USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Name: Taiwan Import Violation Summary 2022-2025

Country: Taiwan

Post: Taipei

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

In 2024, the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) inspected nearly 70,000 U.S. food import batches, identifying a 1.5 percent noncompliance rate, mainly due to pesticide residues. Cherries and seasonings/spices were most frequently cited, with violations often linked to substances lacking established tolerance levels in Taiwan. Heavy metals in vegetables and seafood, and noncompliant preservatives in supplements, were also common issues. TFDA's findings highlight the need for ongoing monitoring and increased exporter awareness of Taiwan's regulations to reduce future violations and support compliant U.S. food exports.

Overview
All imported food products entering Taiwan are subject to border inspection overseen by the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA)[1]. According to TFDA statistics, the agency processes more than 750,000 food import declarations each year. In 2024, products from the United States accounted for 9 percent of all food imports, with nearly 70,000 batches submitted for inspection[2]. Each batch undergoes document review, and approximately 10 percent are selected for on-site inspection or sampling. In 2024, TFDA inspected 4,546 U.S. batches and identified 70 violations, resulting in a noncompliance rate of 1.5 percent. This rate ranked U.S. imports fourth among all countries cited for food import violations.

Violation Trends and Key Findings
TFDA most frequently tests imported products for pesticide residues and food additives. These categories also account for the highest rates of noncompliance among U.S. products, consistent with overall import trends. From 2022 to 2025, TFDA recorded 189 violations involving U.S. products. Fruit and seasonings and spices were the most frequently cited commodity groups. Cherries accounted for a significant share of fruit violations, with 41 cases recorded in 2023 and 2024 due to the presence of mefentrifluconazole. Seasonings and spices were most often cited for ethylene oxide, which resulted in 42 violations over the four-year period.

Many fruit-related violations were linked to pesticides for which Taiwan had not yet established import tolerance levels. Once TFDA sets tolerance levels, violations for those substances declined or ceased. Examples include cyantraniliprole in cherries and blueberries; flonicamid in cherries, strawberries, and leafy greens; and mefentrifluconazole in cherries.

In 2022, pyrimethanil residues from post-harvest apple treatments resulted in violations. Although U.S. exporters requested a higher tolerance level, TFDA did not approve the request due to insufficient supporting data. In addition, gibberellic acid, which is exempt from tolerance in the United States, is regulated as a pesticide in Taiwan and led to six citrus violations. Bulk commodities such as rice and soybeans also contributed to violation volumes. Piperonyl butoxide, which Taiwan regulates as a pesticide, and 2-phenylphenol accounted for eight violations involving large shipment volumes.

In 2022, the European Union established standards for ethylene oxide, prompting the recall of internationally recognized ice cream brands. Taiwan referenced the EU standards and began inspecting related products, which led to the identification of violations starting in 2023. Subsequently, the USDA and relevant industry stakeholders submitted improvement reports to the Taiwanese government. As a result, the number of violations has significantly decreased.

Heavy Metals and Other Violations
Heavy metal contamination, primarily cadmium and mercury, was frequently detected in leafy vegetables and seafood. Taiwan's regulatory limits for heavy metals closely align with European Union standards, contributing to these findings. In nutrient supplements, TFDA commonly identified violations related to food additives, particularly preservatives that did not comply with Taiwan's local regulations.

[1] For detail information, please check here(Regulations of Inspection of Imported Foods and Related Products - Article Content - Laws & Regulations Database of The Republic of China (Taiwan))

[2] 2024 Annual Import Food Inspection Report (in Chinese)

Conclusion
TFDA border inspection data indicate that pesticide residues in fruit, ethylene oxide in seasonings and spices, heavy metals in vegetables and seafood, and food additive violations in supplements are the most common compliance issues affecting U.S. food imports. These trends underscore the importance of continued monitoring, exporter awareness of Taiwan's regulatory requirements, and proactive engagement to reduce future violations.

Total Import Violations from the United States by Year

	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Violations	34	69	67	19	189

Source: TFDA

Top 5 Exporter's Compliance Rate (rank as inspection batch number)

	Japan	China	United States	Vietnam	Thailand
Compliance rate	99.5%	97.3%	98.5%	98%	98.5%

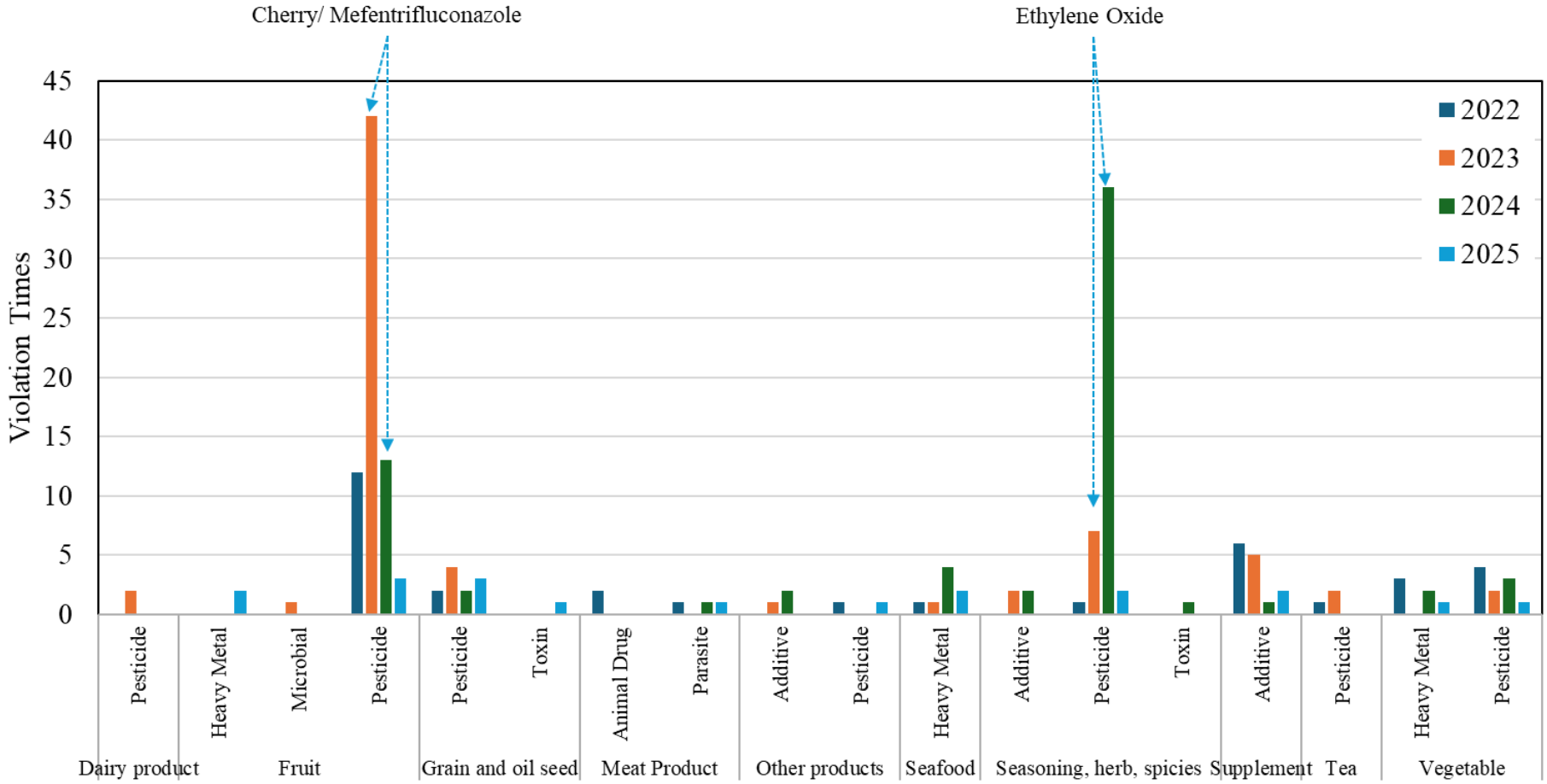
Source: TFDA

Breakdown of Import Violations from the United States, 2022-2025

		Grand Total (Times)	Fruit													Vegetable							Grain and oil seed					Meat Product			Seafood				Dairy product-Cheese	Other products	Seasoning, herb, spicies	Supplement	Tea	Volume(MT)
			Apple	Avocado	Blueberry	Cherry	Grape	Grapefruit	Lemon	Orange	Peach	Pomegranate	Raspberry	Strawberry	*Fruit Total*	Arugula	Broccoli	Celery	Ginseng	Romaine	Spinach	*Vegetable Total*	Corn	Rice	Soybean	Wheat	*Grain and oil seed Total*	Beef	Chicken	*Meat Product Total*	Crab	Fish	Oyster	*Seafood Total*						
	Grand Total (Times)	189	5	2	3	47	1	1	2	4	1	1	3	1	*73*	1	2	7	1	1	3	*16*	1	5	5	1	*12*	3	2	*5*	1	1	6	*8*	2	5	51	14	3	
Pesticide	2,4-D	2																							1		*1*										1			472
	2-Phenylphenol	4																							3		*3*											1	166
	Acetamiprid	1																																			1		0
	Antioxidants	1																																				1	0
	Bifenazate	2											2		*2*																								0
	Bifenthrin	2										2			*2*																								31
	Bleaching Agent	1																																		1			2
	Chlormequat	1																																		1			1
	Clothianidin	2										1			*1*																						1			26
	Cyantraniliprole	8			2	3									*5*			3				*3*																	48
	Cyfluthrin	1					1								*1*																								2
	Diphenylamine	1																							1		*1*												633
	DMTT	1				1									*1*																								2
	Ethylene Oxide	45																																	2	1	42			59
	Fenhexamid	1											1		*1*																								0
	Flonicamid	6				1								1	*2*	1		1	1		1	*4*																	13
	Fludioxonil	1																																				1	0
	Fluxapyroxad	1																1				*1*																	17
	GA	6						1	2	3					*6*																								81
	Imazalil	1																																				1	0
	Mefentrifluconazole	41				41									*41*																								363
	Nicarbazin	1																											1	*1*									23
	Pendimethalin	1								1					*1*																								20
	Piperonyl butoxide	6									1				*1*									5			*5*												2307
	Pyraclostrobin	1																																			1		0
	Pyrethrins	3				1									*1*			2				*2*																	36
	Pyrimethanil	5	5												*5*																								104
	Semicarbazide	1																											1	*1*									78
Additive	Benzoid acid	1																																			1		0
	Sulphur dioxide	2																																			2		10
	Preservative	14																																		2	2	10		19
	Sweetner	2																																				2		4
Heavy Metal	Cadmium	15		2											*2*		2			1	3	*6*									1		6	*7*						39
	Mercury	1																														1		*1*						0
Other	Toxin	3																					1			1	*2*										1			1729
	Microbial	1			1										*1*																									15
	Parasite	3																										3		*3*										2
	Volume (MT)		104	4	34	373	2	5	34	61	2	48	0	0	*667*	0	22	88	0	11	0	*122*	501	2305	1270	1228	*5305*	2	100	*103*	0	0	2	*2*	1	4	77	21	0	6302

Blue cells indicate that maximum residue limits (MRLs) have already been established, so the likelihood of future violations is low. Orange cells indicate a higher number of violations.

Import Violations from the United States by Commodity Group, Violation Type, and Year



Attachments:

No Attachments.