

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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## Food Fraud Cases

The Cuban police dismantled a criminal organisation adulterating pork sausages with water, flour and other non-authorised ingredients. The pork products were illegally sold through the black market.

[Cibercuba](#) 02/09/2020

The Italian authorities seized 1 000 kg of Mozzarella cheese produced illegally in two unauthorised production plants, destined for delivery to restaurants, bars and hotels. The criminal organisation produced fake labels as well, falsifying the origin, production date and organoleptic properties.

[Repubblica](#) 03/09/2020

[Ottopagine](#) 03/09/2020

The manager of a USA-based seafood processor pleaded guilty of mislabelling the origin of their products. Crabmeat imported from South America and Asia was labelled as domestic (North American) blue crab. The total value of mislabelled products is considered to be at least 210 000 Euros, and they were sold to retailers and restaurants.

[FDA](#) 03/09/2020

[Seafood Source](#) 04/09/2020

The Brazilian Federal Highway Police seized in Petrópolis 600 kg of seafood products (tuna, shrimps, mussels, octopus) lacking the required taxation documentation.

[G1 Globo](#) 09/09/2020



Cuba



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)



Replacement/ dilution/  
addition/ removal in  
product



Italy



Milk and milk products



Missing documents



USA



Crustaceans and products  
thereof



Mislabelling



Brazil



Bivalve molluscs and  
products thereof

Cephalopods and  
products thereof

Crustaceans and products  
thereof

Fish and fish products



Missing documents

The Indian Police seized almost 1 200 jars of adulterated honey, arresting the person responsible for running the manufacturing plant.

[Yahoo News](#) 14/09/2020



India



Honey and royal jelly



Unapproved treatment and/or process

The Italian Carabinieri performed several controls across the Italian territory, seizing food products lacking the necessary labelling documentation, including: 1 500 litres of milk, 150 kg of bovine meat, 10 000 bottles of mineral water, 2 000 litres of wine, 900 kg of olives and 200 litres of olive oil.

[Salute Gov](#) 14/09/2020



Italy



Fats and oils

Fruits and vegetables

Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

Milk and milk products

Water for human consumption (other)

Wine



Missing documents

The Italian authorities seized 76 000 litres of wine products missing any documentation, for a total value of 115 000 euros, in Emilia-Romagna. The plant was also not compliant with the legal hygiene requirements.

In another operation nearby Rome, the Carabinieri seized 5 300 litres of wine, again lacking the proper traceability documents and failing to meet the hygiene requirements.

[Il Fatto alimentare](#) 17/09/2020

[Meteo Week](#) 17/09/2020

[Il Fatto alimentare](#) 28/09/2020



Italy



Wine



Missing documents

Donkeys and horses from the Atlantic Coast of Colombia, many of them sick, were slaughtered, adulterated with chemicals (to alter the texture and colour) and sold as beef meat to schools, authorities report. The quantities range from 2 000 to 2 5000 kilograms of counterfeited meat sold each week in Bucaramanga and Santander.

[HSB Noticias Vanguardia](#) - [El Herald](#) - [Portafolio](#) - [El Frente](#) 18/09/2020

[Expreso](#) 19/09/2020

[El Frente](#) - [Univision](#) 21/09/2020

[El Tiempo](#) 28/09/2020



Colombia



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Unapproved treatment and/or process

Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal in product

Bangladesh is apparently facing a serious problem with milk adulterated with e.g. detergent powder, urea fertilizer and synthetic milk powder, causing severe diseases affecting the kidneys, stomach and intestine.

[Daily Industry](#) 19/09/2020



Bangladesh



Milk and milk products



Unapproved treatment and/or process

In Sicily the Coast Guard, within the operation "Global Fishing", seized a total amount of more than 2 tons of fish products lacking the necessary traceability documentation and/or not compliant with the hygiene standards required for human consumption.

[La Sicilia](#) 21/09/2020



Italy



Fish and fish products



Missing documents

The Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office (Nébih) seized 12.6 tons of meat products lacking the necessary traceability documentation and failing to comply with the legal hygiene requirements (e.g. expired). Most of the products were destroyed in order to prevent the spreading of foodborne diseases.

[Origo](#) 22/09/2020

[Daily News Hungary](#) 23/09/2020

The Financial Guard seized 20 tons of tomatoes, eggplants and bell peppers produced in Albania but mislabelled as “Made in Italy”. The vegetables were given to charity foundations as they were considered fit for human consumption.

[Ambiente & Ambienti](#) 25/09/2020



Hungary



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Missing documents



Italy



Fruits and vegetables



Mislabelling

## Other interesting articles

31/08/2020 – [Linking food fraud cases and Covid-19 pandemic](#)

An interesting article discusses some crucial aspects of food frauds and the likelihood of increasing impacts following the Covid-19 pandemic.

[IFST](#)

04/09/2020 – [In France, one-third of meat producers fail to comply with the labelling and traceability legislation](#)

The France’s Directorate for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF) published the 2018 report investigating if meat producers across France were compliant with the labelling and traceability requirements, identifying a breach in more than 30% of the cases.

[Food Navigator](#) - [Great Italian Food Trade](#) - [L’Alsace](#)

07/09/2020 – [Food frauds are not rising in Italy during Covid-19 pandemic, authorities say](#)

According to the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, food fraud cases did not rise as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic during the period February – July 2020.

[Anmvi Oggi](#) - [MIPAAF](#)

15/09/2020 – [Concerns over labels of food sold online in Indonesia](#)

As the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the number of products purchased online, it is worrying that a too high percentage of online labels and information do not meet the required labelling and food safety standards. Proper labelling is pivotal to avoid potential health threats, e.g. in case of allergens as well.

[The Jakarta Post](#) - [Asia One](#)

17/09/2020 – [Interreg project supports fighting against food fraud](#)

The EU-funded Interreg project “Qualify” has released the first set of public policy documents focusing on food fraud prevention. Languages will include: Spanish, French, Estonian, Slovenian, Bulgarian and Greek.

[Interreg Europe](#)



World



Food



France



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Italy



Food



Indonesia



Food



EU



Food

### 21/09/2020 – U.S. FDA announces rules for milestone advancements in food traceability

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed a new legislation to massively improve the current traceability system for fifteen “high risk” categories of food (e.g. shell eggs, herbs, crustaceans, bivalves, soft cheese), increasing the protection of consumers against foodborne diseases. Enacting this framework is part of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

[FDA - Food Safety News](#) - [Food Safety Tech](#) - [Nuevo Periodico](#) - [Forbes Food Dive](#) - [JDSUPRA](#) - [JDSUPRA](#)



USA



Food

### 22/09/2020 – Interview to the Head of the FSA National Food Crime Unit

Darren Davies, Head of the Food Standards Agency (FSA)’s National Food Crime Unit (NFCU), describes the developments in fighting food crime within the United Kingdom since the establishment of his dedicated Unit in 2015.

[New Food Magazine](#)



United Kingdom



Food

### 24/09/2020 – An overview of the food fraud situation in the honey sector

Two different online journals provide an overview of the challenges caused by food frauds targeting honey and bee products, with a focus on the US situation and public authorities.

[Insider](#) - [Food Slain](#)



USA



Honey and royal jelly

### 24/09/2020 – Academic debate around connections between seafood safety and fraud

An insightful debate between two different research groups took place virtually on the scientific journal “*Environmental Science and Technology*”. The academics discussed the consequences of seafood frauds on the seafood safety definition and the related environmental, economic and societal impacts.

[Original Viewpoint](#)

[Comment](#)

[Response to Comment](#)



World



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof  
Cephalopods and products thereof  
Crustaceans and products thereof  
Fish and fish products  
Gastropods

### 29/09/2020 – 2020 UK Food Crime Assessment Report

The Food Standards Agency (FSA)’s National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) and the Food Standards Scotland’s (FSS) Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) have jointly published the Food Crime Strategic Assessment 2020, focusing on the UK situation. Red meat, fish, counterfeit/ illicit alcohol and wild shellfish have been categorised as highly risky and vulnerable.

News in the [FSA](#) and [FSS](#) websites

Assessment available on [FSA](#) and [FSS](#) websites

[Food Authenticity](#) - [New Food Magazine](#) - [Professional Security](#) - [Food Safety Magazine](#) - [Food Safety News](#)



UK



Food

*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.*

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