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Qatar intensifies monitoring of local markets to ensure food safety

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The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in Qatar has increased surveillance of local markets to ensure the safety of imported and domestically traded foods. In the first half of 2024, the Ministry inspected 60,520 shipments of imported food to verify their safety and compliance with technical standards. Of the total volume of imported food inspected, which was 1,168,695,000 kilograms, 985,676 kilograms of non-compliant food were destroyed, and 211 shipments were re-exported.

The Food Safety Department at the Ministry issued 155 export and re-export certificates, 104 food destruction certificates, and 48 food re-inspection certificates during the same period. The Ministry also registered 1,279 food producers and issued 1,734 certificates to food handlers, while granting 766 food handler permits.

The Ministry inspected 3,221 local food establishments to ensure compliance with relevant laws, standards, and technical requirements. A total of 7,022 samples from imported foods and 10,064 samples from local food establishments were analysed for safety and quality. Lastly, the Ministry responded to 181 public inquiries and complaints about food safety received through the health sector's hotline number 16000.