Hazelnuts
- aflatoxins
- Alternaria toxins / nickel

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Aflatoxins in Hazelnuts from Turkey
Findings of non-compliance

RASFF notifications

2015: 28	2016: 33	2017: 35	2018: 40
2019: 8	2020: 7	2021: 4	2022: 1
2023: 0	2024: 1	2025: 3	

Frequency of non-compliance

2019 (S2) : 2,2 %

2020 (S2): 0,0 %

2020 (S1): 1,6 %

2021 (S2): 0,3 %

2021 (S1): 0,7 %

Aflatoxins in Hazelnuts from Turkey Evolution of measures

Measures in place since 2002: requirement for certification and varying control frequency (5% - 10 %) at import

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 : Annex II: requirement for certification and 5% control frequency at import

Since 14 April 2021(Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/608 of 14 April 2021) : Annex I no requirement for certification, only 5 % control frequency at import (3rd review of 2019/1793).

Since 2022 (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2246 of 15 December 2021) – **hazelnuts from Turkey delisted**

Aflatoxins in Hazelnuts from Azerbaijan
Findings of non-compliance

RASFF notifications

2015: 1	2016: 6	2017: 17	2018: 17
2019: 10	2020: 1	2021: 7	2022: 10
2023: 2	2024: 1	2025: 8	

Frequency of non-compliance

2019 (S2): 12,2 %	2022 (S1): 12,8 %	2024 (S1): 0,0 %
2020 (S1): 0,0 %	2022 (S2):13,0 %	2024 (S2): 2,1 %
2020 (S2): 0,0 %	2023 (S1): 1,7 %	2025 (S1): 6,4 %
2021 (S1): 0,0 %	2023 (S2): 0,0 %	
2021 (S2): 5,0 %		

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Aflatoxins in Hazelnuts from Azerbaijan Evolution of measures

Measures in place since 2017: requirement for certification and 20% control frequency at import

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 – Annex II: requirement for certification and 20% control frequency at import

Since 2022 (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2246 of 15 December 2021) hazelnuts from Azerbaijan moved from Annex II to Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 (frequency of controls at import maintained at 20 %)

Still at 20 % control frequency at import

Aflatoxins in Hazelnuts from Georgia
Findings of non-compliance

RASFF notifications

2015: 3	2016: 9	2017: 7	2018: 8
2019: 18	2020: 9	2021: 33	2022: 8
2023: 7	2024: 5	2025: 8	

Frequency of non-compliance

2016 (S2): 5,1 %	2020 (S1): 3,6 %	2023 (S1): 4,0 %
2017 (S1): 2,0 %	2020 (S2): 1,8 %	2023 (S2): 2.7 %
2017 (S2): 6,5 %	2021 (S1): 5,0 %	2024 (S1): 5.6 %
2018 (S1): 10,6 %	2021 (S2): 10,2 %	2024 (S2): 2,1 %
2018 (S2): 9,3 %	2022 (S1): 4,8 %	2025 (S1): 2,1 %
2019 (S1): 14,3 %	2022 (S2): 3,6 %	
2019 (S2): 12,2 %		

Aflatoxins in Hazelnuts from Georgia Evolution of measures

Measures in place since July 2016: 50% control frequency at import

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 – Annex I: 50% control frequency at import

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1900 of 27 October 2021 : Annex I – frequency of controls decreased to 20 %

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/913 of 30 May 2022 : Annex I – frequency of controls increased to 30 %

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1662 of 11 June 2024 : Annex I – **frequency of controls decreased to 20 %**

New risk ? – Alternaria toxins

In 2025, 4 RASFF notifications on tenuazonic acid in hazelnuts from Türkiye

Following EFSA's "Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal and public health related to the presence of Alternaria toxins in feed and food" (2011) and the EFSA report on "Dietary exposure assessment to Alternaria toxins in the European population" (2016), the estimated chronic dietary exposure to alternariol (AOH) and alternariol monomethyl ether (AME) and tenuozonic acid (TeA) exceeded the relevant Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) value indicating a need for additional compound-specific toxicity data. The estimated chronic dietary exposure to tentoxin (TEN) are lower than the relevant TTC value and is therefore considered unlikely to be a human health concern.

Alternaria toxins

Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/553 of 5 April 2022 on monitoring the presence of Alternaria toxins in food , including setting of indicative levels for alternariol (AOH) alternariol monomethyl ether (AME) and tenuazonic acid (TeA) in certain foods

Indicative levels established for Alternariol (AOH) , alternariol monomethyl ether (AME) and tenuazonic acid (TeA) in certain foods based on the available data in the EFSA database above which investigations should be performed, certainly in case of repetitive findings on the factors leading to the presence of Alternaria toxins or on the effect of food processing. The indicative levels are not food safety levels.

Alternaria toxins - indicative levels -food

Food	Alternariol (AOH) (µg/kg)	Alternariol monomethyl ether (AME) (µg/kg)	Tenuazonic acid (TeA) (µg/kg)
Processed tomato products	10	5	500
Paprika powder	-	-	10000
Sesame seeds	30	30	100
Sunflower seeds	30	30	1000
Sunflower oil	10	10	100
Tree nuts	-	-	100
Dried figs	-	-	1000
Cereal based foods for infants and young children	2	2	500

Nickel – maximum levels

- Maximum levels have been established for a whole range of foodstuffs by Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1987 of 30 July 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of nickel in certain foodstuffs
- MLs applicable as from 1 July 2025 for most foodstuffs, from 1 July 2026 for cereals (3.6.11 to 3.6.15)

Nickel - Maximum levels
Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1987

‘3.6	**Nickel**	ML (mg/kg)	Remarks
3.6.1	Tree nuts		The maximum level applies to the edible part. The maximum level does not apply to tree nuts for crushing and oil refining, provided that the remaining pressed tree nuts are not placed on the market as food. In case the remaining pressed tree nuts are placed on the market as food, the maximum level applies, taking into account Article 3(1) and (2).
3.6.1.1	**Tree nuts** except products listed in 3.6.1.2	**3,5**	
3.6.1.2	Chestnuts, pine nuts, walnuts, Brazil nuts, and cashew nuts	10	

Thank you

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