

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** January 21,2020

**Report Number:** TW2020-0005

## **Report Name:** Taiwan 2019 Import Violations Report

**Country:** Taiwan

**Post:** Taipei

**Report Category:** Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Vegetables, Avocado, Canned Deciduous Fruit, Dried Fruit, Fresh Deciduous Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Kiwifruit, Raisins, Stone Fruit, Strawberries

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### **Report Highlights:**

In 2019, Taiwan rejected or destroyed 53 shipments of U.S. agricultural products that were non-compliant with Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) food safety standards. TFDA makes violations public on its website whenever it gives an importer a formal non-compliance notice. This list does not include instances where importers were required to take mitigation measures short of rejection or destruction, or instance where TFDA rejected only a portion of the shipment. This report catalogues the reasons for these rejections.

Chemical residues were cited as the reason for 34 of the 53 recorded rejections. The largest culprit was fluopyram with a total of 11 detections on various products: blueberries (five instances), broccoli (3 instances), onion (one instance), lettuce (one instance) and fruit powder (one instance). The next largest incidence of violations was for cyfluthrin on grapes (three instances). Taiwan has no established maximum residue limit (MRL) for fluopyram on blueberries, onions, or other major U.S. agricultural products. The default tolerance for fluopyram is Taiwan's overall tolerance level for any non-established MRL, 0.01 part per million. \*

The second largest source of violations was food additives, with 11 recorded violations. The violations were concentrated in bactericide residues exceeding established MRLs, including net chloroform soluble extractives on wax paper (one) and 4%-CH<sub>3</sub>COOH on paper plates (three cases).

TFDA has published the enhanced inspection list for U.S. food imports in 2020, both fresh blueberries (HS code: 0810.40.10.00.0) and fresh or chilled onions (HS code: 0703.10.10.00.6) are on the list. All incoming blueberry and onion shipments will be subjected to a 20-to-50 percent enhanced inspection rate for the duration of 2020. Importantly, both lettuce and broccoli have been removed from the list as a result of Post intervention.

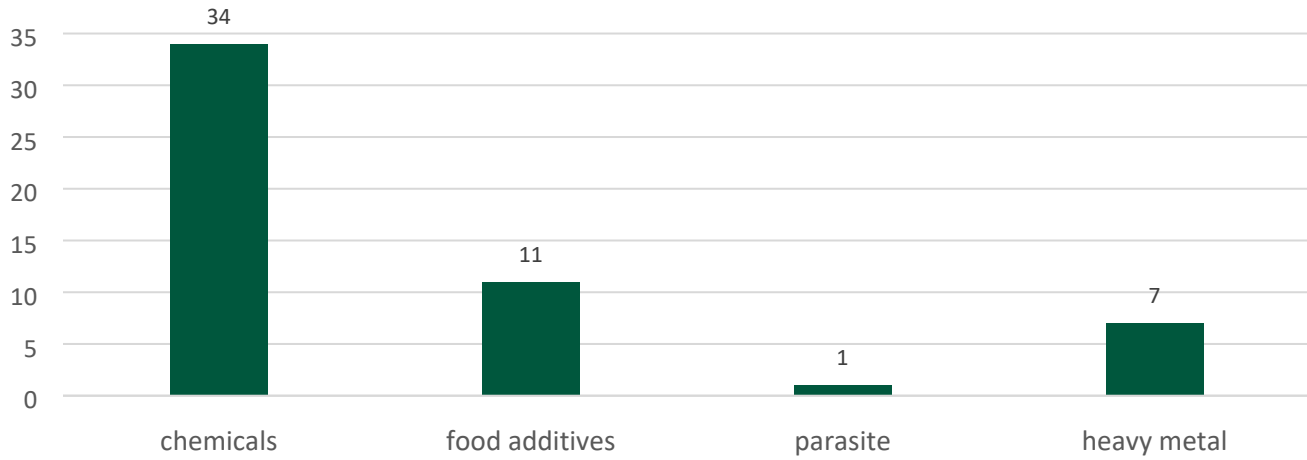
Blueberries were the product with the most violations in 2019 with seven total rejections. U.S. blueberries are marketed in many of the largest international grocery retail chains in Taiwan, but imports have been stagnant since consecutive violations began in July 2019.

Cadmium is the only finding of heavy metal detection, with seven recorded violations. Cadmium violations were found concentrated in the following categories: onions (four cases), live crab (one), lettuce (one), and celery (one).

The AIT Taipei Agricultural Section will begin reporting on rejections annually to better track emerging trade challenges. An initial detailed review of 2019 rejections suggests that asynchronous MRL approvals, where U.S. levels and Taiwan levels are not established concurrently, caused many of the violations.

\*Note: As a result of FAS Washington and Post intervention at the September 2019 U.S.-Taiwan Food Safety Bilateral, Taiwan notified WTO SPS Committee of draft standards for floupyram on onion and blueberries and fluxapyroxad on oranges on January 21 (G/SPS/N/TPKM/518). If approved and implemented, blueberries would no longer experience these violations and blueberries would be removed from enhanced inspection in 2021.

### Violation by Type



2019 MRL Violations		
Product	# of Incidents	Finding
blueberry & (blackberry)	8(1)	fluopyram; malathion; flupyradifurone
onion	7	dicloran; clorpropham; fluopyram; cadmium
corn, coriander powder, parsley, celery	5	azoxystrobin/boscalid; paraben; Diazinon/pyraclostrobin/permethrin; cadmium
grape	5	cyfluthrin; indoxacarb
nutrition foods	5	benzoic acid/potassium sorbate; caffeine; sorbic acid; paraben
cherry & (plum)	4(2)	cyflufenamid; fludioxonil
wax paper& (paper plates)	4(3)	net chloroform soluble extractives; 4% CH3COOH
broccoli	3	fluopyram
apple	2	pyrimethanil
lettuce	2	flonicamid; cadmium

tea	2	calypso; carebendazim
beef tongue	1	sarcocystis cruzi
brown rice	1	2,6-DIPN
live crab	1	cadmium
pistachios	1	buprofezin
pomegranate	1	bifenthrin
potato	1	glycoalkaloids

\* Source - Taiwan Food and Drug Administration

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

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.