

Overview of EU Border Control Posts (BCPs)

PROGRESS regional training webinar

“Strengthening the capacity of fruit and berry producers in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) to access the EU market”

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Presentation storyline

1. What BCPs are and how they are organised

2. TRACES NT / CHED-PP operational workflow for fruit and berries

3. What is checked: documents, identity, physical checks and sampling

4. 2025 data: imports, berries and rejections

5. Spanish integrated system, RASFF and non-compliance

BCPs: the first line of assurance for the Single Market

Facilities designated by Member States and authorised under EU rules

>200

BCPs authorised in the EU according to
information available in TRACES

35

BCPs in Spain: the largest network among
Member States

3

Types of location: ports, airports and land
crossings

- They carry out official controls on animals, plants, food, feed and other objects from third countries.
- They verify food safety, animal health and plant health requirements before entry into the EU.
- Each BCP may be authorised for one or more categories of goods.

Legal basis and organisation

The BCP network is based on harmonised rules and common information systems

Regulation (EU) 2017/625
Official controls

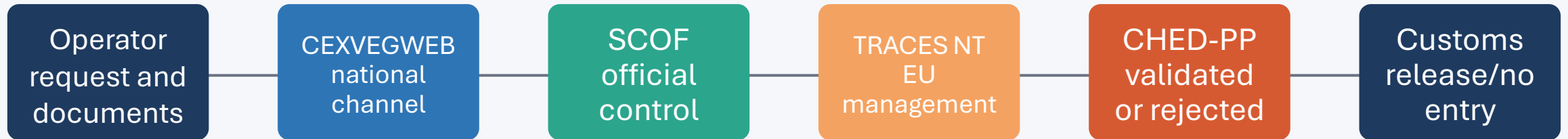
Implementing Regulation
(EU) 2019/1014
Designation requirements

TRACES / IMSOC
Electronic management and
certification

- Mandatory entry through a designated BCP for certain goods from third countries.
- Harmonised rules on infrastructure, equipment, staff and types of control.
- The Commission maintains and updates the official lists of authorised BCPs.

Operational workflow in Spain: CEXVEGWEB, TRACES NT and CHED-PP

Fruit and berries: one integrated request and communication with Customs



- TRACES NT generates the Common Health Entry Document for plants and plant products: CHED-PP.
- If the CHED-PP is rejected, the associated certificates are rejected and the consignment cannot enter through another EU BCP.
- CEXVEGWEB connects the operator, inspection staff, TRACES NT and Customs.

Required documents and frequent errors

The operator submits the request and attaches the necessary information

General documents
Packing list · commercial
invoice

Phytosanitary assurance
Phytosanitary certificate
where required

Health assurance
Additives declaration · official
certificate under Implementing
Regulation (EU) 2019/1793

Most common documentary errors

- Missing required additional declarations.
- Expired phytosanitary certificates.
- Inconsistencies between certificates, commercial documents, lots, destination or traceability.

Three levels of control: documentary, identity and physical checks

Intensity is risk-based, with minimum rates and sampling programmes

100%

Documentary check on every
consignment

≥7,5%

Identity check according to risk

≥7,5%

Physical check according to risk

Suspicion-based sampling
History of non-compliance by
product/country or exporter

Random sampling
National programme based on risk
assessment

- Physical checks verify harmful organisms, packaging and organoleptic conditions.
- Laboratory samples target organic and inorganic contaminants and other risk-defined hazards.

Spain's border control reform: before and after October 2024

From fragmented inspections to a single integrated process at Border Control Posts

1 year of implementation

Before October 2024

Two separate controls

- ! Plant Health and food safety operated under different frameworks
- ! Separate procedures and overlapping checks
- ! Duplication in documents, steps and databases
- ! Longer waiting times for operators

Plant Health

+

Food Safety

Two procedures · duplicate steps

From October 2024

One unified control

- ✓ Plant Health and food safety are brought into one single procedure
- ✓ One inspection can verify UE and national requirements, including phytosanitary labelling and food safety
- ✓ One interaction and one decision per consignment
- ✓ Better efficiency, transparency and resource use

Single integrated inspection

One process · one decision

After one full year of implementation, the first concrete results of the unified model can now be assessed.

2025 main results

RESULTS

A sharper control approach increased both physical checks and analytical sampling in 2025.

80%

Physical controls

For selected fruit and vegetable products
such as Mango, Strawberries

24%

Overall sampling

Increase in coordinated sampling for fruits,
vegetables and nuts.

50%

Pesticide analysis

Increase in pesticide-focused analytical
sampling within the coordinated
programme.

38%

Animal-origin sampling

Higher sampling intensity for products of
animal origin versus 2024.

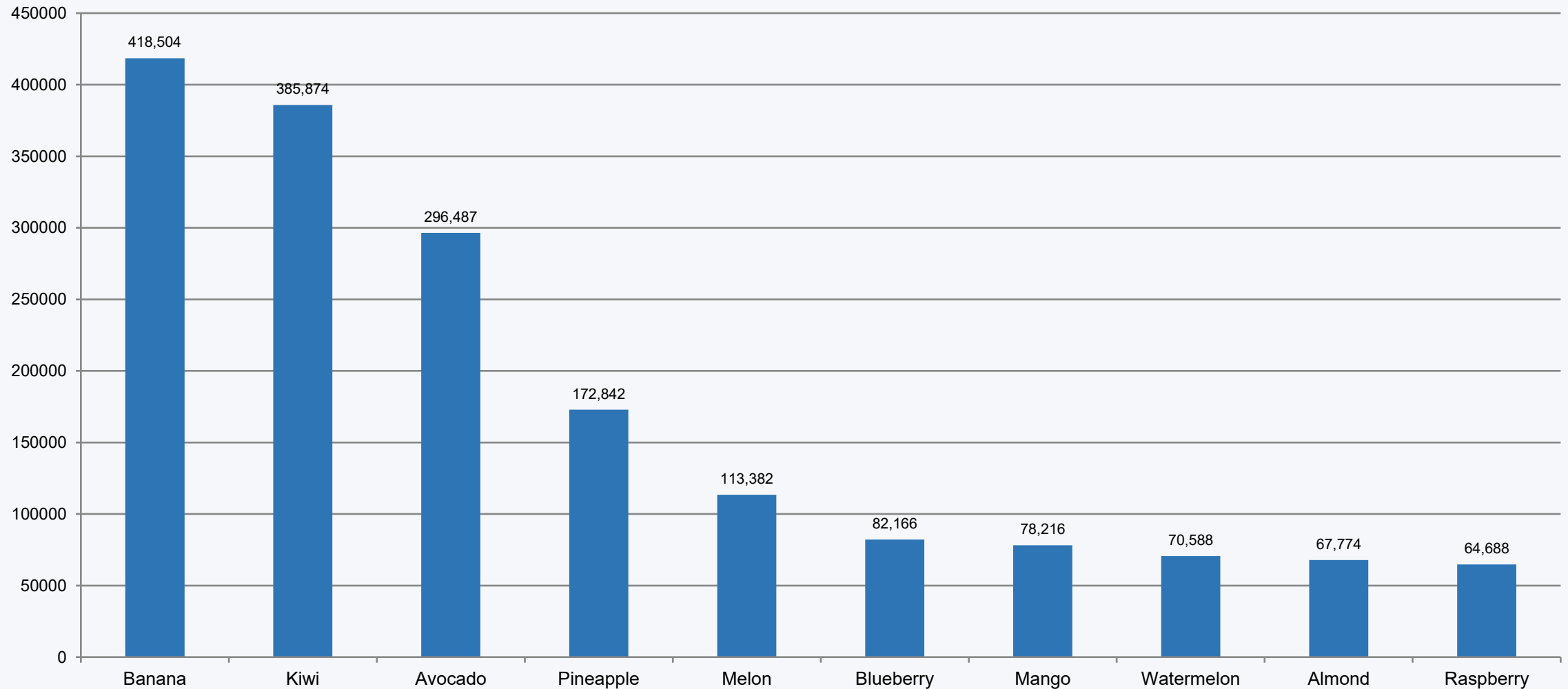
What changed

- More targeted physical inspections for higher-risk consignments
- Broader sampling coverage across coordinated programmes
- Stronger analytical focus on pesticide residues
- Significant increase in controls for products of animal origin

**Bottom line: 2025 combined more coverage with more
targeted verification.**

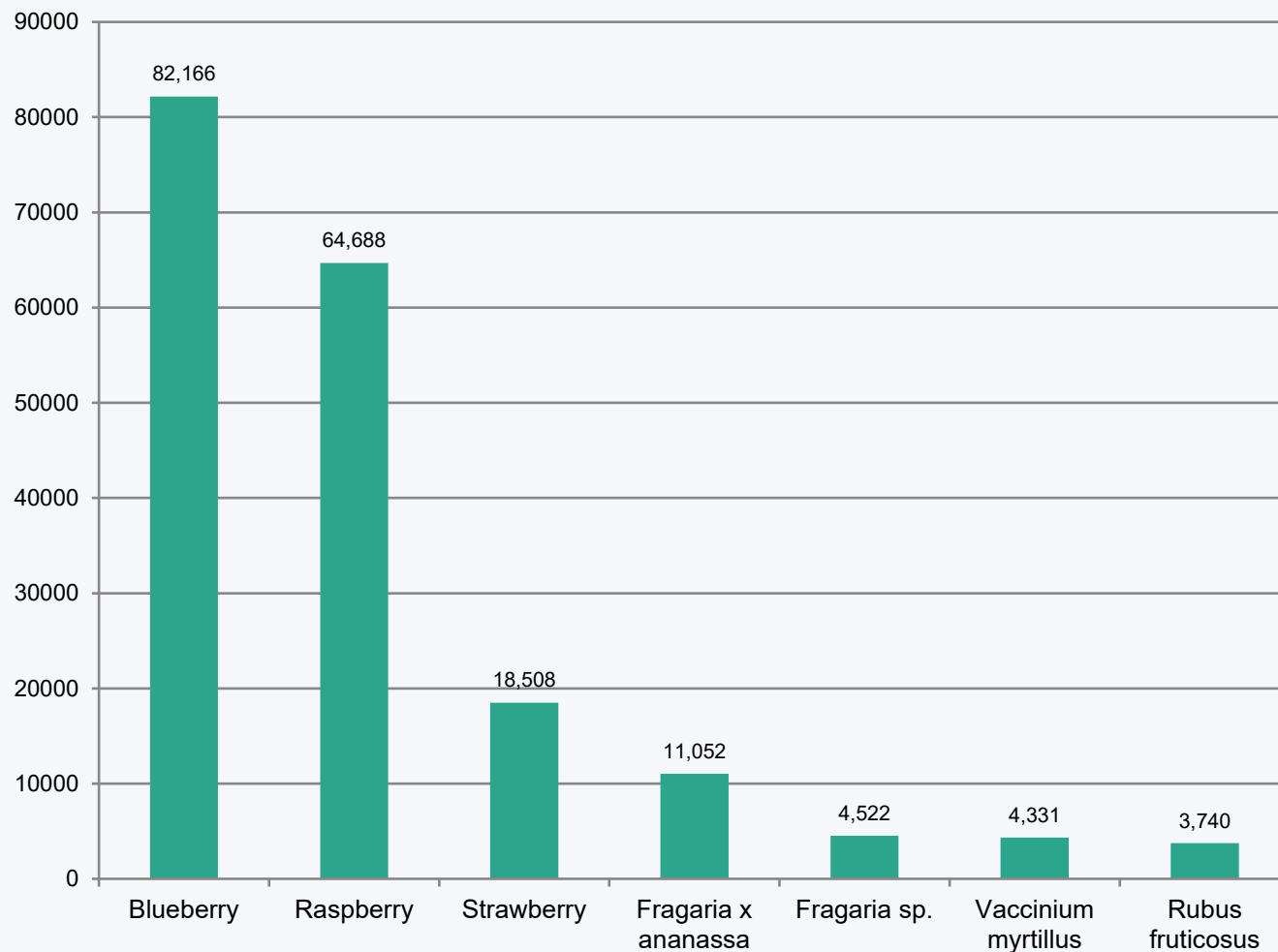
Fruit imports in 2025: main products

Top 10 products by import volume



Berries in 2025: composition by product

Blueberries clearly lead import volumes



82.166 t

Blueberry / *Vaccinium corymbosum*

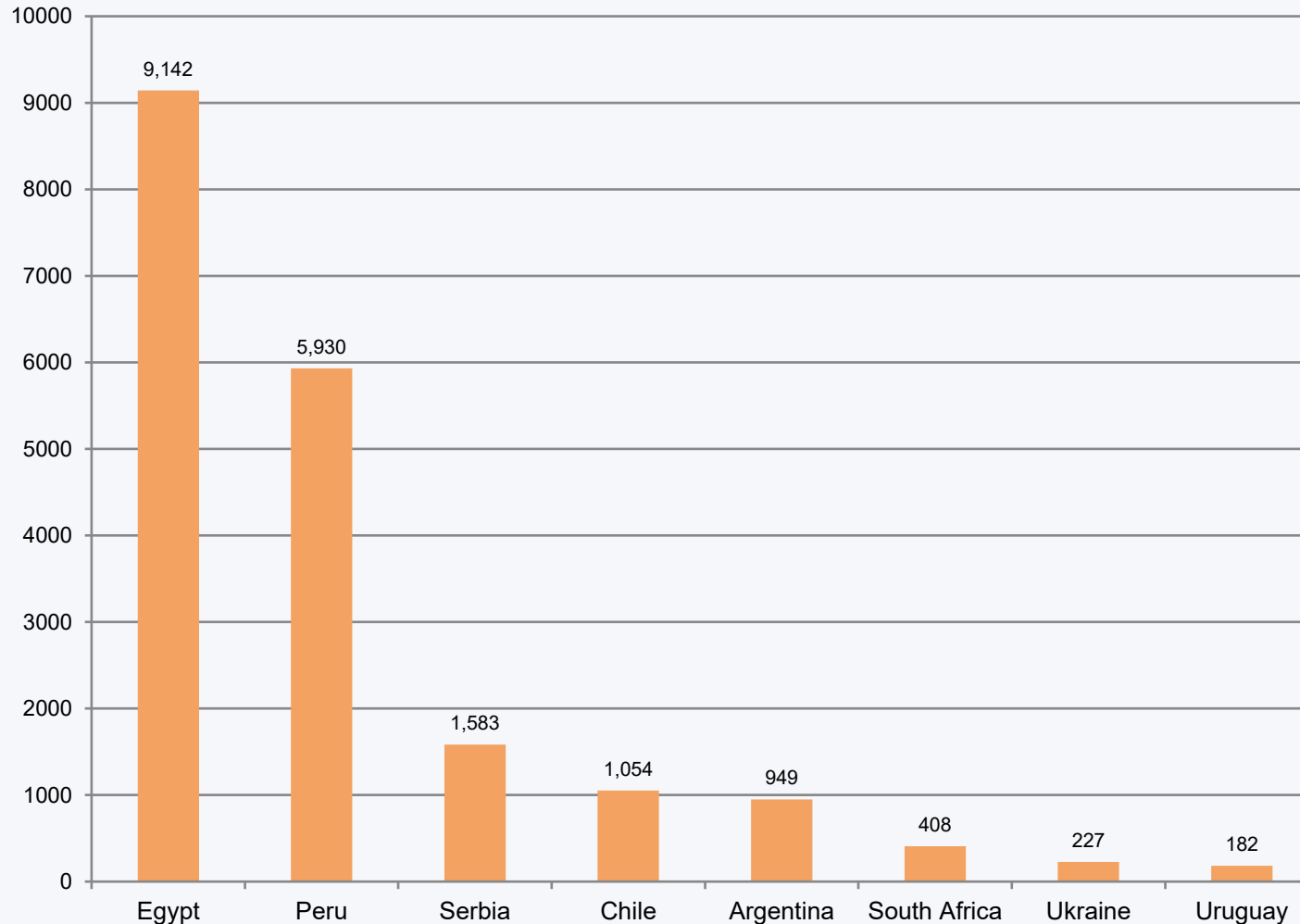
64.688 t

Raspberry / *Rubus idaeus*

18.508 t

Strawberry / *Fragaria ananassa*

Main origins of berries in 2025

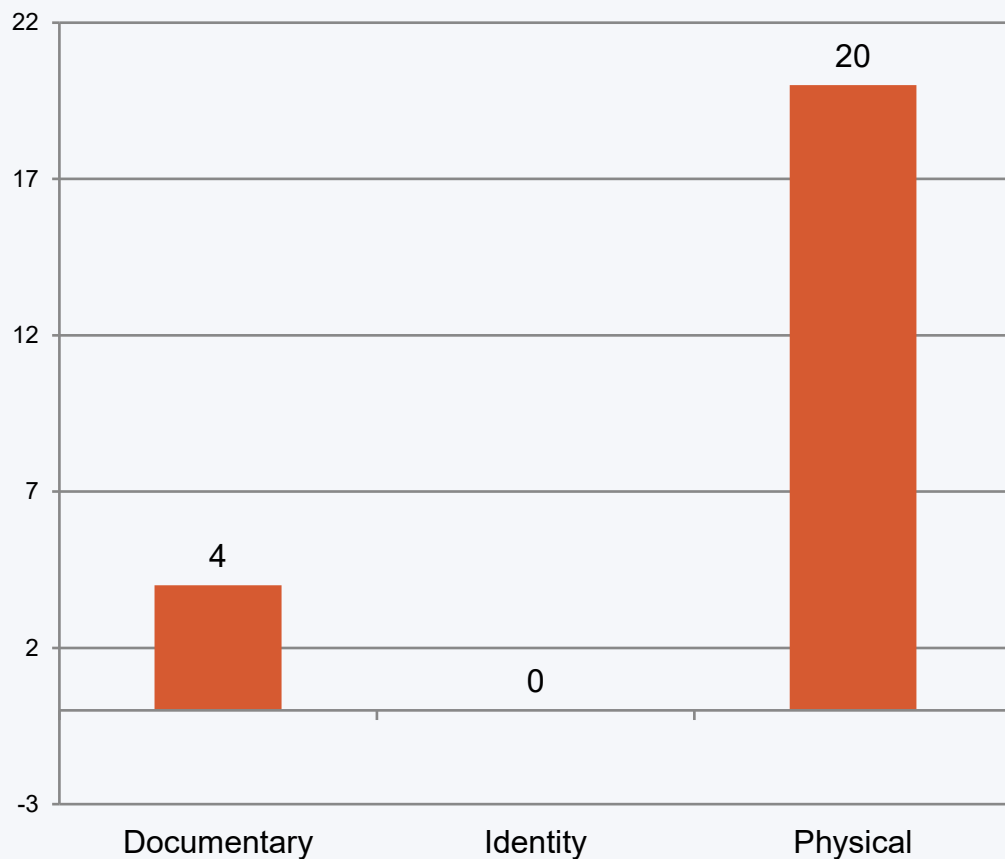


Interpretation

- Egypt appears as the main aggregated origin, driven by strawberries and raspberries.
- Peru stands out mainly for blueberries.
- Ukraine is also included among the origins, with data for strawberries and blueberries.

2025 rejections: plant health and hygiene

Physical rejection accounts for most of the non-compliances shown

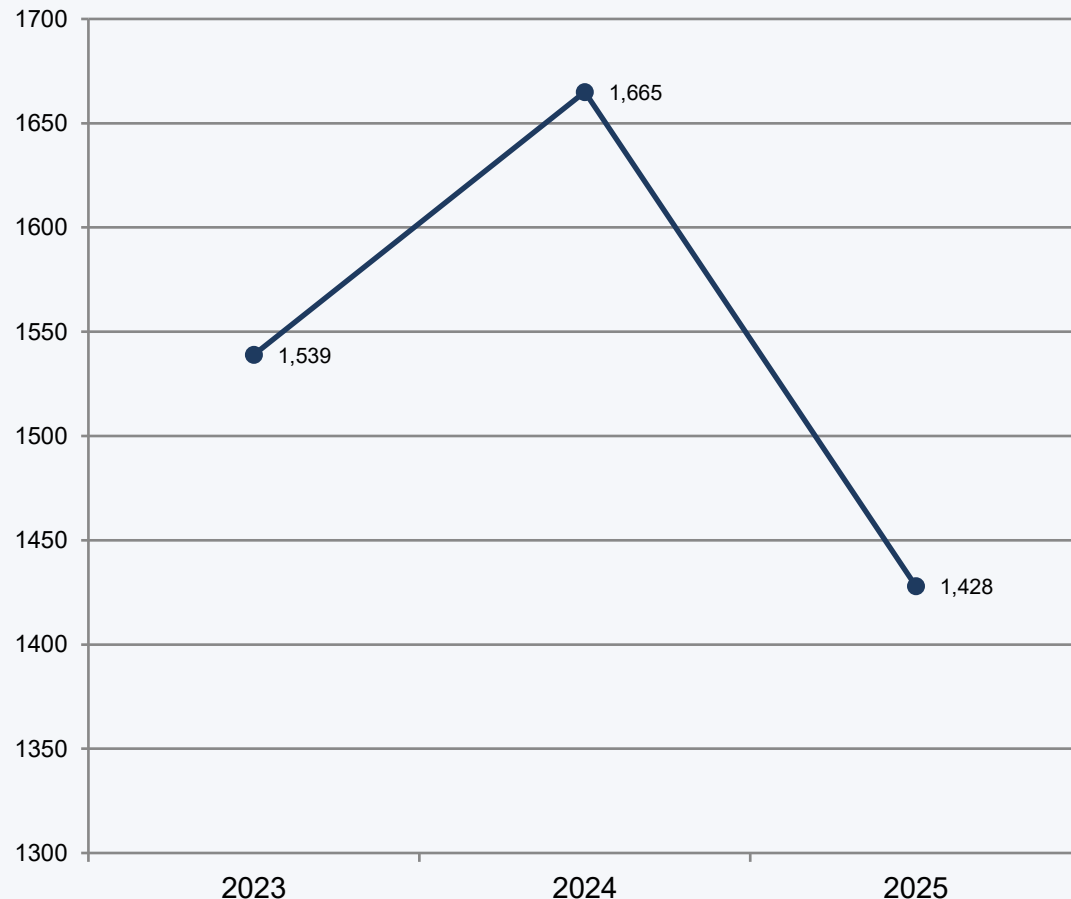


Points to note

- Documentary check: missing additional declarations, expired certificates or inconsistencies.
- Identity check: consistency between declared information, labels and traceability.
- Physical check: detection of harmful organisms, organoleptic issues or non-compliant analytical results.

RASFF: alert network and containment shield at the border

Particularly relevant for fruit, vegetables and berries



Fruit and vegetables in RASFF

981

alerts in 2024

1.057

total notifications in
2025

Three frequent triggers

- Pesticide residues: MRL exceedances or prohibited substances.
- Microbiological risks: Norovirus, Hepatitis A, Salmonella.
- Chemical contaminants and heavy metals: lead, cadmium or mycotoxins.

What happens when a quarantine pest or MRL non-compliance is detected

The response affects both the consignment and future controls



- Possible measures: re-dispatch, destruction or phytosanitary treatment where permitted.
- Interceptions are notified through official control management systems, including TRACES and RASFF where appropriate.
- Recurrent interceptions may lead to increased control frequencies, stricter requirements or temporary restrictions.

MRL case

Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 sets MRLs. If an exceedance is found, risk is characterised using EFSA PRIMo; if there is a risk to the population, it is notified through RASFF. In Spain, a national alert may also be activated until consecutive favourable results are obtained.

RASFF 2025 in berries

Border rejection notifications and plant health rejection data from the document

9

border rejection notifications
for berries at EU level

0

notified by Spain

5/9

due to pesticide
residues

Notifying countries

Poland · Italy · Croatia · Luxembourg · Slovenia
· Cyprus

RASFF 2025 hazards

Interpretation: the dominant risk profile in 2025 was chemical.

5 Pesticide residues

of 9 notifications

4 Other hazards

mycotoxins, incomplete
documentation, etc.

- In RASFF 2025, the dominant profile for berries was chemical: pesticide residues.
- In the national data, plant health rejections for berries are concentrated in blueberries, mainly through physical checks.

RASFF 2025 in berries

Border rejection notifications: country of origin of the consignment and notified hazard

reference	subject	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	HAZARD
2025 · 01	Berries / strawberry — Egypt	Egypt	Pesticide residues
2025 · 02	Berries / strawberry — Egypt	Egypt	Pesticide residues
2025 · 03	Berries / strawberry — Egypt	Egypt	Pesticide residues
2025 · 04	Berries / raspberries — Ukraine	Ukraine	Pesticide residues
2025 · 05	Berries / cranberries — Ukraine	Ukraine	Incomplete documentation
2025 · 06	Berries / blueberries — Albania	Albania	Incomplete documentation
2025 · 07	Berries / blueberries — Albania	Albania	Incomplete documentation
2025 · 08	Berries / strawberries — China	China	Pesticide residues
2025 · 09	Berries / mulberry — Turkey	Turkey	Mycotoxins

Note: the countries of origin of the consignments were Egypt (3), Ukraine (2), Albania (2), China (1) and Turkey (1). The main hazard was pesticide residues (6/9); mycotoxins and incomplete documentation were also notified.

Key messages to close

From the border to the Single Market: control, traceability and coordinated response

- BCPs are strategic nodes in the European food safety and plant health system. TRACES NT, CHED-PP and CEXVEGWEB provide a traceable flow between operator, inspection and Customs.
- Spain's new integrated system reduces duplication and increases sampling capacity without increasing resources.
- RASFF and intensified controls turn each non-compliance into useful information for future risk control.

Final objective: imported products should have the same health and phytosanitary status as those produced in the EU.