



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants
The Director

Brussels,
SANTE/G3/AL/al(2022)3224186

Dear Mr Seçkin,

Subject: Commodities originating in Turkey, which are subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third countries – Sixth Review

I would like to contact you in relation to one commodity originating in Turkey.

Regulation (EU) 2019/1793¹ lays down the list of food and feed of non-animal origin from certain third countries subject to a temporary increase of official controls upon their entry into the Union in its Annex I; the list of food and feed of non-animal origin and compound food subject to special conditions governing their entry into the Union as well as to a temporary increase of official controls in its Annex II; and the list of food and feed of non-animal origin from certain third countries subject to suspension of entry into the Union in its Annex IIa.

The lists of concerned food and feed are subject to review on a regular basis.

Locust beans (including mucilages and thickeners derived from locust beans) from Turkey are currently listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 due to the risk of contamination by ethylene oxide. The potential health risk from contamination by ethylene oxide affects mixtures of food additives containing locust bean gum. In the context of the sixth review of Regulation (EU) 2019/1793, the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF Committee) has agreed on 20 April 2022 to **include mixtures of food additives containing locust bean gum from Turkey in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 due to possible contamination by ethylene oxide, with a frequency of identity and physical checks established at 20% upon their entry into the Union.**

¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 of 22 October 2019 on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from third countries implementing Regulations (EU) 2017/625 and (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 277, 29.10.2019, p. 89).

Mr Harun Seçkin,
Director-General
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
General Directorate of Food and Control
Eskişehir Yolu Üzeri 9 Km-Çankaya-Ankara
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Consignments of the concerned products will have to be presented at a Border Control Post (BCP)² where they will be subject to documentary checks and to physical and identity checks at the prescribed frequency. Consignments will have to be accompanied by a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) as provided for in Article 56 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. In order to give adequate prior notification of the estimated date and time of physical arrival of the consignment at the BCP, Food Business Operators shall complete Part I of the CHED and transmit it to the competent authority at the BCP, at least one working day prior to the physical arrival of the consignment. Where logistical constraints prevent compliance with that time limit, the competent authorities of the BCP may apply a period of prior notification of at least four hours before the expected arrival of the consignment, as provided for in Article 1(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1013³.

Consignments of mixtures of food additives containing locust bean gum from Turkey will be subject to special conditions in addition to the increased level of official controls. In particular, as provided for in Article 10 and 11 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1793, each consignment of that commodity shall be accompanied by an official certificate stating that the products have been sampled and analysed for ethylene oxide and by the results of sampling and analyses showing compliance with Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of ethylene oxide.

The adoption and publication of the amendments by the Commission are under preparation.

These measures shall enter into force on the twentieth day following publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. Should you require more information, please contact Unit SANTE G3 (SANTE-CONSULT-G3@ec.europa.eu), or Mr Jan Bloemendal, in the Bilateral International Relations Unit (Jan.Bloemendal@ec.europa.eu) in DG SANTE.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Bernard Van Goethem

Copy: N. Meyer-Landrut (EU Delegation to Turkey), Mission of Turkey to the European Union

² Information regarding the list of EU BCPs is posted on this Directorate General's website at the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/legislation/imports/non-animal/index_en.htm

³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1013 of 16 April 2019 on prior notification of consignments of certain categories of animals and goods entering the Union (Text with EEA relevance.) (OJ L 165, 21.6.2019, p. 8).