

April 2025

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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



*Disclaimer: The presentation of articles reflects their media coverage. In any case, it does not reflect the frequency of food fraud in a particular country and/or concerning a specific food product. The European Commission does not take any responsibility for the validity of the information extracted from the media channels scanned. The views expressed shall not be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.*

## Food Fraud Cases

Moroccan customs authorities have uncovered a network of certificate forgery in the ports of Tanger-Med and Casablanca. The forged products include spices, food and dried fruits, which were imported as if they were of European origin to benefit from customs benefits.

01/04/2025 [elfarodeceuta](#)



Morocco



Food

Fruits and vegetables

Herbs and spices

Document forgery



A significant seizure of food products has been reported in Costa Rica, where over 300 kg of cured meats, 3 300 eggs, 39 kg of cheese, and 19 kg of chicken were confiscated on Route 32.

02/04/2025 [crhoy](#)



Costa Rica



Eggs and egg products

Meat and meat products

(other than poultry)

Milk and milk products

Poultry meat and poultry

meat products

Document forgery

Misdescription/

Mislabelling/ Misbranding



A significant quantity of fish has been seized in Palermo, Italy, after a truck was found to be transporting approximately 2 t of fish.

02/04/2025 [blogsicilia](#)



Italy



Fish and fish products



Misdescription/

Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Approximately 6 000 kg of prosciutto has been seized at a salumificio (cured meat factory) in the province of Bologna, Italy.

02/04/2025 [reggio2000](#)



Italy



Meat and meat products

(other than poultry)

Adulteration/ Product

tampering

Misdescription/

Mislabelling/ Misbranding



A significant quantity of contraband wine has been seized by the police on the PR-323 highway in Brazil. The seizure is part of an operation to combat contraband and smuggling of alcoholic beverages. According to reports, the highway police apprehended 232 bottles of wine that were being transported illegally.

04/04/2025 [bonde](#)



Brazil



Wine



Grey market

A consignment of 500 l of contraband olive oil has been seized by the police on the PR-317 highway in Brazil. The shipment was destined for the city of Londrina.

05/04/2025 [bonde](#)



Brazil



Fats and oils



Grey market

A significant quantity of untraceable horticultural products has been seized in Catania, Italy. The seizure was carried out after irregularities were detected in the traceability of the products. Fines totaling over EUR 22 000 have been imposed..

06/04/2025 [grandangoloagrigento](#)



Italy



Fruits and vegetables



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A Chinese restaurant in Madrid, Spain, has been shut down for serving pigeons as duck. The closure was carried out after irregularities were detected in the kitchen and dead pigeons were found on the premises. The police and health authorities have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the contamination and the possible responsibility of the restaurant owner.

07/04/2025 [elmundo](#) [periodistadigital](#) [infobae](#) [heraldo](#) [huffingtonpost](#) [leparisien](#) [otempo](#) [20minutos](#) [murciatoday](#)



Spain



Poultry meat and poultry  
meat products



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A police operation in the Valle del Cauca region of Colombia has seized 2 630 bottles of adulterated liquor, including aguardiente, whisky, and tequila. The operation took place in the city of Cali, just days before Easter. The police were attacked with stones during the operation.

08/04/2025 [elpais](#) [elpais](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The Singapore Food Authority has seized approximately 1.4 t of illegally imported fruits and vegetables at the Tuas checkpoint. The seizure was carried out after irregularities were detected in the documentation and labelling of the products.

08/04/2025 [straitstimes](#)



Singapore



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

A Vietnamese company, Kera, has been fined and thousands of its products have been destroyed due to a breach of food safety regulations. The company was found to be producing products that did not meet food safety standards, resulting in the destruction of the products and the imposition of a fine.

09/04/2025 [vietnamnews](#) [vietnamnet](#)



Vietnam



Other food products/  
mixed



Counterfeit  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) in the Philippines has seized a shipment of refined sugar from Vietnam worth approximately EUR 450 000 due to misdeclaration. The shipment was found to contain refined sugar that was not declared in the customs documents, making it a case of food fraud.

10/04/2025 [mb](#)



Philippines



Other food products/  
mixed



Document forgery  
Grey market

Italian authorities have seized a large quantity of fish and seafood products in the province of Palermo, Italy, due to irregularities in labelling and food safety. The seizure included 4 t of fish and resulted in fines of over EUR 3 000.

11/04/2025 [blogsicilia](#) [palermotoday](#)



Italy



Fish and fish products



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Thousands of bottles of counterfeit liquor have been discovered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The seizure is a significant blow to the illicit liquor trade in the country, and highlights the ongoing problem of food and drink counterfeiting in Cambodia.

12/04/2025 [khmertimeskh](#)



Cambodia



Alcoholic beverages



Counterfeit

A major counterfeit milk scandal has been uncovered in Vietnam, involving the production and distribution of fake milk powder worth approximately EUR 20 million. The scandal has led to the arrest and imprisonment of several individuals, including company directors, and has raised concerns about the country's food safety system.

13/04/2025 [vietnamnet](#) [vietnamnet](#) [vietnamnews](#) [vietnamnet](#) [vov](#) [china](#)  
[vietnamnet](#) [vietnamnet](#)



Vietnam



Milk and milk products



Counterfeit

The Malian customs authorities have seized a large quantity of counterfeit and smuggled goods, including food products, in a recent operation. The seizure is part of an effort to combat.

14/04/2025 [malijet](#)



Mali



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The police in Thessaloniki, Greece, have dismantled a ring involved in the production and distribution of adulterated olive oil. The operation resulted in the arrest of several individuals and the seizure of large quantities of olive oil.

15/04/2025 [ekathimerini](#)



Greece



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering  
Counterfeit  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A food fraud incident occurred in Germany, where a livestock trader falsified labels regarding the rearing of over 1 000 cattle. The trader allegedly deceived consumers by mislabelling the origin and rearing conditions of the animals, compromising the authenticity and quality of the meat. The incident highlights concerns over food safety and transparency in the meat industry.

16/04/2025 [t-online](#) [bild](#)



Germany



Live animals



Counterfeit  
Document forgery  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Italian police have carried out an operation against illegal fishing in Calabria, Italy, and have seized a large quantity of fish. The operation has resulted in fines totaling EUR 81 000.

17/04/2025 [lacnews24](#)



Italy



Fish and fish products



Document forgery  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A food fraud incident has been detected in Italy, related to Fabio Fazio's chocolate company. The company has been fined EUR 100 000 for a lack of transparency in the labelling of its chocolate products.

18/04/2025 [dissapore](#) [ilfattoquotidiano](#)



Italy



Cocoa and cocoa  
preparations, coffee and  
tea



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A significant quantity of counterfeit baby food has been seized in an operation, with 11 t of fake products confiscated.

18/04/2025 [haberler](#)



Türkiye



Milk and milk products



Grey market

A significant quantity of illicit beer has been seized in Córdoba, Colombia, with over 16 000 units confiscated.

19/04/2025 [elheraldo](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

A contraband incident involving cocoa and cashews has been detected in Côte d'Ivoire, with a quantity of 594 t of cocoa and over 300 t of cashews seized.

19/04/2025 [afrique-sur7](#) [linfodrome](#) [afrique-sur7](#)



Côte d'Ivoire



Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea

Nuts, nut products and seeds



Grey market

A significant quantity of expired cottage cheese has been seized, with 23 t of the product confiscated.

19/04/2025 [haberler](#)



Türkiye



Milk and milk products



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A food safety alert has been issued due to the presence of undeclared gluten in tortillas made from wheat flour, originating from Belgium.

22/04/2025 [infobae](#) [eldiario](#)



Spain



Cereals and bakery products



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A significant quantity of illegal fish has been seized in Entre Ríos, with over two tons of fish confiscated.

23/04/2025 [noticiasambientales](#)



Argentina



Fish and fish products



Grey market

A fake liquor factory has been busted in Armenia, where a clandestine operation was producing counterfeit vodka.

23/04/2025 [securingindustry](#) [arka](#)



Armenia



Alcoholic beverages



Counterfeit

A seizure of counterfeit liquor and beverages has been carried out in Aversa, Italy, as part of a crackdown on food fraud.

23/04/2025 [efanews](#)



Italy



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

A significant quantity of 3 t of illegal seafood has been seized in Magallanes, Chile, during a crackdown on food fraud and illicit fishing activities.

24/04/2025 [laprensaaustral](#)



Chile



Fish and fish products



Document forgery

Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Three individuals have been arrested and a factory has been shut down in the state of Paraíba, Brazil, due to the irregular production and falsification of peanut butter.

25/04/2025 [g1.globo](#)



Brazil



Milk and milk products

Adulteration/ Product



tampering

Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A significant quantity of over 5 t of smuggled raw chicken has been seized in North Lebanon.

25/04/2025 [lorientlejour](#)



Lebanon



Poultry meat and poultry meat products  
Other food products/  
mixed



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

A significant operation has been carried out against counterfeit alcohol in 81 provinces of Turkey, resulting in the seizure of a large quantity of fake liquor.

28/04/2025 [haberler](#)



Türkiye



Alcoholic beverages



Counterfeit

A director has been detained in Vietnam for producing over 71 000 l of fake cooking oil.

28/04/2025 [vietnamnet](#)



Vietnam



Fats and oils



Counterfeit

A significant quantity of contraband seafood and wine has been seized in the state of Paraná, Brazil, including 3 t of Argentine shrimp without refrigeration and 600 boxes of smuggled wine.

30/04/2025 [g1.globo](#)



Brazil



Crustaceans and products thereof  
Fats and oils  
Wine



Grey market

Two individuals have been detained in connection with the seizure of 56 tonnes of undocumented rice in Gurun, Malaysia.

30/04/2025 [thestar](#)



Malaysia



Cereals and bakery products



Document forgery

## Other interesting articles

### Report on EU agri-food fraud suspicions



EU

"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](#)



Food

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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