

The UK National Monitoring Plan (NMP) sampling priorities for imported foods provides sampling guidance

The revised document below shows in Part 1 NMP sampling priorities for the import of products of animal origin (POAO) including pet food, and in Part 2 sampling priorities for products not of animal origin (FNAO), for the period April 2025 to March 2026, effective from 1st April 2025.

Part 1: National Monitoring Plan (NMP) – Imported POAO (products of animal origin) sampling priorities for April 2025 to March 2026

Bovine

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Bovine	<i>Salmonella</i> (screen for AMR where possible), <i>E. coli</i> (screen for AMR where possible), Shiga toxin producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC), <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Minced meat and meat preparations intended to be eaten raw (e.g. steak tartare). Minced meat and meat preparations intended to be eaten cooked. Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.
High	Bovine	<i>Hormonal growth promoters (particularly trenbolone and zeranol)</i>	Raw meats.
High	Bovine	<i>E. coli</i> (screen for AMR where possible), STEC, <i>Salmonella</i>	Fresh meats intended to be eaten cooked. Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Medium	Bovine	<i>Veterinary medicine residues:</i> <i>Anthelmintics including Benzimidazoles (Albendazole), Abamectin, Doramectin, Moxidectin and Ivermectin</i>	<p>Corned beef including from Brazil, and cooked beef. Raw beef and bovine casings.</p> <p>Note: care should be taken when reporting these results to make clear the legislation or other basis for sampling. Bovine meat antimicrobials (including compounds with human safety risk like Tilmicosin), as well as NSAIDs such as diclofenac and meloxicam, and the inclusion of permethrin under the existing vet med panel.</p>
Low	Bovine	<i>Lead / Cadmium</i>	Include offal (kidney and liver).
Low	Bovine	<i>Dioxins/PCBs</i>	Limits for bovine meat and liver.
Low	Bovine	<i>BaP (Benzo(a)pyrene),</i> <i>PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)</i>	Smoked meat and heat-treated meat products (e.g. flame-grilled burgers). Raw meats are not susceptible to BaP contamination.

Ovine

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Ovine	<i>Veterinary medicine residues:</i> <i>Nitrofurans & Chloramphenicol</i>	<p>Sheep casings, from China in particular.</p> <p>Frozen lamb.</p>
High	Ovine	<i>Salmonella (screen for AMR where possible), E. coli (screen for AMR where possible), STEC</i>	<p>Ready-to-eat minced meat, meat preparations and meat products intended to be eaten raw.</p> <p>Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.</p>
Medium	Ovine	<i>Salmonella (screen for AMR where possible), E. coli (screen for AMR where possible), STEC</i>	<p>Raw lamb; minced meat and meat preparations intended to be eaten cooked.</p> <p>Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.</p>
Low	Ovine	<i>Veterinary medicine residues</i>	Sheep meat and offal/liver anthelmintics (e.g. closantel) and avermectins (e.g. ivermectin, doramectin).
Low	Ovine	<i>Lead / Cadmium</i>	Meat and offal – maximum levels in place.
Low	Ovine	<i>Dioxins/PCBs</i>	Limits for meat and liver.
Low	Ovine	<i>BaP (Benzo(a)pyrene),</i> <i>PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)</i>	Smoked meat (to note that “smoked skin on sheep” products other than head and feet are prohibited). Raw meats are not susceptible to BaP contamination.

Poultry

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Poultry	<p><i>Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)</i></p> <p><i>(including Salmonella, E. coli, Carbapenemase, ESBL/AmpC-producing E. coli)</i></p>	<p>Raw poultry products</p> <p>Presence of Salmonella on samples should be determined using standard procedures. Salmonella isolated from presence in 25g should be tested for antimicrobial sensitivity by performing MICs against them for the following antibiotics, according to current EU protocols for methodology: Ampicillin (A), Chloramphenicol (C), Cefotaxime (CTX), Cefpodoxime (CPD), Ciprofloxacin (Cp), Gentamicin (G), Amikacin (AMK), Nalidixic Acid (Nx), Neomycin (Ne) and Tetracycline (T).</p> <p>Multi-drug resistance will be determined as isolates resistant (using appropriate breakpoints) to 3 or more antibiotic of separate classes.</p> <p>Presence of E. coli producing Carbapenemase/AmpC/ESBL in raw poultry. AmpC/ESBL phenotype E. coli to be isolated on MacConkey agar + 1 mg/L cefotaxime and carbapenem resistant E. coli to be isolated on two commercial chromogenic carbapenem agars according to current EU protocols. Viable counts for E. coli to be determined on MacConkey agar and MacConkey agar + 1 mg/L cefotaxime according to current EU protocols.</p> <p>Cooked poultry and other ready-to-eat poultry products</p> <p>Viable counts of E. coli on samples should be determined on MacConkey agar and MacConkey agar + 1 mg/L cefotaxime according to current EU protocols. However, viable counts should additionally be determined using a commercial ESBL agar. Isolates with an AmpC and or ESBL phenotype from MacConkey agar + 1 mg/L cefotaxime or the commercial ESBL agar should be verified as such if required using appropriate genetic (e.g. PCR or WGS) or phenotypic (e.g. appropriate MICs or sensitivities) methods.</p> <p>Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.</p> <p>Please also report the results of all AMR tests (positive or negative) to: microriskassessment@food.gov.uk</p>
High	Poultry	<p><i>Salmonella, E. coli,</i></p> <p><i>Listeria monocytogenes</i></p>	<p>Cooked poultry from various countries, particularly from Brazil, Thailand, China, Ukraine. Including cooked breaded frozen poultry, and other potentially ready-to-eat poultry products.</p>
High	Poultry	<p><i>Veterinary medicine residues:</i></p> <p><i>Coccidiostats and antimicrobials (Nicarbazin, Lasalocid, Diclazuril)</i></p> <p><i>Nitrofurans and Chloramphenicol</i></p>	<p>Raw poultry (chicken, duck, turkey, guinea fowl, goose). Fresh and salted chicken. Salted/marinated chicken from Brazil & Thailand.</p> <p>Cooked poultry (chicken, duck) from Thailand & China. Nicarbazin detected in cooked chicken.</p>

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Poultry	<i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i> <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Raw poultry, minced meat, meat products and meat preparations intended to be eaten cooked, including salted/marinated chicken from Brazil, Thailand, Ukraine (but not for <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>).
Low	Poultry	<i>Lead</i> / <i>Cadmium</i>	Meat and offal – maximum levels in place.
Low	Poultry	<i>Dioxins/PCBs</i>	Chicken liver is very low risk.

Swine

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Swine	<i>Veterinary medicine residues:</i> <i>Nitrofurans, chloramphenicol and other antimicrobials.</i> <i>Beta-agonists (particularly ractopamine)</i>	Hog casings, from China in particular. USA in particular but also other countries use ractopamine in pork production. Samples from Mexico for clenbuterol.
High	Swine	<i>Salmonella</i> (screen for AMR where possible), <i>E. coli</i> (screen for AMR where possible), <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , <i>Yersinia</i>	Ready-to-eat minced meat, meat products. Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.
High	Swine	<i>Salmonella</i> (screen for AMR where possible), <i>E. coli</i> (screen for AMR where possible), <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , <i>Yersinia</i>	Raw meat to be cooked, minced meat and meat preparations intended to be eaten cooked. Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.
Low	Swine	<i>Lead</i> / <i>Cadmium</i>	Meat and offal – maximum levels in place.
Low	Swine	<i>BaP</i> (Benzo(a)pyrene), <i>PAH</i> (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)	Smoked pork meat products (sausage, bacon), also including cooked smoked sausage products. Raw meats are not susceptible to BaP contamination.
Low	Swine	<i>Dioxins/PCBs</i>	Lower limits apply than for beef and lamb, so there is a higher risk of non-compliance than other meats.

Bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
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High	Bivalves, echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods	<i>Salmonella, E. coli, Vibrio</i>	<p>Live bivalve molluscs and live echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods. Include AMR of pathogens, in particular resistance to front-line clinically relevant drugs.</p> <p>Pathogenic vibrio such as <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> and <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>, particularly in live bivalve shellfish.</p> <p>Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.</p>
High	Bivalves, echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods	<i>Salmonella, Vibrio, Listeria monocytogenes</i>	<p>Cooked molluscan shellfish. Include AMR of pathogens, in particular resistance to front-line clinically relevant drugs.</p> <p>Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.</p>
Medium	Bivalves, echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods	<i>Veterinary medicine residues</i>	Test for nitrofurans in live bivalve molluscs.
Medium	Bivalves, echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods	<i>Biotoxins – PSP, ASP, Lipophilic toxins including DSP</i>	<p>Live bivalve molluscs and live echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods.</p> <p>With PSP (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning) being potentially fatal, priority ranking could be increased to High priority for areas where PSP events are recurrent.</p>
Low	Bivalves, echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods	<i>Norovirus and Hepatitis A virus</i>	Norovirus and hepatitis A virus may pose a risk, particularly in live bivalve shellfish (not intended to be cooked) such as oysters. Whilst the risk exists in imported shellfish, there are at present no agreed limits or legislation in place. As a result, there would be no requirement for action on products found to contain such a hazard.
Low	Bivalves, echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods	<i>Heavy metals: lead, cadmium, mercury (incl. methylmercury), BaP and PAH, Dioxins/PCBs</i>	<p>Live bivalve molluscs and live echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods.</p> <p>Bivalve shellfish are prone to PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) contamination.</p>

Fish products and crustaceans

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Salmonella, Vibrio, Listeria monocytogenes</i>	<p>Cooked crustaceans. Include AMR of pathogens, in particular resistance to front-line clinically relevant drugs.</p> <p>Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.</p>
High	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	<p>Smoked fish (e.g. salmon, haddock, kippers, etc.) or cured fish intended to be eaten as bought.</p> <p>Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.</p>

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Veterinary medicine residues</i>	Crustaceans: test for chloramphenicol, sulphonamides, nitrofurans and antimicrobials. Aquaculture/farmed products, particularly from Vietnam, India and Bangladesh, and to a lesser extent China: test for antimicrobials (including trimethoprim, macrolides), and dyes (e.g. malachite green and crystal violet and their metabolites). Aquaculture from South Korea for antibiotics, with a focus on ciprofloxacin and enrofloxacin.
Medium	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Cadmium</i>	Checks should include molluscs, cephalopods and sardines. Crustaceans (white meat only) and muscle meat of fish would be low priority.
Medium	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Mercury (total mercury and methylmercury)</i>	Mercury accumulates in all fish, particularly larger predatory oily fish. RASFF reports are common in imports from Asia / Indonesia, so priority should be considered for species from those areas.
Medium	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Histamine</i>	In tuna, and other fishery products from fish species associated with a high amount of histidine.
Medium	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Lead</i>	Checks should include cephalopods. Maximum levels exist for muscle meat in fish, crustaceans (white meat only).
Medium	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Irradiation</i>	In dried fish.
Low	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Aflatoxins</i>	Smoked/dried fish powder from west African countries, e.g. Bonga powder.
Low	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Imitation crab claws from India. These are ready-to-cook (and not ready-to-eat).
Low	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Nematode parasites</i>	Parasitic infestation in wild-caught fresh fish only.
Low	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>BaP (Benzo(a)pyrene)</i> , <i>PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)</i>	Dried/smoked fish and fishery products. Does not apply to fresh fish, crustaceans or cephalopods.
Low	Fish products and crustaceans	<i>Dioxins/ PCBs</i>	Oily fish only. Fish liver – limits set at a level that would indicate a moderate rate of non-compliance but rarely consumed in UK.

Eggs

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Medium	Eggs	<i>Veterinary medicine residues</i>	Test for antimicrobials and coccidiostats, including eggs from Albania.

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Medium	Eggs	<i>Dioxins/ PCBs</i>	Limits apply only to hen eggs and hen egg products. Free range/organic eggs in particular are known to accumulate dioxins.
Medium	Eggs	<i>Salmonella</i>	Ready-to-eat foods and egg products containing raw egg, excluding products where the manufacturing process or the composition of the product will eliminate the <i>Salmonella</i> risk.

Milk and milk products

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Milk and milk products	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i> STEC	Cheeses, butter, and cream made from raw milk, or milk that may have undergone a lower heat treatment than pasteurisation.
Medium	Milk and milk products	<i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Listeria</i> , <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> (as a marker for <i>Cronobacter</i> as per (AEUL) 2073/2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dried infant formulae and dried dietary foods for special medical purposes intended for infants below six months of age. Dried follow-on formulae.
Medium	Milk and milk products	<i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk powder and whey powder. Ice cream containing milk ingredients, excluding products where the manufacturing process or the composition of the product will eliminate the <i>salmonella</i> risk.
Medium	Milk and milk products	<i>Veterinary medicine residues</i>	Bovine milk antimicrobials (including compounds with human safety risk like Tilimicosin), steroids, particularly from Colombia (including Oestradiol or Estradiol), as well as NSAIDs such as Diclofenac and Meloxicam, and the inclusion of Permethrin under the existing vet med panel.
Low	Milk and milk products	<i>Staphylococcal enterotoxins</i> (to be carried out on samples with coagulase positive <i>Staphylococci</i> test results greater than 105 cfu/g)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheeses made from raw milk. Cheeses made from milk that has undergone a lower heat treatment than pasteurisation. Ripened cheeses made from milk or whey that has undergone pasteurisation or a stronger heat treatment. Unripened soft cheeses (fresh cheeses) made from milk or whey that has undergone pasteurisation or a stronger heat treatment.
Low	Milk and milk products	<i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i> , now renamed <i>Cronobacter</i> spp, see assimilated EU law (AEUL) 2073/2005	Dried infant formulae and dried dietary foods for special medical purposes intended for infants below six months of age.
Low	Milk and milk products	<i>Aflatoxin M1</i>	Raw milk, heat treated milk and milk for the manufacture of milk-based products. Infant formulae and follow-on formulae, including infant milk and follow-on milk.

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Low	Milk and milk products	<i>Lead / Cadmium</i>	Milk and milk products, including infant formula and follow on formula.
Low	Milk and milk products	<i>Glycidyl esters (GE), 3-MCPD esters</i>	Infant formula and follow on formula. Note: there are no MLs for 3-MCPD esters for infant formula and follow-on formula in GB assimilated EU law (AEUL).

Equine

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Medium	Equine	<i>Veterinary medicine residues</i>	Testing for Phenylbutazone (Bute), targeted to equines from Mexico and South America in general.
Medium	Equine	<i>Salmonella</i>	Ready-to-eat minced meat, meat products and meat preparations intended to be eaten raw.
Low	Equine	<i>Salmonella</i>	Minced meat and meat preparations intended to be eaten cooked.
Low	Equine	<i>Lead / Cadmium</i>	Include offal (kidney and liver).

Animal fats and marine oils

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Low	Animal fats and marine oils	<i>Dioxins/ PCBs</i>	Animal fats and marine oils are included in Regulation (EC) 1881/2006 as amended, and UK assimilated legislation. Limits are as for the source animal except for mixed animal fat, which may be at higher risk of non-compliance because the limits are lower than those for beef/lamb/poultry fat.
Low	Animal fats and marine oils	<i>Glycidyl esters (GE), 3-MCPD esters</i>	Fish oils, marine oils. Note: GB assimilated EU law (AEUL) have GE MLs for fish oils, but not marine oils/animal fats; EU and NI regulations extend to other marine organisms. There are no MLs for 3-MCPD esters for this group in GB AEUL, although there are in EU & NI regulations.

(Processed) animal protein products

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Low	(Processed) Animal and marine protein products	<i>Salmonella</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gelatine and collagen (Microbiological criterion 1.10 in Annex I of Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 specifically gelatine, and UK assimilated legislation). Supplements glucosamine/chondroitin if there are suspicions (subject to laboratory availability).

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Low	(Processed) Animal and marine protein products	<i>Heavy metals:</i> <i>lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium, arsenic, copper, zinc, hydrogen peroxide</i>	Gelatine (and collagen) if there are suspicions (subject to laboratory availability).

Honey

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Medium	Honey	<i>Veterinary medicine residues:</i> <i>antimicrobials (including Chloramphenicol, Nitrofurans);</i> <i>antiparasitic agents (including Amitraz, Coumatofos)</i>	Honey from China, and from African countries. Honey from Madagascar for nitrofurans metabolite semicarbazide. Results should be checked for compliance with pharmacologically active substance MRLs as set under Regulation (EC) 37/2010 as amended, and UK assimilated legislation. Care should be taken when reporting these results to make clear the legislation or other basis for sampling. Note: The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), is responsible for the animal health aspects of imports of honey - See more at: https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/importing-products-of-animal-origin-poac
Medium	Honey	<i>Pesticide residues</i>	Honey from China, and from African countries. Sampling for pesticides should be in line with EC Directive 2002/63, and UK assimilated legislation. Analysis should be in line with SANTE/12682/2019 or its replacement, and UK assimilated legislation. In Northern Ireland analysis should be by a NI or EU official laboratory. GB results should be checked for compliance with GB pesticide MRLs as set in the GB MRL statutory register. This is also the case for goods entering NI from GB via the NI Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS). Non-NIRMS goods in NI should be assessed for compliance with EU pesticide MRLs. Care should be taken when reporting these results to make clear the legislation or other basis for sampling.

Pet food

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Pet food (including frozen)	<i>Lead</i>	Pet food made from game meat – maximum levels in place.
High	Animal by- products to be used as animal feed	<i>Salmonella</i>	Raw frozen feeder mice and rats intended to be used as animal feed. Raw frozen chicks from Ukraine.

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Pet food (including frozen)	<i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>STEC</i> , <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> , <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> and <i>Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)</i> where possible (<i>Colistin resistance</i> , <i>Carbapenem-resistance</i> , <i>ESBL</i>)	Raw pet food. Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.
Medium	Pet food (including frozen)	<i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> and <i>Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)</i> where possible (<i>Colistin resistance</i> , <i>Carbapenem-resistance</i> , <i>ESBL</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cat and dog food to be tested for pathogens, indicator bacteria and AMR. Dog chews, particularly from China, India & Türkiye. Mealworms from China. Note: if testing for AMR, please store relevant isolates on agar slopes and then test them all together at the end of the NMP period, or in two batches throughout the year.
Medium	Pet food (including frozen)	<i>Veterinary medicine residues</i>	Chicken or duck fillet.

Part 2: National Monitoring Plan (NMP) – Imported FNAO (food not of animal origin) sampling priorities for April 2024 to March 2025

Nuts and seeds products

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Nuts and seeds products	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Potentially ready-to-eat commodities: tahini and halva from various countries, particularly from Türkiye and Israel.
High	Nuts and seeds products	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>Salmonella</i>	Potentially ready-to-eat commodities: nut spreads, sesame seeds, cumin seeds.
High	Nuts and seeds products	<i>Aflatoxins</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almonds (including ground/flour) particularly from Australia and USA. Groundnuts (including spreads/flour) particularly from Türkiye and Paraguay; kuli kuli (peanut product) particularly from Ghana and Nigeria, suya mix (peanut powder) particularly from Nigeria. Brazil nuts. Pistachios particularly from USA (also imported via Türkiye). Hazelnuts, walnuts, other tree nuts and mixed nuts, nut spreads and butters. Melon seeds (egusi) particularly from Ghana (seed or ground), chia seeds. Ogbono (African melon seed).
Medium	Nuts and seeds products	<i>Pesticide residues</i> *	Cumin seeds (including ground/powder), particularly from Türkiye.
Medium	Nuts and seeds products	<i>Cyanide (hydrocyanic acid)</i>	Apricot kernels.

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Low	Nuts and seeds products	<i>Pesticide residues*</i>	Dried mung beans.

Herbs and spices

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Herbs and spices	<i>Salmonella, Shiga toxin producing E. coli (STEC), Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Potentially ready-to-eat commodities: paan (betel) leaves, coriander leaves and other herbs (fresh or dried).
High	Herbs and spices	<i>Salmonella, E. coli</i>	Potentially ready-to-eat commodities: pepper (black, pink & white), paprika powder, chilli powder, spice mixtures.
High	Herbs and spices	<i>Aflatoxins</i>	Nutmeg (whole and ground), paprika powder, chilli powder.
High	Herbs and spices	<i>Sudan dyes</i>	Ground turmeric from Bangladesh, crushed pepper from China, paprika powder from Russia, spices and sumac from Türkiye.
Medium	Herbs and spices	<i>Undeclared allergens, colours/dyes or sulphites</i>	Spice mixtures, curry powder, garlic powder.
Medium	Herbs and spices	<i>Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs)</i>	Cumin and oregano, from various countries, including Türkiye (EU/NI controlled since Dec 2021).
Medium	Herbs and spices	<i>Pesticide residues*</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dried spices: ground ginger, ground coriander, paprika powder, chilli powder. • Fresh ginger, coriander roots and leaves. • Dried herbs, particularly from India. • Fresh herbs (including basil and mint), particularly from Cambodia. • Gotukola from Sri Lanka. • Vanilla from India, vanilla extract from USA.
Low	Herbs and spices	<i>Benzo(a)pyrene (BaP)</i>	Ginger; oregano.

Fruit and vegetables

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
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High	Fruit and vegetables	<i>Salmonella, E. coli, Shiga toxin producing E. coli (STEC), Listeria monocytogenes</i>	<p>Potentially ready-to-eat commodities: peppers (sweet or bell), salad leaves, prepared fresh vegetables; enoki mushrooms particularly from Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, fresh coconut.</p> <p>Sprouts: all bean sprouts, alfalfa sprouts, other sprouted seeds.</p> <p>Melons (including cantaloupe) particularly from Brazil and Mexico.</p> <p>Raisins (dried grapes) particularly from Türkiye, dried dates.</p>
High	Fruit and vegetables	<i>Aflatoxins</i>	Dried figs, chilli peppers (fresh or dried).
Medium	Fruit and vegetables	<i>Pesticide residues*</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dried beans particularly from Ghana. • Fresh beans, yardlong beans particularly from Sri Lanka. • Okra; peppers (sweet or bell); spinach. • Chilli peppers (peppers of genus Capsicum, other than sweet) from Rwanda, and Uganda (fresh or dried), particularly for clothianidin. • Fresh sprouts (including from mung beans). • Tomatoes from Türkiye; spring onions and carrots from Egypt. • Aubergines/eggplants (Solanum aethiopicum) from Burkina Faso. • Seem beans, helmet beans from Bangladesh. • Dried bean flour from Nigeria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vine fruits/raisins, pomegranates, mangoes (fresh or dried) particularly from Brazil. Apples and guava from India. Prepared fresh fruit, dried dates. • Citrus fruit particularly from Egypt. • Granadilla (Passiflora ligularis) and passion fruit (Passiflora edulis), particularly from Colombia and Thailand. • Sugar apples (Annona squamosa) from Egypt. • Green papaya (Carica papaya) from Mexico and Brazil. • Pineapples from Ghana. • Dragon fruit (pitahaya) from Thailand. • Pears from China and Türkiye. • Strawberries from Egypt. • Grapes (white, seedless) from Türkiye. • Durian from Vietnam.
Medium	Fruit and vegetables	<i>Norovirus / Hepatitis A virus</i>	Frozen sweetcorn, frozen raspberries, other small fruit and berries.
Medium	Fruit and vegetables	<i>Ochratoxin A</i>	Vine fruits/raisins particularly from Uzbekistan; dried figs and mulberries particularly from Türkiye; soya beans.
Low	Fruit and vegetables	<i>Cadmium</i>	Avocados and asparagus, particularly from Peru.

Low	Fruit and vegetables	<i>Undeclared sulphites</i>	Dried apricots, dried dates, other dried or candied/mixed fruits. Coconut (desiccated, dried, flour).
Low	Fruit and vegetables	<i>Iodine</i>	Seaweed and kelp (from China, Japan & Korea).

Grain products

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Medium	Grain products	<i>Aflatoxins</i>	Banku mix (made from fermented corn flour) from Ghana.
Medium	Grain products	<i>Sudan dyes</i>	Couscous from Lebanon; Fufu flour from Ghana.
Low	Grain products	<i>Non-permitted colours</i>	Fruit bars and breakfast cereals from USA.

Other FNAO products

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
High	Edible oils	<i>Sudan dyes</i>	Palm oil, particularly from Ivory Coast and Nigeria.
Medium	Edible oils	<i>3-MPCD and PAH (Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)</i>	Palm oil, other edible oils.
Medium	Tea	<i>Pesticide residues*</i>	Tea leaves (<i>Camellia sinensis</i>), especially from India.
Medium	Food additives	<i>Pesticide residues*: ethylene oxide</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xanthan gum from China. • Guar gum/locust bean gum from India. • Sauces; mixed condiments and seasonings; mustard flours and meals and prepared mustard from India. • Calcium carbonate from India. • Mixtures of food additives containing locust bean gum from Malaysia and Türkiye.
Medium	Confectionery	<i>Non-permitted thickening / gelling additives: konjac (choking hazard)</i>	Boba balls for bubble tea and Boba jellies from China and Taiwan.
Low	Confectionery	<i>Non-permitted colours</i>	From USA, China, Japan, Brazil and Colombia. Erythrosine in tapioca balls.
Low	Soft drinks	<i>Non-permitted colours</i>	Fizzy drinks: Fanta and Smoov Chapman from Ghana and Nigeria.
Low	Soft drinks	<i>Non-permitted preservatives (benzoic acid)</i>	Soft drinks from Nigeria, Ghana, and USA.
Low	Wine	<i>Undeclared sulphites</i>	Wine.

Priority Ranking	Product Category	Hazard	Specific sampling guidance
Low	Food supplements	<i>Pesticide residues</i> *: <i>ethylene oxide</i>	Various food supplements from India.

* Sampling for pesticides should be in line with EC Directive 2002/63, and UK assimilated legislation. Analysis should be in line with SANTE/12682/2019 or its replacement, and UK assimilated legislation. In Northern Ireland analysis should be by a NI or EU official laboratory. GB results should be checked for compliance with GB pesticide MRLs as set in the GB MRL statutory register. This is also the case for goods entering NI from GB via the NI Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS). Non-NIRMS goods in NI should be assessed for compliance with EU pesticide MRLs. Care should be taken when reporting these results to make clear the legislation or other basis for sampling.