

Food Fraud Monthly Report: Evidence-Based Analysis on Food Fraud Incidents

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Food Fraud Incidents

Vietnamese police have initiated a criminal investigation into a warehouse accused of producing "coffee" from soybeans, seizing 4.1 t of counterfeit coffee products and 3 t of raw materials. The owner admitted to mixing soybeans and flavorings with coffee beans for local market sale.

01/02/2026 [diariocomercio](#)



Vietnam



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



Bulgarian customs officers seized over 14 t of undeclared vegetables being smuggled from Türkiye to Ukraine hidden among declared fruit shipments. The cargo included cucumbers and tomatoes not supported by documentation, indicating an attempt to bypass customs controls. Authorities imposed an administrative penalty, and the offender paid a fine of EUR 14 000.

05/02/2026 [bta](#)



Bulgaria



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market
Document forgery

A significant seizure of 1 400 l of illegal artisanal liquor was made in Nariño. The operation revealed organized distribution channels supplying informal markets and evading customs controls. Investigations suggest the products entered through unauthorized routes and were redistributed domestically.

05/02/2026 [hsbnoticias](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages
Other food products/ mixed
Grey market



A food safety operation identified a company producing unsafe palm candy using banned textile dyes and selling it as baby food, posing serious health risks. Authorities also found counterfeit packaging and unhygienic production conditions. Unsafe products were seized and destroyed. The activity involved multiple food items, including sweets and snack products.

05/02/2026 [bssnews](#)



Bangladesh



Confectionery
Prepared dishes and snacks
Adulteration/ Product tampering



More than 1 000 bottles of wine were seized during an operation targeting illegal commercialization, with products lacking proper documentation and traceability. Authorities identified irregularities suggesting unauthorized distribution and possible misrepresentation of origin. The goods were removed from the market to prevent consumer deception and ensure compliance with regulations. Investigations are ongoing to determine the full extent of the irregular activity

06/02/2026 [misionesonline](#)



Argentina



Wine



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding
Document forgery

Authorities intercepted a large-scale food fraud involving tomatoes and onions valued at over EUR 150 000, which were seized before entering the market. The products were reportedly misrepresented regarding origin and documentation to facilitate illegal trade. The operation aimed to protect consumers and ensure compliance with food safety and traceability regulations.

07/02/2026 [faso-actu](#)

Authorities seized more than 5 t of tomatoes suspected of being smuggled into a wholesale market, lacking proper documentation and traceability. The products were reportedly introduced illegally, bypassing official controls and sanitary requirements.

07/02/2026 [lanacion](#)

The Ahmedabad Police seized a large consignment of foreign liquor concealed beneath helmets in a truck, violating Gujarat's prohibition laws. The operation led to the arrest of the truck driver and the confiscation of 10 749 bottles of liquor.

09/02/2026 [menafm](#)

Authorities closed two ethnic restaurants in the Salerno and Piana del Sele areas after inspections revealed serious hygiene deficiencies and lack of traceability for food products. 1.4 t of food products were seized and destroyed to protect public health. The establishments failed to comply with EU food safety and documentation requirements.

10/02/2026 [ilgiornaledisalerno](#)

Customs authorities in Tenkodogo intercepted a fraud operation involving more than 5 000 l of illicit alcohol, preventing its distribution on the market. The seized products were suspected of being unsafe and non-compliant with regulations, posing potential health risks to consumers.

11/02/2026 [faso-actu](#)

Three individuals were arrested for illegally storing approximately 12 t of subsidized rice intended for public distribution, which was diverted for unauthorized use. Authorities seized the stock and initiated legal action against those involved in the illicit operation.

12/02/2026 [timesofindia](#) [thehindu](#)

Authorities in Romania conducted searches in several locations, including Bucharest and nearby counties, targeting companies suspected of importing and distributing fruits from Egypt with pesticide residues above EU limits. Several tonnes of fruit were seized and traced across the supply chain, with warehouses and distribution points inspected.

12/02/2026 [stiripesurse](#) [trademagazin](#)

18 t of olive oil falsely labeled as extra virgin were seized in Salerno, Italy, as part of a joint operation to protect consumers from commercial fraud. The investigation revealed adulteration with lower-grade oils and misleading labeling regarding origin and quality.

12/02/2026 [ottopagine](#)

Authorities seized five containers of illegally imported fish and animal-based products at Port Klang, valued at EUR 390 000. The goods were suspected of entering without proper certification and inspection, posing potential food safety risks.

12/02/2026 [thestar](#)



Burkina Faso



Fruits and vegetables



Document forgery



Paraguay



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market



India



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market



Italy



Fish and fish products

Meat and meat products

(other than poultry)

Prepared dishes and snacks

Other food products/ mixed

Misdescription/ Mislabelling/

Misbranding



Burkina Faso



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market



India



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market



Romania



Fruits and vegetables



Adulteration/ Product

tampering



Italy



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product

tampering

Misdescription/ Mislabelling/

Misbranding



Malaysia



Fish and fish products

Other food products/ mixed

Grey market



Hong Kong Customs seized 4 800 kg of illegally imported food, including frozen meat, and arrested four suspects involved in smuggling activities. The products were imported without required licences and health certificates, violating import regulations. Authorities suspect organised cross-border smuggling using vehicles and a warehouse for storage.

13/02/2026 info.gov.hk

Authorities seized over 12 000 kg of spoiled meat and 7 665 kg of counterfeit cheese during inspections targeting unsafe food practices. The operation aimed to protect public health by removing contaminated and fraudulent products from circulation. Officials highlighted serious hygiene violations and deliberate misrepresentation of food products.

13/02/2026 thestatesman

Authorities seized 294 kg of illegal dairy, meat, and plant products at an airport border control point during routine inspections. Most confiscated goods were meat and dairy products carried through passenger and cargo channels, breaching EU import rules.

13/02/2026 agriland

Authorities at the UK border seized 34 t of illegal meat products, highlighting increasing attempts to smuggle unauthorised animal goods into the country. These products pose serious biosecurity risks, particularly for animal diseases, and were confiscated during intensified inspections. Most items lacked proper documentation or originated from non-approved sources, indicating illegal trade and misrepresentation.

16/02/2026 kentonline farminguk

A Spanish operation uncovered food fraud involving 186 t of frozen fish products that were improperly stored and mislabelled for distribution. Authorities immobilised the products due to traceability issues and potential risks to consumer safety. The fraud involved altering documentation and misleading product information to conceal origin and handling conditions.

17/02/2026 larazon

The Guardia Civil in Ondarroa discovered 1 593 kg of verdel (Atlantic mackerel) hidden without the required documentation. The investigation revealed potential mislabelling and inconsistencies in documentation related to origin and traceability.

17/02/2026 elconfidencialdigital

Authorities seized 10 t of smuggled rice and sugar during an operation targeting illegal food distribution. The products lacked proper documentation and sanitary controls, posing potential risks to consumers. The seizure aimed to prevent illegal market circulation and protect public health and fair trade.

18/02/2026 elnuevosiglo elpais



China



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Other food products/ mixed
Grey market



India



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Milk and milk products

Adulteration/ Product
tampering

Counterfeit

Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding



Ireland



Milk and milk products

Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry
meat products

Other food products/ mixed
Grey market



United Kingdom



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Grey market Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Spain



Fish and fish products



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

Document forgery



Spain



Fish and fish products



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

Document forgery



Colombia



Cereals and bakery products
Other food products/ mixed



Grey market
Document forgery

A large seizure of 10 000 food products lacking necessary traceability information and stored in non-compliant conditions was conducted by the Guardia di Finanza in San Pietro Vernotico, Italy.

18/02/2026 [antennasud](#)

Authorities inspected a meat processing facility and found serious hygiene and safety violations, leading to the seizure and destruction of approximately 16 t of meat products. The products were deemed unfit for human consumption due to improper storage and handling conditions.

18/02/2026 [ansa](#)

Authorities seized more than 10 000 expired food and herbal supplements during inspections targeting illegal trade and unsafe products. The operation uncovered products that were being stored and potentially distributed despite exceeding their expiry dates, posing risks to consumer health. Officials highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen market surveillance and prevent unsafe goods from reaching consumers. Investigations are continuing to identify those responsible and assess the full scale of distribution.

19/02/2026 [politiko](#)

The authority banned a brand of olive oil after detecting multiple irregularities, including lack of proper registration and traceability issues. The product was considered illegally marketed and potentially unsafe for consumption. No reliable information could confirm its origin or compliance with food safety standards. Authorities warned consumers to avoid its purchase and consumption.

19/02/2026 [losandes](#) [cronista](#) [cronica](#) [mdzol](#) [ambito](#) [ellitoral](#) [infobae](#)

A clandestine facility producing falsified food was shut down after authorities found severe sanitary violations. The site manufactured and repackaged food products under unsanitary conditions, posing serious health risks to consumers. Large quantities of irregular products and materials were seized, and operations were immediately halted.

19/02/2026 [correio24horas](#)

A criminal organization in Greece was dismantled for producing and selling 81 t of adulterated olive oil labeled as extra virgin olive oil, with false labels and forged quality certificates. The operation involved exporting to Germany, causing an estimated economic damage of over EUR 3.4 million.

19/02/2026 [teatronaturale](#) [voria](#) [ekathimerini](#)

Authorities in Morocco seized over 5 t of unsafe red meat stored in unsanitary conditions intended for sale during Ramadan, preventing potential public health risks. The meat was traced to a clandestine warehouse used for illegal slaughtering and lacked documentation verifying its origin.

19/02/2026 [moroccoworldnews](#)

Over 20 t of fish products including shrimp, conger eels, and anchovies were seized in Livorno due to non-compliant labeling and inadequate documentation. The products were imported from China and lacked traceability, leading to the closure of the import and sales operation.

19/02/2026 [gonews](#)



Italy



Food contact materials



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Italy



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Adulteration/ Product tampering



Albania



Dietetic foods, food supplements, fortified foods



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Argentina



Fats and oils



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Brazil



Other food products/ mixed



Counterfeit Adulteration/ Product tampering



Greece



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Morocco



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Adulteration/ Product tampering
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Italy



Fish and fish products
Crustaceans and products thereof



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Authorities shut down a shop for selling adulterated alcoholic beverages and meat of unknown origin. Inspections revealed product tampering and lack of traceability, posing potential health risks to consumers. The seized products included contaminated drinks and improperly sourced meat, violating food safety regulations.

20/02/2026 [diariodigital](#)



Brazil



Alcoholic beverages
Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

A large fake milk manufacturing network was busted in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, where hazardous milk solution was prepared using powdered substances and vanaspati ghee. The operation prevented the distribution of 13 000 l of adulterated milk intended for the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

20/02/2026 [app](#)



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Adulteration/ Product
tampering

Six people died after consuming allegedly adulterated alcoholic beverages, suspected to contain toxic substances such as methanol. Several others were hospitalized with severe poisoning symptoms, prompting authorities to launch an investigation.

20/02/2026 [noticiasvenevision](#) [elpitazo](#) [eldiariodeguayana](#) [noticias-ahora](#)



Venezuela



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product
tampering

A Canadian retailer was fined EUR 9 200 for misleading consumers by promoting imported broccoli slaw as a domestic product using national symbols. The issue arose from in-store displays that incorrectly suggested the product's origin, violating labelling rules. Authorities stressed that origin claims must reflect that nearly all ingredients and processing are domestic. The company attributed the incident to human error and committed to improving labelling accuracy.

21/02/2026 [radio-canada](#) [cp24](#)



Canada



Fruits and vegetables



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

Authorities seized illegal animal products worth approximately EUR 400 000 during border control operations, highlighting ongoing smuggling activities involving undeclared goods. The confiscated items included various meat and animal-derived products lacking proper certification and traceability, posing potential sanitary risks.

21/02/2026 [thestar](#)



Malaysia



Poultry meat and poultry
meat products



Milk and milk products



Grey market

At least 15 people were hospitalized in critical condition after consuming adulterated milk containing harmful substances in Andhra Pradesh, India. Medical teams were urgently deployed to provide specialized treatment. The incident highlights serious public health risks linked to contaminated dairy products. Authorities are investigating the source and composition of the adulterants used. Measures are being considered to prevent similar cases and ensure food safety compliance.

22/02/2026 [thehindu](#) [thehindu](#) [uniindia](#) [news18](#) [devdiscourse](#) [thehindu](#) [deccanherald](#) [thehindu](#) [uniindia](#) [hindustantimes](#) [thehindu](#) [deccanherald](#) [uniindia](#) [thehindu](#)



India



Milk and milk products



Adulteration/ Product
tampering

Customs officers intercepted 18 trucks involved in a transit diversion scheme at the Aflao border, potentially costing Ghana over EUR 6.4 million in unpaid taxes. The trucks were carrying cooking oil, spaghetti, and tomato paste, declared as goods in transit to Niger but found without mandatory customs escorts.

23/02/2026 [newsghana](#) [citinewsroom](#)



Ghana



Fats and oils



Cereals and bakery products
Soups, broths, sauces and
condiments



Grey market

Authorities charged two individuals for allegedly smuggling 25 t of sugar, which was seized during an operation. The goods were reportedly transported without proper documentation, indicating illegal trade practices.

23/02/2026 [ministeriopublico](#)



Paraguay



Other food products/ mixed



Grey market

Authorities in Kanpur seized adulterated and expired food products worth approximately EUR 46 000 ahead of festive demand. Inspections uncovered fake dates, contaminated khoya, and mislabelled items unfit for consumption, posing health risks. Several vendors were found repackaging expired goods and altering product information to deceive consumers. Legal actions were initiated against those involved in the fraudulent practices.

23/02/2026 [timesofindia](#)



India



Fruits and vegetables
Milk and milk products
Prepared dishes and snacks
Other food products/ mixed
Adulteration/ Product tampering
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding



The trial revisits a major meat scandal involving the company Veviba, accused of relabelling expired or spoiled meat and reintroducing it into the food chain. Investigations revealed manipulation of expiry dates and possible unsafe storage practices, raising serious public health concerns. The case questions whether it was internal misconduct or a broader systemic failure. Economic impacts affected both the company and consumer trust in the meat sector.

24/02/2026 [lequotidien](#) [rtl](#)



Belgium



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

Customs authorities in San Antonio seized around 1.4 million illegal products valued at approximately EUR 3.7 million, including food items entering the market without proper authorization. The operation targeted smuggled goods lacking traceability and regulatory compliance, posing potential risks to consumers. Authorities highlighted the scale of illicit trade and reinforced controls to prevent distribution.

24/02/2026 [radioagricultura](#)



Chile



Other food products/ mixed



Grey market

Authorities seized approximately 6 000 l of counterfeit mustard oil in Uttar Pradesh, raising significant food safety concerns. The product was allegedly adulterated and falsely marketed as genuine edible oil, posing health risks to consumers. Investigations suggest organized illegal production and distribution practices.

24/02/2026 [news18](#)



India



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering
Counterfeit

Operation SHIELD VI led by Europol took place across 30 countries (mainly in Europe) targeting pharmaceutical crime networks. Authorities prosecuted 3 354 individuals and seized illicit medicines, doping substances, and food supplements worth EUR 33 million. The operation uncovered counterfeit medicines and illegal supplements distributed largely via online platforms.

25/02/2026 [europol](#)



Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia, Iceland, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States



Dietetic foods, food supplements, fortified foods



Counterfeit
Grey market

An EU-wide operation (SHIELD VI) led to the seizure of over 3.1 million counterfeit medicinal pills and more than 1 000 kg of illegal substances across 14 EU Member States. Authorities also confiscated 104 000 illicit packages and over 23 000 ampoules, targeting illegal medicines, doping substances, and unregulated food supplements.

25/02/2026 [anti-fraud](#)

Authorities shut down an illegal spice production unit producing adulterated products under unhygienic conditions. Around 1 200 kg of substandard spices were confiscated and destroyed to prevent distribution. The operation revealed the use of harmful additives and counterfeit labeling to mislead consumers.

26/02/2026 [urdupoint](#)

A joint police operation was carried out in a local market area to strengthen economic and food safety controls. Authorities detected multiple irregularities, including unauthorized sale of food products and non-compliance with hygiene and safety regulations. Over 2 t of fruit and vegetables, 70 kg of legumes, and various food items such as meat, dairy, and fresh pasta were seized.

26/02/2026 [foggiacittaaperta](#) [pugliasera](#) [antennasud](#)

Authorities in Guatemala seized over 4 900 bottles of liquor suspected of being smuggled into the country. The confiscated goods lacked proper documentation and traceability, indicating organized illicit distribution channels. These activities undermine public health controls and cause significant tax revenue losses estimated in the thousands of euros.

27/02/2026 [lahora](#) [infobae](#)

Authorities seized more than 4 000 l of illegal foreign liquor during a raid ahead of a festive period, leading to the arrest of one individual. The operation targeted the distribution of unregulated alcohol intended for illicit sale.

27/02/2026 [timesofindia](#)

Authorities in Uttar Pradesh conducted food safety raids ahead of a festival, seizing around 30 000 oil containers and destroying approximately 2 500 kg of counterfeit paneer intended for market distribution. The operation aimed to prevent unsafe and fraudulent food products from reaching consumers.

27/02/2026 [indiatoday](#)



Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia, Iceland, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States



Dietetic foods, food supplements, fortified foods



Counterfeit
Grey market



Pakistan



Herbs and spices



Adulteration/ Product tampering
Counterfeit Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Italy



Fruits and vegetables
Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
Cereals and bakery products
Other food products/ mixed



Grey market
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding



Guatemala



Alcoholic beverages



Document forgery
Grey market
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding



India



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market



India



Milk and milk products
Fats and oils



Adulteration/Product Tampering




Authorities seized 1 500 kg of beef transported without proper refrigeration, posing serious health risks due to failure to comply with food safety requirements. The driver was reported for violating regulations related to the preservation and transport of perishable goods. The incident highlights deficiencies in maintaining the cold chain, which is essential to ensure meat safety and quality.

27/02/2026 [mattinopadova](#)

 Italy
 Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
 Adulteration/ Product tampering

Food safety authorities in Lahore seized and destroyed approximately 50 000 l of contaminated oil and 40 000 kg of unsafe snack products, arresting two suspects for using dirty, reused oil and substandard materials, along with false labelling.

28/02/2026 [app](#)

 Pakistan
 Fats and oils
 Prepared dishes and snacks
 Adulteration/ Product tampering
 Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A supermarket in Carinola, Italy, was found to have over 1.2 t of meat lacking necessary traceability documentation, leading to its seizure and the suspension of the business due to significant hygiene and structural deficiencies.

28/02/2026 [edizionecaserta](#)

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

Authorities in Pakistan sealed an illegal production unit in Lahore, destroying 5 000 kg of substandard ketchup and mayonnaise. The products were packed with labels of renowned brands using non-food grade ingredients, intended for distribution to fast food restaurants.

02/03/2026 [urdupoint](#)

 Pakistan
 Soups, broths, sauces and condiments
 Adulteration/Product Tampering
 Counterfeit

During the first ten days of Ramadan in Tunisia, authorities seized 2.2 t of bananas and 13.5 t of sugar, along with other food products, due to suspected illegal trade and market manipulation.

02/03/2026 [lapresse](#)

 Tunisia
 Fruits and vegetables
 Other food products/ mixed
 Grey market

A Napa Valley vineyard executive was accused of orchestrating a grape fraud scheme worth approximately EUR 2.3 million, involving the misrepresentation and diversion of wine grapes. The suspect allegedly sold grapes under false pretenses, misleading buyers about their origin and quality.

02/03/2026 [nypost](#)

 United States
 Wine
 Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding
 Malaysia

The General Operations Force in Sarawak seized 3 200 kg of red onions and 300 kg of frozen food products in an anti-smuggling operation, arresting several individuals for smuggling controlled goods and frozen food products.

03/03/2026 [malaymail](#) [freemalaysiatoday](#)

 Fruits and vegetables
 Other food products/ mixed
 Grey market

A major operation in Alicante led to the seizure of over 50 t of food unfit for human consumption due to breaches in storage, handling, and distribution standards. The operation uncovered illegal importation, lack of proper labelling, and inadequate traceability documentation.

03/03/2026 [theleader](#) [abc](#) [lagacetadesalamanca](#)

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

An investigation in Pesaro, revealed the adulteration of milk with substances like caustic soda and hydrogen peroxide to make it marketable. Approximately 90 t of milk and 110 t of dairy products were seized, along with 2.5 t of adulterating substances. The case involves fraud in commerce, sale of non-genuine food substances, and material falsity.

04/03/2026 [centropagina](#) [ilrestodelcarlino](#) [ilrestodelcarlino](#) [corriereadriatico](#)

 Italy
 Milk and milk products
 Adulteration/ Product tampering

Sabah authorities seized over 550 t of expired and undocumented frozen meat, including chicken, in a major raid, detaining one suspect. The operation revealed non-compliance with food safety and veterinary regulations.

04/03/2026 [thesun](#)



Malaysia



Poultry meat and poultry meat products

Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The Bolivian National Customs seized illegal goods, including wheat flour, edible oil, wine, and other Argentine-origin foods, transported without proper documentation in Puerto Margarita, Tarija.

05/03/2026 [eju.tv](#)



Bolivia



Cereals and bakery products

Fats and oils

Wine

Alcoholic beverages

Other food products/ mixed

Grey market



A clandestine factory in Ceilândia, Brazil, was found to be producing adulterated honey by adding melted sugar, reducing its nutritional value and posing health risks. Over 2 t of the product were seized, and the operation was conducted without sanitary control. Labels falsely claimed therapeutic properties, and chemical containers were reused for honey storage.

05/03/2026 [jornaldebrasil](#)



Brazil



Honey and royal jelly



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A food fraud issue has been identified in Hyderabad, where counterfeit tea products have entered the market, raising concerns among consumers. Counterfeit packs of popular tea brands containing adulterated tea powder have entered the market being sold under well-known brands, potentially compromising quality and safety. The tea powder was mixed with peat, coconut husk residue, and synthetic food colors to mimic genuine tea. Police have seized 10 000 packets of counterfeit tea powder.

05/03/2026 [timesofindia](#)



India



Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Counterfeit

Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Authorities in Italy seized 2.5 million l of wine falsely certified as PDO and PGI. The wine was produced using non-compliant grapes and musts from uncertified regions, posing health risks and resulting in economic damage.

05/03/2026 [teleambiente](#) [tp24](#) [ledicola](#) [telebari](#) [newtuscia](#) [radiogold](#) [parmatoday](#) [businessonline](#) [sestopotere](#)



Italy



Wine



Counterfeit

Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

22 t of sugar illegally imported from Guatemala to Mexico were seized by authorities, highlighting issues of contraband and unfair competition.

05/03/2026 [zocalo](#)



Mexico



Other food products/ mixed



Grey market

Authorities in Moldova detained a man involved in the illegal transport of approximately 20 000 l of alcohol seized during a contraband operation. The alcohol was being distributed outside official regulatory channels, posing risks to public health and tax compliance.

05/03/2026 [stiri](#)



Moldova



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

Authorities in Pakistan (coastal area) seized 3 361 bottles of smuggled alcoholic beverages during an enforcement operation targeting illegal trade.

05/03/2026 [urdupoint](#)



Pakistan



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

Over 3 t of expired and untraceable meat were seized in a Brescia butcher shop, with labels that were inadequate or contradictory, raising concerns about traceability and public health risks.

06/03/2026 [greenme](#)



Italy



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

A police operation in Lugo, Italy, led to the seizure of a truck and warehouse containing stolen goods, including 4 000 eggs lacking traceability documentation.

06/03/2026 [corriereromagna](#)



Italy



Eggs and egg products



Grey market

Approximately 13 t of poultry meat were seized in Bamako due to involvement in unauthorised sales channels.

06/03/2026 [malijet](#)



Mali



Poultry meat and poultry
meat products



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Grey market

German customs officials prevented the shipment of more than 700 kg of live crustaceans to a restaurant. The shipment was transported without proper documentation and in serious violation of animal welfare regulations.

08/03/2026 [ad-hoc-news](#)



Germany



Crustaceans and products
thereof



Document forgery

Authorities in Lahore uncovered a network producing and distributing counterfeit and substandard beverages, seizing over 70 000 litres of fake drinks and taking legal action against those involved.

10/03/2026 [urdupoint](#)



Pakistan



Non-alcoholic beverages



Counterfeit

A fraud case in Scotland revealed that a trader sold over 1 t of imported tea falsely labelled as locally grown, generating about EUR 1.24 million in illicit profits. The individual repackaged foreign tea and marketed it as premium "Scottish-grown" products to luxury hotels and retailers. The deception relied on misrepresenting origin and production methods to significantly inflate prices.

10/03/2026 [bbc](#)



United Kingdom



Cocoa and cocoa
preparations, coffee and tea



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

A 61-year-old man was arrested in Essex and North London, for conspiracy to defraud linked to counterfeit wine and prosecco. Authorities seized 90 pallets containing over 67 000 bottles of fake alcoholic beverages, with an estimated value of EUR 580 000, intended for distribution. The products were misrepresented through fraudulent labeling and packaging, undermining consumer trust and legitimate businesses.

11/03/2026 [essexlive](#) [winenews](#)



United Kingdom



Wine



Counterfeit

A wine trader was convicted in Auxerre for selling counterfeit Chablis wine by misrepresenting its origin and quality. The fraud involved falsely labelled wine marketed as premium appellation products, deceiving consumers and damaging the protected designation system.

12/03/2026 [lyonne](#)



France



Wine



Counterfeit
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

Authorities seized around 20 000 kg of sugar illegally smuggled into Paraguay, targeting illicit trade activities. The product lacked proper documentation, indicating entry through unauthorized channels and evasion of regulatory controls.

13/03/2026 [lanacion](#)



Paraguay



Other food products/ mixed



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Turkish authorities revealed that 64 food brands were involved in fraudulent practices across multiple regions in Turkey, including adulteration and mislabelling of products such as meat, honey, oils, and milk products. Investigations found substitution and dilution of ingredients (e.g., lower-quality oils or undeclared components), with quantities not systematically specified.

13/03/2026 [haberler](#)



Türkiye



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

Honey and royal jelly

Fats and oils

Milk and milk products

Other food products/ mixed



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The Italian coast guard seized over 3 t of fish products due to lack of proper labelling and traceability documentation, resulting in fines and destruction of non-compliant goods.

14/03/2026 [latinatoday](#)



Italy



Fish and fish products



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The sale of San Olivetto olive oil was prohibited by ANVISA in Brazil after authorities identified that the product had an unknown origin and misleading labeling, raising concerns about its authenticity and traceability. Investigations revealed regulatory irregularities, including the suspension of the importer's CNPJ and the closure of the distributor's registration, indicating serious non-compliance within the supply chain.

16/03/2026 [globo rural](#)



Brazil



Fats and oils



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A seizure of approximately 1 t of clams and sea truffles unfit for consumption took place in Bari, Italy, following sanitary inspections. Authorities found the products lacked traceability and posed potential health risks, leading to their removal from the market.

16/03/2026 [telebari](#)



Italy



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The Bolivian government temporarily halted rice imports to protect local producers and combat contraband rice entering without sanitary controls or documentation. Authorities seized 9 200 kg of Argentine rice and retained 175 t of rice due to mislabelling and lack of documentation.

17/03/2026 [unitel](#) [eldeber](#)



Bolivia



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding
Document forgery

Authorities in Kuwait shut down five companies for distributing unsafe and unfit food products, reinforcing stricter food safety enforcement measures. Inspections revealed violations related to improper storage and handling of food items, posing risks to public health.

17/03/2026 [arabtimesonline](#)



Kuwait



Food

Prepared dishes and snacks



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Authorities in Cerro Largo, Uruguay seized more than 3.5 t of illegally traded poultry meat lacking proper sanitary controls, posing potential health risks to consumers.

17/03/2026 [telenoche](#)



Uruguay



Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market

Authorities in Vietnam seized over 1.8 t of smuggled frozen food, including approximately 300 kg dried sausages, 250 kg frozen sausages, 120 kg meat skewers, 200 kg spoiled sausages, and 6 000 duck eggs, many deteriorated or contaminated. Additional seizures included 350 kg, 335 kg, and 323 kg of undocumented frozen products.

17/03/2026 [vietnamnews](#)



Vietnam



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)
Eggs and egg products
Other food products/ mixed
Grey market



A truck transporting alcoholic beverages (whisky, gin and liqueur) was intercepted on the BR-381 highway in Betim. The cargo consisted of around 10 000 bottles exceeding the permitted transport weight and lacking proper documentation. Authorities seized the shipment. The driver faces criminal charges for the irregularities.

18/03/2026 [otempo](#)



Brazil



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

Authorities in Santana do Livramento, seized 3.5 t of unsuitable food products, including expired items and products lacking traceability, and shut down an irregular spice production facility. The operation revealed serious sanitary breaches and misrepresentation of product quality and compliance.

19/03/2026 [mprs](#)



Brazil



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)
Herbs and spices
Other food products/ mixed
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency fined several companies approximately EUR 30 000 for misleading origin labelling of food products. The fraud involved false or inaccurate indication of product origin without reported physical alteration or specified quantities.

19/03/2026 [notiulti](#)



Canada



Food



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

Authorities in Hyderabad seized over 3 800 kg of unhygienic and substandard dairy products, including paneer, khoa, and cream, from six outlets. The products were sourced from unidentified suppliers and stored improperly, posing health risks. Six individuals were apprehended, and the adulterated stock was handed over to the police for further investigation.

19/03/2026 [economictimes](#)



India



Milk and milk products



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

A scientific study in Ecuador used molecular techniques (DNA analysis) to examine fish sold as corvina and found that a significant proportion was actually shark meat, indicating systematic species substitution.

21/03/2026 [elpais](#) [okdiario](#)



Ecuador



Fish and fish products



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

A large seizure (26 t) of irregular seafood took place in Venice, where authorities confiscated fishery products including tuna, shrimp, cod, and squid due to traceability and compliance issues.

21/03/2026 [ilgazzettino](#)



Italy



Fish and fish products
Crustaceans and products
thereof
Cephalopods and products
thereof



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

Customs authorities in Pratteln, Switzerland seized 1.5 t of frozen french fries, 75 kg of chicken products, 100 kg of mayonnaise, and 79 kg of ketchup, illegally imported without proper documentation. The products lacked traceability and were intended for unauthorized distribution, breaching import regulations..

23/03/2026 [bazonline](#)



Switzerland



Prepared dishes and snacks
Poultry meat and poultry meat products
Soups, broths, sauces and condiments
Grey market



Approximately 3.5 t of unfit meat and fish were seized in Piraeus, Greece, from a facility operating without a license. The products were unlabeled and showed signs of refreezing, violating food safety rules. The company made changes to its VAT number and management to avoid supervision.

24/03/2026 [ekathimerini](#)



Greece



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
Fish and fish products
Adulteration/ Product tampering



A shipment of over 20 t of fruits and vegetables was seized in Corrientes, Argentina, due to inconsistencies in documentation and doubts about the origin and sanitary conditions of the products. The documentation did not match official records, and satellite images confirmed the absence of claimed crops at the declared origin.

26/03/2026 [primeraedicion](#)



Argentina



Fruits and vegetables



Document forgery

Authorities seized four trucks carrying 350 t of smuggled food products, including flour and rice, in Santa Cruz, due to illegal entry and irregularities in documentation and labelling.

26/03/2026 [eju.tv](#)



Bolivia



Cereals and bakery products
Other food products/ mixed
Grey market
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding
Document forgery



A police operation in Nariño, Colombia resulted in the seizure of 87 t of illegal food products, preventing the distribution of perishable foreign goods that failed to comply with legal import and marketing requirements.

26/03/2026 [eltiempo](#)



Colombia



Food



Grey market

A police operation dismantled a smuggling network in Uruguay, seizing significant quantities of illegally transported food products, including significant quantities of meat (13 t) and alcoholic beverages (759 bottles) transported without sanitary controls or proper documentation. Authorities reported organized distribution channels supplying unregulated food products, posing risks to consumer safety and bypassing official market controls.

26/03/2026 [diarionorte](#)



Uruguay



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
Poultry meat and poultry meat products
Alcoholic beverages
Other food products/ mixed
Grey market



Authorities in Bulgaria confiscated significant quantities of food, including 67 t of meat and 65 t of dairy products, with disputed meat batches bringing the total close to 100 t. Additional seizures were reported at regional level: 150 t in Haskovo, 10 t in Dimitrovgrad, nearly 25 t in the Varna region, and 4.4 t in Pleven. The confiscations were linked to irregularities such as expired products, missing labelling, lack of traceability, and inadequate storage conditions.

27/03/2026 [bta](#)



Bulgaria



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
Milk and milk products
Other food products/ mixed
Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding



Authorities seized 10 000 l of edible oil falsely marketed as olive oil in Portugal, misleading consumers about product authenticity. The fraud involved substituting cheaper oils while labeling them as higher-value olive oil. Consumers were advised to check labeling details and product characteristics to detect counterfeit items.

27/03/2026 [agroportal](#)



Portugal



Fats and oils



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

An illegal meat cutting plant in London processed 1.9 t of Category 3 animal by-products for sale as food, posing public health risks. The operation led to the confiscation of over EUR 81 000 and a prison sentence for the director involved.

27/03/2026 [farminguk](#)



United Kingdom



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Grey market
Adulteration/ Product
tampering

Authorities seized 30 t of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice were seized near Gangavathi, due to unauthorised transportation allegedly linked to an influential political figure.

28/03/2026 [timesofindia](#)



India



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

A large seizure of smuggled food products worth approximately EUR 0.5 million took place in Subic. Authorities confiscated various undeclared imported goods, including meat and other mixed food products, suspected of entering without proper inspection or documentation.

28/03/2026 [philstar](#)



Philippines



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry
meat products

Fish and fish products

Confectionery



Grey market

Authorities in Drisla destroyed over 40 t of unlabelled eggs illegally imported from Serbia. The products lacked proper documentation and traceability, posing potential food safety risks. The eggs were disposed of to prevent entry into the market.

29/03/2026 [slobodenpecat](#)



North Macedonia



Eggs and egg products



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

Grey market

In Salerno, police raided an illegally operated slaughter site in a filthy apartment and seized about 600 kg of uninspected meat and other foods stored in unsafe conditions, plus another 40 kg from a nearby minimarket, shutting both down.

30/03/2026 [ilfattovesuviano](#) [rainews](#)



Albania



Fats and oils



Adulteration/Product
Tampering

The Punjab Food Authority in Attock seized 3 200 l of expired cold drinks from a warehouse during a routine inspection and destroyed them to prevent sale.

30/03/2026 [urdupoint](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey Market

Police in Ho Chi Minh City uncovered an illegal operation that soaked about 3 000 t of snails in sodium silicate and sold them to markets over five years, risking public health. The processed snails were distributed widely before being seized and the operator charged.

31/03/2026 [vietnamnet](#)



Bulgaria



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/
Misbranding

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”.

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