

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2007/2

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:
08/01/2007	Germany	2007.0007	too high content of coumarin in cinnamon capsules	GERMANY
08/01/2007	Italy	2007.0008	mercury in frozen blue shark (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)	SPAIN
08/01/2007	Germany	2007.0009	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins in canned mussels	SPAIN
08/01/2007	Germany	2007.0010	too high content of coumarin in cereal chips with cinnamon	GERMANY
08/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.0011	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in smooth duck liver mousse	BELGIUM
09/01/2007	Norway	2007.0012	glass fragments in chocolate bar	THE NETHERLANDS
09/01/2007	France	2007.0013	sausages unfit for human consumption	FRANCE
09/01/2007	Czech Republic	2007.0014	benzo(a)pyrene in pumpkin seed oil	CZECH REPUBLIC
10/01/2007	Hungary	2007.0015	aflatoxins in fig bread with almond	SPAIN
11/01/2007	Lithuania	2007.0016	infestation with larvae of insects of sweets	LATVIA
11/01/2007	Lithuania	2007.0017	infestation with larvae of insects of fresh grapefruits (pomelo)	CHINA VIA THE NETHERLANDS
11/01/2007	Italy	2007.0018	too high content of sulphite in frozen precooked shrimp (<i>Penaeus vannamei</i>)	FRANCE
12/01/2007	Portugal	2007.0019	cadmium in frozen cuttlefish	INDIA
12/01/2007	Finland	2007.0020	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in sweet peppers	SPAIN
12/01/2007	Malta	2007.0021	norovirus in raw oysters	FRANCE VIA ITALY
12/01/2007	Finland	2007.0022	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in sweet peppers	SPAIN
12/01/2007	Finland	2007.0023	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in sweet peppers	SPAIN
12/01/2007	Finland	2007.0024	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in sweet peppers	SPAIN
12/01/2007	Finland	2007.0025	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in sweet peppers	SPAIN
12/01/2007	Italy	2007.0026	mercury in porbeagle (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>)	SPAIN
12/01/2007	Italy	2007.0027	mercury in porbeagle (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>)	SPAIN
12/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.0028	Salmonella in water cress, spinach and rocket salad	UNITED KINGDOM

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:
08/01/2007	Germany	2007.ABD	Salmonella group D in spice mixture	GERMANY
08/01/2007	Belgium	2007.ABE	illegal import of meat products	CHINA

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
08/01/2007	Germany	2007.ABF	aflatoxins in sweet apricot kernels	TURKEY
08/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ABG	histamine in dried anchovy	MALAYSIA
08/01/2007	Spain	2007.ABH	botulinum toxin in canned artichoke hearts	PERU
08/01/2007	Italy	2007.ABI	Salmonella Hadar in live mussels	SPAIN
09/01/2007	Spain	2007.ABJ	unauthorised colour Sudan 1 in turmeric powder	SYRIA
09/01/2007	Italy	2007.ABK	unauthorised substance nitrofurantoin (metabolite) - nitrofurazone (SEM) in dried hog casing	CHINA
09/01/2007	Italy	2007.ABL	aflatoxins in almonds without shell (Prunus dulcis)	THE UNITED STATES
09/01/2007	Italy	2007.ABM	aflatoxins in pistachio kernels	TURKEY
09/01/2007	Greece	2007.ABN	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid and of E 200 - sorbic acid in mustard	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
09/01/2007	Italy	2007.ABO	mercury in frozen shark (Isurus oxyrinchus)	SOUTH AFRICA
10/01/2007	Poland	2007.ABP	mould infestation of dried figs	TURKEY
10/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ABQ	unauthorised substance chloramphenicol in frozen raw prawns (Macrobrachium rosenbergii)	MYANMAR
10/01/2007	Finland	2007.ABR	Salmonella Hvittingfoss in fresh water spinach	THAILAND
10/01/2007	Finland	2007.ABS	Salmonella Hvittingfoss in fresh water spinach	THAILAND
10/01/2007	Norway	2007.ABT	aflatoxins in blanched groundnut kernels	ARGENTINA
10/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ABU	aflatoxins in kebab powder	NIGERIA
10/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ABV	residue level above MRL for enrofloxacin in frozen tilapia	THAILAND
11/01/2007	Finland	2007.ABW	Salmonella Senftenberg in rabbit food	CANADA
11/01/2007	Finland	2007.ABX	Salmonella Hvittingfoss in fresh water spinach	THAILAND
11/01/2007	France	2007.ABY	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
11/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ABZ	monocrotophos in fresh yard long bean	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
11/01/2007	Luxembourg	2007.ACA	bad hygienic state of and too high content of nitrate in ritual water from Mekka	SAUDI ARABIA
11/01/2007	Norway	2007.ACB	Escherichia coli and Salmonella Hvittingfoss in fresh Acacia	THAILAND
11/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ACC	unauthorised substance tylosin in honey	ARGENTINA
12/01/2007	Belgium	2007.ACD	mercury in frozen boneless grouper (Epinephelus areolatus)	INDONESIA
12/01/2007	Italy	2007.ACE	aflatoxins in peanuts with shell	EGYPT
12/01/2007	Italy	2007.ACF	aflatoxins in groundnut in shell	EGYPT
12/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ACG	aflatoxins in roasted pistachio nuts	LEBANON
12/01/2007	Italy	2007.ACH	aflatoxins in peanuts with shell	EGYPT
12/01/2007	Latvia	2007.ACI	unauthorised substance nitrofurantoin (metabolite) - furazolidone (AOZ) in natural bee honey	UKRAINE
12/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ACJ	aflatoxins in mixed kernels	LEBANON
12/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ACK	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts	LEBANON
12/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ACL	aflatoxins in extra hot chilli powder	INDIA
12/01/2007	Greece	2007.ACM	too high level of total migration from water flask	CHINA
12/01/2007	Germany	2007.ACN	aflatoxins in peanuts with shell	CHINA

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
12/01/2007	Italy	2007.ACO	aflatoxins in groundnut in shell	CHINA
12/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ACP	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in peppers	SPAIN
12/01/2007	Italy	2007.ACQ	aflatoxins in peanuts in shell	EGYPT
12/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ACR	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in mixed peppers	SPAIN
12/01/2007	United Kingdom	2007.ACS	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in peppers	SPAIN
12/01/2007	The Netherlands	2007.ACT	unauthorised substance chloramphenicol in frozen red shrimps (<i>Solenocera melantho</i>)	CHINA
12/01/2007	The Netherlands	2007.ACU	unauthorised substance nitrofurantolone (metabolite) - furazolidone (AOZ) in frozen white shrimp (<i>Penaeus vannamei</i>)	CHINA
12/01/2007	Spain	2007.ACV	mercury in frozen swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SPAIN
12/01/2007	Czech Republic	2007.ACW	procymidone in fresh spinach	FRANCE

TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	CORRIGENDUM:
10/01/2007	add10	2006.0693	40	Additional 08 is withdrawn and notification 2006.0693 is reinstated. The request for withdrawal by the Danish authorities only related to add02 and add03 covering only the pet food.
08/01/2007	inf01	2007.AAT	1	The notification's title should be amended to: "best before date exceeded of frozen Atlantic salmon".

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
12/01/2007	add02	2006.COS	45	Following the favourable results of counter analysis the notification is withdrawn.