



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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## European Union

### Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

### Luxembourg Import Controls - Mycotoxins

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**Report Highlights:**

A recent report from the EU's Food and Veterinary Office criticizes Luxembourg over its food import controls. Pistachios and peanuts are not sampled according to the EU's sampling directive. Samples are taken by an unauthorized person and analyzed by a laboratory which is not recognized by the Luxembourg authorities.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Brussels USEU [BE2]  
[E2]

## Luxembourg Import Controls – Mycotoxins

The EU's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) recently carried out a mission to assess Luxembourg's food import control measures. The mission was carried out as part of a series of missions to major importing member states to assess controls at import for products of plant origin and compliance with relevant Commission decisions. In comparison with other EU entry points, Luxembourg is significantly smaller but relatively important amounts of pistachios and peanuts (6,000 MT in 2002), are imported by one company via Luxembourg. In 2001, the quantity of pistachios imported into Luxembourg represented around 10% of the total amount of pistachios imported into the EU.

Food of plant origin imported into Luxembourg is not controlled for food safety reasons. Only pistachios from Iran and peanuts from China, subject to specific Commission Decisions, are sampled for aflatoxin determination. The FVO report says that these nuts are not sampled according to the sampling procedure established in Directive 98/53/EC. The sample is taken by an unauthorized person from the importing nuts company and analysis is done by a private laboratory which is not recognized by the Luxembourg authorities. None of the incremental samples are taken from the center of the bags and the use of clear plastic bags compromises the validity of the results because aflatoxin degrades in sunlight. Non-compliant lots are returned to the country of origin or re-exported to a third country. The rate of rejection for imported nuts is highly variable. The report also concludes that food imports are not tested for pesticide residues, 3-MCPD and irradiation.

Number of consignments and volume of nut imports cleared through customs in Luxembourg:

Type of goods	Number of consignments		Net weight (MT) (estimation: one consignment of pistachio/peanuts = 20 MT)	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Pistachios from USA	130	76	2 600	1 520
Pistachios from Iran	89	118	1 780	2 360
Peanuts from USA	37	58	740	1 160
Peanuts from China	69	47	1 380	940
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>6 500</b>	<b>5 980</b>

Source: FVO report

Luxembourg is called upon to take urgent measures to ensure compliance with sampling directive 98/53/EC and to use an official or designated laboratory.

The complete report can be downloaded from the Internet at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/fnaoi/reports/contaminants/luxembourg/fnaoi\\_rep\\_luxe\\_9115-2003\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/fnaoi/reports/contaminants/luxembourg/fnaoi_rep_luxe_9115-2003_en.pdf).

**Visit our website:** our website [www.useu.be/agri/usda.html](http://www.useu.be/agri/usda.html) provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. More information on food safety can be found at [www.useu.be/agri/foodsafety.html](http://www.useu.be/agri/foodsafety.html). E-mail: [AgUSEUBrussels@usda.gov](mailto:AgUSEUBrussels@usda.gov)

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E23084	Reports of Rapid Alert System go online	6/2/03
E23032	EU Food & Feed controls	3/7/03