OCTOBER EDITION 2025

FOR CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS

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NEWSLETTER

Stricter Monitoring!!

"Beware of Cs-137: Radioactive Findings in Spices & Mitigation Strategies""

The first officially recorded finding of radioactive Cs-137 in Indonesian food products occurred in August 2025, when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) detected the presence of radioactive isotope Cesium-137 in frozen breaded shrimp imported from Indonesia. The issue later expanded to spice commodities, after the FDA halted imports of Indonesian cloves following the detection of Cs-137 traces in one of the tested samples.



Chronology

- August 14, 2025: The FDA issued a report on the detection of Cs-137 in frozen shrimp from an Indonesian seafood company. The measured level was about 68 Bq/kg—well below the intervention threshold (1,200 Bq/kg)—but sufficient to trigger an import detention for shrimp and potentially other seafood products.
- Late August to September 2025: FDA investigations revealed further findings, not only in shrimp but also in spices such as cloves, cinnamon, and nutmeg from other Indonesian exporters.
- October 2025: The FDA detected Cs-137 in cloves at 732.43 Bq/kg. Although still below the FDA intervention threshold (1,200 Bq/kg), the level was high enough to justify halting imports of spices and seasonings from Indonesia.

What are Cs-137 and Cs-134?

Cs-137 (Cesium-137) and Cs-134 (Cesium-134) are radioactive isotopes generated from nuclear fission or reactor activities. Cs-137 has a half-life of approximately 30 years and emits both beta and gamma radiation. Because of its long half-life, Cs-137 residues may persist in the environment for decades once released.

Why did the FDA act even though the levels were below the intervention threshold?

The FDA treated this as a precautionary measure. While the levels found were well below the limit (1,200 Bq/kg), the abnormal presence of Cs-137 indicated an underlying problem (process, facility, or supply chain). Moreover, prolonged low-level exposure (cumulative) may pose risks, especially if combined with other sources (food, environment, medical procedures). Product detention, recall, or import alerts are therefore intended to prevent potentially contaminated products from reaching consumers and expanding exposure.


Why is testing important?

Testing for Cs-134 / Cs-137 in food, water, soil, or industrial waste is crucial to ensure human and environmental safety, and to determine appropriate decontamination measures when levels exceed safe thresholds

Do you require Cs-137 and Cs-134 testing?

To support mitigation strategies and strengthen laboratory capacity in Indonesia, Eurofins Angler Biochemlab offers rapid and validated testing for Cs-137, Cs-134, and Iodine, providing clients with confidence to move forward in the export process.

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