

July - August 2018

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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



Food Fraud Cases

04/07/18 - Fraud in the organic food sector

The Italian authorities responsible for the anti-fraud fight in the food sector conducted controls to detect fraud in the organic food sector. In the frame of these dedicated controls that started in March 2018, 100 tons of different food commodities were seized. The most common cases of fraudulent practices included the replacement of labels to extend their expiry dates, substitution of organic products by conventionally produced products, lack of hygiene and traceability of the products.

[L'Ora](#)



09/07/18 - Sodium metabisulfite added to fresh meat

Investigations have revealed that some butchers treated meat with sodium metabisulfite to give it a red colour that lasts for weeks. This chemical can induce allergic reactions to consumers who are sensitive to sulfites.

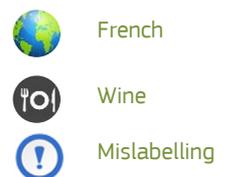
[Tuko](#)



09/07/18 - Spanish wine sold as French rosé

An extensive investigation carried out by French authorities during the period, 2016-2017 demonstrated that thousands of litres of Spanish wine were sold in France as French rosé.

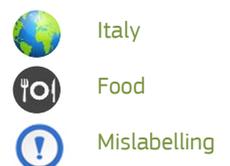
economie.gouv.fr



10/07/18 - Attempts to sell expired frozen food

The Italian police have seized sixteen tonnes of expired frozen food from a large distribution centre. Food that was rotten and in some cases, by several years past the expiry date was relabelled and intended to be offered for sale.

[Ansa](#)



10/07/18 – More than 10000 expired hams seized

The Spanish Guardia has found more than 10000 expired hams in rented containers which were relabelled to extend their expiry date.. Some of the hams were already rotting.

[Ideal](#)



20/07/18 - Warning about the presence of melamine or its analogues in chocolate product

The US Food and Drug Administration published an import alert about the presence of melamine or its analogues in chocolate products produced by a manufacturer in China. This is the first time that such a warning is published since 2010 when melamine was added to the baby formula that caused the death of several babies.

[Securing Industry](#)



20/07/18 - Five tons of fish preserved with formalin seized

Five thousand kilos of fish preserved with formalin have been found in a truck in India.

[The Hindu](#)



23/07/18 –Guardia Civil dismantles a network that sold cheap wine as high-end products

The Spanish Guardia Civil dismantled a network that sold cheap wine (normally priced 19 €/bottle) for prices as high as 1900 €/bottle. The cheap wine was rebottled and rebranded as Pingus and Flor the Pingus, some of the most expensive Spanish wines. Also, Vega Sicilia Unico was counterfeited although in this case, the wine rebottled was a Vega Sicilia Quinta Valbuena, whose price is about 100 €/bottle, but was sold for 1400 €/bottle. The network even organised wine tastings to identify the wines that tasted like the authentic products, which was then used as a substitute.

[El Diario Vasco](#)



27/07/18 - 400 kilos of rotten fish ready to be sold

The Italian authorities have seized four hundred kilos of decomposed fish from a fish shop for not fulfilling the hygienic conditions required by law.

[Quotidiano](#)



28/07/18 - Four tons of rotten meat seized

Portuguese police have seized four tons of rotten meat stored under conditions that did not fulfil the legislated hygiene requirements.

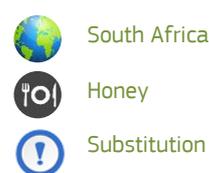
[Portugal](#)



30/07/18 - Evidence of honey fraud

Analysis carried out on South African honey by request of the South African Bee Industry Organisation, demonstrated that a honey producer in South Africa was selling a product high in sugars and not synthesized by bees. The producer was accused of preparing a concentrated sugar solution to which lemon was added and selling it as honey. The accused producer refuted the allegation but acknowledged feeding sugar to his bees. A well-known company selling honey in South Africa recalled from the stores their product labelled as "Natural Honey" after the fraud was made public.

[Times Live](#)



31/07/18 - 160 tons of fish seized

Police in Italy has withdrawn 160 tons of fish from the Italian market. Part of the fish was intended to be sold as fresh, but was, in fact, rotten. The rest of the stock came from Asia but labelled as Italian.

[Strillit](#)



31/07/18 - Endangered Spanish eel species smuggled into Japan via China

According to Europol, about 100 tons of European juvenile eel (protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) were smuggled into China between autumn and spring. Six months later, the eels were exported to Japan. However, Japan's Fisheries Agency refuted the allegation that Japanese supermarkets were selling European eels since it is difficult to trace the geographical origin of processed fish in the market. The Spanish police have detained several Spanish and Chinese citizens involved in this fraudulent activity.

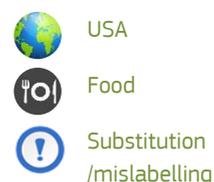
[East Asia](#)



01/08/18 - Many popular foods are at risk of fraud

As much as 99 % of wasabi and nearly 100 % of grated parmesan sold seems to be fraudulently manipulated being on the US market. Other commodities frequently affected are lobster, Kobe beef, red snapper, olive oil and honey.

[Markets Insider](#)



10/08/18 - More than 1000 kg of fish without documentation

The Italian police seized more than 1000 kg of fish without traceability documents.

[Strill](#)



11/08/18 - Guardia Civil seized 45 tons of tuna destined for canning that was to be sold as fresh

The Spanish Guardia Civil have seized 45 tons of tuna that were foreseen to be canned but were commercialised as fresh. The seizure is part of a broader action called, Atunali that started in January. The fish that was caught by boats not equipped with the appropriate freezers was treated with additives to mimic the appearance of fresh fish.

[Guardia Civil](#)



14/08/18 - 400 kg of fish unfit for human consumption

The Italian police have seized 400 kg of fish in a restaurant that lacked traceability documentation and was not fit for human consumption.

[La Sicilia](#)



16/08/18 - 24000 litres of olive oil with irregular labelling and lack of traceability information

In the frame of a massive operation, the Portuguese police seized 24000 litres of olive oil that lacked traceability information and showed labelling irregularities. Besides, the production hygiene requirements were not respected. An analysis is being carried out to determine the physicochemical parameters.

[Sapo 24](#)



22/08/18 - An illegal company accused of producing paneer with sulphuric acid



An illegal factory has been sealed, and more than 2000 kg of paneer (Indian fresh cheese speciality) seized for fear that it was produced with sulphuric acid. The factory was run without an appropriate licence and did not respect the required hygienic conditions, using material that was contaminated with fungi. Skimmed milk, butter and other dairy products were also seized.

[The Times of India](#)

22/08/18 - More than 400 kg of vegetables, fish and meat seized from a wholesaler for lack of labels and traceability information

The Italian police have seized more than 400 kg of vegetables, meat and fish for mislabelling and lack of traceability documents after a raid at a wholesaler. For some products, the labels were not in Italian.

[Cronache Maceratesi](#)

28/08/18 - About 44 % of seafood wrongly labelled

According to a report published by Oceana Canada, about 44 % of fish samples taken in Vancouver, Victoria, Toronto, Ottawa and Halifax were wrongly labelled. Forty per cent of the mislabelling concerned cheap species such as scolar tilapia, and Japanese amberjack. Scolar and Japanese amberjack may trigger undesirable health effects. About 55 % of the mislabelling was found in restaurants against 22 % with retailers.

[The Star Vancouver](#)



Other interesting articles

25/07/2018 - India issues aquaculture farmers electronic ID for traceability of products

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in India has implemented the use of an electronic identification card to ensure the traceability of marine aquaculture products to be exported. The card contains a QR code with information about the farmer and the coordinates of the farm. In particular, the EU and the US have strict traceability requirements for imported seafood.

[The Hindu](#)



31/07/18 - Some Italian fishing zones closed for weeks

Some fishing zones in Italy will be closed for fishing activities in the next weeks. This can increase the risk of fraud due to the decreased availability of some fish species.

[Il Salvagente](#)



01/08/2018 - The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India issues guidance note on how to avoid ground spices fraud

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published a guidance note on how to avoid purchasing spices that may have been fraudulently manipulated. FSSAI recommends the buying of whole spices instead of powdered spices. Ground spices can be adulterated with chalk powder, artificial colourants and starch and can induce allergic reactions and health problems. Information is also provided on how to identify fraud in loose powders at home. The guidance also stresses that powdered spices can only be offered in packaged form and not sold loose.

[Global Food Mate](#)



01/08/2018 - E-Commerce achieved success against fraud

The cooperation between the Consorzio Tutela Vini Valpolicella and the Repressione Frodi del Ministero Politiche Agricole that began in July has turned out to be highly successful. For example, legal action has been initiated against 115 web shops in different countries (Canada, USA, UK and Ireland).

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)



02/08/2018 - The US Seafood Import Monitoring Programme establishes new rules for some fish species

The US Seafood Import Monitoring Programme has put in place new rules for the import of thirteen species: Abalone, Atlantic cod, blue crab (Atlantic), dolphin fish (Mahi Mahi), grouper, king crab (red), Pacific cod, red snapper, sea cucumber, shark, shrimp, swordfish, and tuna. Training courses on the new rules are organised for some of the main exporters of the mentioned species to the USA.

[VietNam News](#)



08/08/2018 - Brazil implements traceability requirements fruits, vegetables and aromatic herbs

Brazil has started implementing traceability requirements for fruits, vegetables and aromatic herbs. The registry must contain information of the address of the producer, name, variety, lot, date of production, distributor, etc. The legislation will be implemented in three different steps, each one of them covering different types of fruits and vegetables.

[Agencia Brasil](#)



16/08/2018 – Fast detection of fraudulent coconut water

The demand for coconut water has increased because of its publicised health benefits. In parallel, fraud cases have also increased. The addition of water, sugars not originating from coconut and dairy products (causing some anaphylactic reactions to people allergic to dairy products) are the most common types of fraud. An analytical method based on the use of a hand-held device has been developed and can now be used for the rapid detection of fraud.

[Securing industry](#)



22/08/2018 - The Food Safety and Standards Authority in India issues standards for honey and its products

The Indian Food Safety and Standards Authority have introduced standards for honey and bee products (such as wax and royal jelly) to control fraud in the sector. Eighteen parameters are being regulated, among others the amount of sucrose, pollen counts, glucose ratio, etc.

[First Post](#)



25/08/2018 – Origin labelling of tomato-derived products now mandatory in Italy

From 27th August, Italian legislation requires that products derived from tomato and containing more than 50 % tomato must indicate the country of origin of the tomato and the country where the product was processed. Tomato-derived products are the third ones, after pasta and rice, for which the geographical origin has to be given.

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)



Disclaimer: The articles presented reflect their media coverage. In any case, it does not indicate the frequency of food fraud in a particular country and/or about 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 the official position of the European Commission

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