

RAPID ALERT SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND FEED

The legal basis of the system is Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (O.J. No L 31 of 1 February 2002).

The purpose of the rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF) is to provide the control authorities with an effective tool for exchange of information on measures taken to ensure food safety.

To assist the members of the network, information is classified under two different headings :

• ALERT NOTIFICATIONS

Alert notifications are sent when the food or feed presenting the risk is on the market and when immediate action is required. Alerts are triggered by the Member State that detects the problem and has initiated the relevant measures, such as withdrawal/recall. The notification aims at giving all the members of the network the information to verify whether the concerned product is on their market, so that they also can take the necessary measures.

Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market. The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if necessary.

• INFORMATION NOTIFICATIONS

Information notifications concern a food or feed for which a risk has been identified, but for which the other members of the network do not have to take immediate action, because the product has not reached their market. These notifications mostly concern food and feed consignments that have been tested and rejected at the external borders of the EU.

Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an information notification have not reached the market or that all necessary measures have already been taken.

The Commission publishes a weekly overview of alert and information notifications. As it is necessary to strike the balance between openness and the protection of commercial information, the trade names and the identity of individual companies are not published. This is not detrimental to consumer protection, as a RASFF notification implies that measures have been or are in the process of being taken.

The public must be aware that the Commission is not in a position to release more information other than that published here. However, in exceptional circumstances where the protection of human health requires greater transparency, the Commission takes the appropriate action through its usual communication channels.

The Commission informs the authorities of third countries of notifications concerning products manufactured in, distributed to or dispatched from these countries. However, the fact that a country is mentioned as the origin of a product does not necessarily imply that the identified hazard(s) originated in the country concerned.

Week 2007/1

TABLE 1: ALERT NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications in blue typeface concern feed, all other notifications concern food.

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
04/01/2007	Slovak Republic	2007.0001	ochratoxin A in instant coffee	CZECH REPUBLIC
04/01/2007	Estonia	2007.0002	too high content of E 200 - sorbic acid in dried prunes	CHILE
04/01/2007	Germany	2007.0003	fumonisin in gluten-free maize spaghetti	ITALY
04/01/2007	Denmark	2007.0004	Salmonella typhimurium DT 104 in frozen pork loinribs	GERMANY
05/01/2007	Denmark	2007.0005	Salmonella enteritidis phage type 4 in frozen chicken breast fillet	FRANCE
05/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.0006	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in peppers	SPAIN

TABLE 2: INFORMATION NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications in blue typeface concern feed, all other notifications concern food.

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
03/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AAA	benzo(a)pyrene in frozen smoked dried catfish	THAILAND
03/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AAB	benzo(a)pyrene in frozen smoked pangash fish	THAILAND
03/01/2007	Spain	2007.AAC	unauthorised colour Rhodamine B in curry powder	INDIA
03/01/2007	France	2007.AAD	aflatoxins in hazelnuts	TURKEY
03/01/2007	France	2007.AAE	aflatoxins in roasted ground hazelnuts	TURKEY
03/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AAF	aflatoxins in ogbono	NIGERIA
03/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AAG	aflatoxins in melon seeds	NIGERIA
03/01/2007	Italy	2007.AAH	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
03/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AAI	cadmium in frozen pangas (Pterogymnus Laniarius)	SOUTH AFRICA
03/01/2007	Norway	2007.AAJ	aflatoxins in roasted pistachios	TURKEY
03/01/2007	Italy	2007.AAK	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
03/01/2007	Norway	2007.AAL	histamine and mercury in vacuum packed sashimi tuna fillets	INDONESIA VIA THE NETHERLANDS
03/01/2007	Norway	2007.AAM	Salmonella Rubislaw in fresh coriander	THAILAND
03/01/2007	Norway	2007.AAN	Salmonella Augustenborg in Thai basil and Salmonella paratyphi b in rice paddy herb	THAILAND
03/01/2007	Cyprus	2007.AAO	aflatoxins in groundnuts in shell	EGYPT
04/01/2007	Poland	2007.AAQ	absence of health certificate(s) for sweets containing pistachio	IRAN
04/01/2007	Greece	2007.AAR	cadmium in monocalcium phosphate	TURKEY
04/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AAS	aflatoxins in crushed chilli	INDIA
04/01/2007	Estonia	2007.AAT	best before date exceeded of frozen Atlantic salmon	CHILE

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
04/01/2007	Austria	2007.AAU	aflatoxins in roasted mixed nuts	TURKEY
04/01/2007	Lithuania	2007.AAV	heptachlor and hexachlorobenzene in sweets	UKRAINE
04/01/2007	Germany	2007.AAW	import for direct consumption of peanuts with shell to be subjected to sorting	CHINA
04/01/2007	Estonia	2007.AAX	too high content of sulphite in crabapples	CHINA VIA LATVIA
05/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AAY	aflatoxins in peanuts	THAILAND
05/01/2007	Hungary	2007.AAZ	fraud - expiry dates changed of canned fish products	POLAND
05/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ABA	unauthorised substance nitrofuran (metabolite) - nitrofurazone (SEM) in warm water prawns	THAILAND
05/01/2007	Austria	2007.ABB	suspicion of Salmonella in sesame seeds	INDIA
05/01/2007	Spain	2007.ABC	unauthorised establishment for clams	SPAIN

TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	CORRIGENDUM:
05/01/2007	add01	2006.0914	51	The tableware was made in China.

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
03/01/2007	add01	2006.BMH	26	Following favourable counter analysis this notification is hereby withdrawn.