

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Import Violations in 2019 - Taiwan Rejects or Destroys 23 Shipments

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Incident Report

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Report Highlights:

Taiwan rejected or destroyed 23 shipments of U.S. agricultural products in the first six months of 2019 according to the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA). Chemical residues were cited as the reason for 15 of the 23 recorded rejections. The second largest source of violations was food additives, with six recorded violations. Violations of this nature continue to pose a challenge to U.S. agricultural exports and exporters should be vigilant in the face of strict Taiwan adherence to food safety regulations.

General Information:

According to [TFDA's website](#), there are a total of 334 shipments from all sources that were issued a non-compliance notice in the first 6-months of 2019. Taiwan rejected or destroyed 23 shipments of U.S. agricultural products, and TFDA makes violations public whenever they give an importer a formal non-compliance notice. TFDA does not announce cases where importers were required to take mitigation measures short of rejection or destruction.

Chemical residues were cited as the reason for 15 of the 23 recorded rejections. The largest culprits were pesticide residues, including fluopyram on fresh broccoli and fruit powder (four cases), pyrimethanil on apples (two cases), dicloran and chlorpropham on onion (two cases), cyfluthrin on grape, bifenthrin on pomegranates, calypso and carbendazim on tea (two cases), azoxystrobin and boscalid on coriander powder, floncamid on fresh lettuce, and 2,6-DIPN on brown rice.

The second largest source of violations was food additives such as benzoic acid on collagen powder and vitamin drinks (two cases). Taiwan has established maximum residue limits (MRLs) for sorbic acid but not for benzoic acid as a food additive, so the default tolerance is 0.5 grams per kilogram.

In June and July 2019, fluopyram was detected on two shipments of U.S. blueberries and one shipment of U.S. onions. Taiwan still has not established an MRL for fluopyram on blueberries, onions, or other major U.S. commodities. Should additional MRL violations on fluopyram be detected, there is a risk of inspections increasing to mandatory batch-by-batch inspections on all imports of the respective commodity.

For all beef tongue imports, Taiwan competent authorities carry out reinforced examinations by defrosting and checking the tongue tissue. *Sarcocystis Cruzi* was detected in a shipment of U.S. tongue that weight 24 kilograms, which was subsequently destroyed.

In Taiwan, after a MRL violation is detected, batch-by-batch inspection moves from a 2-10 percent inspection rate automatically to a 20-50 percent inspection rate on the same product to the same Taiwan importer. If detections become widespread across a food or food product, then batch-by-batch inspections move up to 20-50 percent for all imports of that product from that supplying country. Due to detections in 2019, TFDA published the [enhanced inspection list](#) for U.S. food imports adding broccoli and lettuce, and keeping onions. Each commodity is now under a mandatory 20-50 percent inspection rate.

The FAS Agricultural Section of the American Institute in Taiwan will begin reporting on rejections due to import violations every six months to better track emerging challenges to trade.

First Half of 2019 MRL Violations

Product	# of Incidents	Chemical
Nutrition Foods	5	benzoic acid/potassium sorbate; caffine; sorbic acid; paraben
Broccoli	3	fluopyram
Tea	2	calypso; carebendazim
Onions	2	dicloran; clorpropham
Apples	2	pyrimethanil
Grape; Pomergrante	2	cyfluthrin; bifenthrin
Corn, Coriander Powder	2	azoxystrobin/boscalid; paraben
Beef Tongue	1	sarcocystis cruzi
Live Crab	1	cadmium
Lettuce	1	flonicamid
Brown Rice	1	2,6-DIPN
Wax Paper	1	net chloroform soluble extractives

** Source - Taiwan Food and Drug Administration*

*** All products listed as rejected and/or destroyed*

Violations by Type

