issue of counterfeit products in the market and highlights the need for robust regulatory measures to ensure food and drink safety. 04/06/2025 thenews

An urgent recall has been issued for approximately 6 800 kg of beef jerky due to allergy concerns. The recall is prompted by the presence of undeclared allergens, which poses a significant risk to consumers who may have allergies. The action underscores the importance of accurate labelling and consumer safety.

04/06/2025 <u>metro</u>

In Vietnam, a couple was apprehended for producing 20 t of counterfeit coffee using soybean additives. The operation involved substituting genuine coffee with a mix of soybeans and other additives, misleading consumers regarding the product's authenticity. The authorities intervened to halt this fraudulent production and protect consumers.

The Coast Guard in Messina has intensified its inspections, leading to fines amounting to
approximately EUR 14 000 for violations related to the seafood sector.09/06/2025tempostretto98zero

In Sicily, Italy, a significant operation led to the seizure of Egyptian oranges being falsely sold as the prestigious Sicilian "Tarocco" variety. This fraudulent activity involved mislabelling and misrepresentation of the oranges' origin, deceiving consumers and undermining the reputation of local produce. The operation resulted in substantial fines and confiscations, highlighting the importance of protecting geographical indications and ensuring the authenticity of agricultural products.

09/06/2025 <u>siciliaweb ilfattodicatania virgilio</u> <u>lasentinella</u> <u>askanews</u> <u>grandangoloagrigento</u> <u>ilfattonisseno</u> <u>gds</u> <u>corriereortofrutticolo</u> <u>agrapress</u> <u>cronachedigusto</u> <u>gds</u>

In a recent operation, police in the northern zone of Rio de Janeiro seized 3 t of impure coffee. The adulterated coffee, which could have produced over 60 000 l of beverage, was confiscated to protect consumers from fraudulent products. 11/06/2025 oqlobo globorural

Authorities in Mangaluru, India, seized a significant quantity of rice intended for the Anna Bhagya scheme, which was being hoarded at a general store. This operation resulted in the confiscation of 5 500 kg of rice and the arrest of an individual involved. 11/06/2025 thehindu timesofindia

Italian authorities conducted an operation at the Esquilino market in Rome, seizing 1 t of fish that was found to be in poor condition. This action was aimed at ensuring public health safety by preventing the sale of spoiled seafood.

11/06/2025 <u>casilinanews</u> <u>roma.repubblica.</u>

Italian authorities recently seized a large quantity of spoiled food at the Esquilino market in Rome, where they confiscated around 1 000 kg of food that was deemed unfit for consumption. The operation aimed to prevent potentially hazardous food from reaching consumers.

11/06/2025 <u>romatoday</u>

In Spain, authorities have discovered more than 290 000 food items containing toxic mushrooms, leading to significant public health concerns. This incident involves the adulteration of food products through the inclusion of harmful substances, highlighting severe violations in food safety standards. 11/06/2025 surinenglish

Cambodian authorities seized over 10 t of illegally imported Thai fish, some of which were spoiled and frozen. This seizure is part of efforts to regulate food imports and ensure that only safe and compliant products enter the market, protecting consumer health. 13/06/2025 phnompenhpost khmertimeskh

Malaysian authorities successfully intercepted a rice smuggling operation in Kelantan, preventing the illegal importation of 28 000 kg of rice. This operation is part of ongoing efforts to combat smuggling activities that undermine local agriculture and evade import regulations. The seizure highlights the importance of maintaining border security to protect the domestic market and ensure compliance with trade laws. 13/06/2025 thesun

Authorities in La Paz, Bolivia, seized 1 700 kg of smuggled pork. This action is part of ongoing efforts to combat illegal trade and ensure food safety and compliance with health regulations. Smuggled meat products often bypass necessary sanitary checks, posing potential health risks to consumers and undermining local markets.

14/06/2025 <u>eldeber</u> <u>eju</u>



6/9

In Punjab, Pakistan, the Punjab Food Authority has discarded over 2 000 l of adulterated milk. This action is part of the authority's efforts to maintain food safety standards and prevent the distribution of compromised dairy products to consumers. 15/06/2025 app

The Punjab Food Authority discarded 3 000 l of adulterated milk. This incident underscores the issue of milk adulteration, where foreign substances are added to increase volume, compromising quality and safety.a 17/06/2025 thenews

In Zamboanga City, Philippines, authorities have arrested three individuals and seized smuggled sugar. This operation is part of ongoing efforts to combat the illegal trade of sugar and address issues related to smuggling in the region. 17/06/2025 sunstar

In Seville, Spain, a cooperative has been implicated in the theft of 160 t of rice destined for illegal sale in Córdoba. This incident highlights significant issues with theft and the grey market, as the rice was intended for unlawful distribution. 17/06/2025 <u>eldebate</u>

At the fair in Catania, Italy, authorities seized 1 600 kg of untraceable tuna. This action reflects ongoing efforts to enforce food traceability standards and prevent the distribution of seafood that cannot be properly tracked, thereby ensuring consumer safety and adherence to legal requirements.

18/06/2025 <u>siciliaweb</u>

Authorities seized approximately 5 t of smuggled meat in a police operation. This significant quantity highlights the ongoing challenges of addressing illegal meat trade, which poses risks to both consumer health and the legitimate market. 20/06/2025 knews

Four public officials have been charged by the Office of the Special Prosecutor in Ghana for attempting to illicitly seize rice valued at EUR 192 000 at Tema Port. This incident reveals corruption-related activities within the grey market, involving unauthorised or fraudulent attempts to control food commodities.

20/06/2025 **<u>ghanaweb</u>**

In Catania, Italy, authorities seized 3 t of expired fish destined for public sale, as part of a significant operation against food fraud. This action underscores the ongoing efforts to ensure food safety and protect consumers from the health risks of consuming spoiled products. The expired fish posed a serious public health threat and was confiscated during routine inspections. Substantial fines were imposed on those responsible, serving as a deterrent against future violations and highlighting the importance of adhering to stringent food safety regulations.

20/06/2025 ilfattonisseno grandangoloagrigento ilsicilia

The Punjab Food Authority in Pakistan has discarded 3 500 l of adulterated milk. This action was part of the authority's ongoing efforts to ensure food safety and prevent the distribution of compromised dairy products.

20/06/2025 <u>app</u>



Pakistan

tampering

Pakistan

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Milk and milk products

Adulteration/ Product

Milk and milk products



Italy

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Fish and fish products

Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Pakistan

Milk and milk products

Adulteration/ Product tampering

In Bengal, authorities seized adulterated mustard oil and arrested two individuals involved in its production and distribution. This case highlights the fraudulent practice of adulterating edible oils with foreign substances, posing significant health risks to consumers. 21/06/2025 thestatesman

Malaysian authorities thwarted an attempt to smuggle 19 000 kg of white rice from Thailand. The operation underscores the challenges of controlling cross-border smuggling, which can disrupt local markets and evade import regulations. 21/06/2025 thestar thesun bernama thestar

In Guatemala, authorities have confiscated over 55,000 bottles of liquor suspected to be smuggled. This operation is part of broader efforts to combat the grey market activities in the alcoholic beverage sector, which pose significant challenges to legal trade and regulatory compliance. The seizure highlights ongoing issues with illicit trade that undermines taxation and public safety.

24/06/2025 prensalibre

Authorities have dismantled a major rice smuggling operation and seized 5 t of rice, highlighting the ongoing issue of illegal trade that affects market stability and food security. 24/06/2025 devdiscourse

In Telangana, two traders were arrested and 80 000 kg of PDS rice were seized. This incident involves the illegal diversion of subsidised rice intended for public distribution, highlighting issues within the supply chain and enforcement of distribution policies. 24/06/2025 thehindu

In Scotland, a man was sentenced to three and a half years in prison for his involvement in a fraudulent scheme related to the sale of tea. The fraud involved deceitful practices in selling tea. This case highlights significant issues within the food industry concerning fraudulent documentation and the illegal diversion of funds meant for legitimate business purposes. 24/06/2025 <u>bbc</u> scottishlegal foodmanufacture <u>heraldscotland</u>

In Masvingo, authorities destroyed 16 t of smuggled chickens. This action was part of efforts to prevent the sale of illegally imported poultry and protect public health. 26/06/2025 <u>dailynews</u>

In Cagliari, Italy, the Carabinieri's Health and Anti-Adulteration Unit conducted a raid at Poetto beach, uncovering two irregular food storage facilities containing fish products. The operation resulted in the seizure of goods valued at EUR 60 000, aimed at addressing food safety compliance issues.

27/06/2025 <u>castedduonline</u>

In Catania, authorities seized 2 000 kg of illegal tuna. This incident underscores the pervasive issue of illegal fishing and trade within the region, jeopardising both economic and environmental standards. 27/06/2025 <u>siciliaweb</u> <u>blogsicilia</u>

Six Americans were arrested for attempting to smuggle goods, including bottles and rice, into North Korea. These actions reflect ongoing tensions and the risks associated with unauthorised trade activities involving North Korea. The incidents highlight the challenges of enforcing international sanctions and maintaining border security.

27/06/2025 <u>dailymail</u> <u>dailymail</u>

India Fats and oils







Grey market

Alcoholic beverages

Grey market



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Cereals and bakery products Grey market

United Kingdom Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea Document forgery Grey market



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Poultry meat and poultry meat products Grey market



Fish and fish products

Grey market



An illegal liquor shop was busted in a village in Gurugram, Haryana, leading to the seizure of 113 boxes of illicit alcohol. One person was arrested during the operation, which aimed to combat the illegal alcohol trade. 28/06/2025 hindustantimes

In Cesena, Italy, authorities seized 6 t of seafood products due to regulatory non-compliance. This significant volume highlights the critical importance of adhering to food safety and labelling standards to protect consumers and ensure the integrity of the supply chain. The incident emphasises the challenges faced by regulators in overseeing food product quality and preventing fraudulent practices within the seafood industry. ilrestodelcarlino 28/06/2025

In Cieza, Spain, local beekeepers have been caught selling honey deemed unsafe for consumption. This incident is part of continued efforts to ensure that food products meet safety standards and do not pose risks to consumers. 30/06/2025 <u>murciatoday</u>

Other interesting articles

Report on EU agri-food fraud suspicions

"Monthly reports on Agri-Food Fraud Monthly suspicions" displaying the necessary information concerning fraud suspicions retrieved from the Alert and Cooperation Network FFN monthly - European Commission

The Food Fraud Monthly Report is drafted by the JRC Geel Unit F.4 "Food Integrity" with the support of the JRC Ispra Unit T.5 "Text and Data Mining".

It serves the same interests as the JRC report but is based on EUMS notifications. More at: FFN monthly - European Commission (europa.eu)

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Alcoholic beverages



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/Misbranding

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India



Honey and royal jelly

Adulteration/ Product tampering