

## **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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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 2007/6

**TABLE 1: ALERT NOTIFICATIONS**

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

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>NOTIFIED BY:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>	<b>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:</b>
05/02/2007	Germany	2007.0089	unauthorised genetically modified rice noodles	VIA THE NETHERLANDS
06/02/2007	Italy	2007.0090	Escherichia coli in live clams (Venus verrucosa)	GREECE
06/02/2007	Finland	2007.0091	irradiation in an unauthorised facility of food supplement	THE UNITED STATES VIA DENMARK
06/02/2007	Austria	2007.0092	foreign body in quinoa	PERU VIA GERMANY
06/02/2007	Italy	2007.0093	rodent in canned string beans	FRANCE
07/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.0094	undeclared shellfish in prepared dish containing prawns	UNITED KINGDOM
07/02/2007	Italy	2007.0095	mercury in smoked swordfish	SPAIN
07/02/2007	Slovenia	2007.0096	metal wire fragments in mixed salted snacks	GERMANY
07/02/2007	Czech Republic	2007.0097	Listeria monocytogenes in sliced smoked salmon	GERMANY
08/02/2007	Belgium	2007.0098	lead in ceramic products	FRANCE
08/02/2007	Germany	2007.0099	unauthorised colour Sudan 1 in ground hot pepper (paprika)	SPAIN
08/02/2007	Belgium	2007.0100	Salmonella spp in light cheese	THE NETHERLANDS
09/02/2007	Hungary	2007.0101	infestation with insects of dried dates	TUNISIA VIA AUSTRIA
09/02/2007	Luxembourg	2007.0102	glass fragments in fruit jam containing 61% figs	BELGIUM
09/02/2007	Italy	2007.0103	lead in frozen swordfish loins	DENMARK
09/02/2007	Greece	2007.0104	undeclared soya in chocolate cookies	BELGIUM
09/02/2007	Belgium	2007.0105	cadmium in marlin steaks (Makaira indica)	VIETNAM
09/02/2007	The Netherlands	2007.0106	triazophos in curry leaves	INDIA

**TABLE 2: INFORMATION NOTIFICATIONS**

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

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>NOTIFIED BY:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>	<b>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:</b>
05/02/2007	Greece	2007.AHX	aflatoxins in pistachio kernels	TURKEY
05/02/2007	Germany	2007.AHY	migration of DEHP - di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate from lids of jars containing dried tomatoes in oil	TURKEY
05/02/2007	Slovak Republic	2007.AHZ	aflatoxins in roasted whole hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
05/02/2007	Slovak Republic	2007.AIA	absence of expiry date on chewing gum	CHINA (HONG KONG)
05/02/2007	Italy	2007.AIB	too high content of sulphite in cooked tropical prawns (Penaeus vannamei)	BRAZIL VIA FRANCE
05/02/2007	France	2007.AIC	unauthorised polysorbates in coconut milk	THAILAND
05/02/2007	Lithuania	2007.AID	frozen sow ears unfit for human consumption	SPAIN

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>NOTIFIED BY:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>	<b>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:</b>
05/02/2007	Italy	2007.AIE	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
05/02/2007	Germany	2007.AIF	Salmonella Indiana in fresh seasoned chicken wings	THE NETHERLANDS
06/02/2007	Cyprus	2007.AIG	aflatoxins in almond kernels	SYRIA
06/02/2007	Cyprus	2007.AIH	aflatoxins in pistachio kernels	SYRIA
06/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AII	aflatoxins in melon seeds	NIGERIA
06/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AIJ	aflatoxins in ground melon seeds	NIGERIA
06/02/2007	Germany	2007.AIK	procimidone in lettuce (lollo bianco)	ITALY
06/02/2007	Italy	2007.AIL	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
06/02/2007	Finland	2007.AIM	unauthorised irradiation of frozen clams	VIETNAM
06/02/2007	Finland	2007.AIN	irradiation in an unauthorised facility of food supplement	THE UNITED STATES
06/02/2007	France	2007.AIO	undeclared sulphite in dried jujubes	CHINA (HONG KONG)
07/02/2007	Malta	2007.AIP	absence of health certificate(s) for corned beef	BRAZIL
07/02/2007	Italy	2007.AIQ	aflatoxins in roasted hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
07/02/2007	Italy	2007.AIR	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts	IRAN
07/02/2007	Slovenia	2007.AIS	unsuitable organoleptic characteristics of minced walnuts	AUSTRIA
07/02/2007	Finland	2007.AIT	Salmonella Schwarzengrund in rabbit food	CANADA
07/02/2007	Sweden	2007.AIU	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts	TURKEY
07/02/2007	Malta	2007.AIV	improper health certificate(s) for chocolate confectionery containing hazelnut	TURKEY
07/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AIW	aflatoxins in peanut butter	ZIMBABWE
07/02/2007	Italy	2007.AIX	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts	IRAN
08/02/2007	Italy	2007.AIY	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts	IRAN
08/02/2007	Greece	2007.AIZ	undeclared soya in curried peas and cheese	INDIA
08/02/2007	Greece	2007.AJA	undeclared soya in curried spinach and cheese	INDIA
08/02/2007	Germany	2007.AJB	aflatoxins in hazelnuts	TURKEY
08/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AJC	unauthorised establishment for prawn chutney powder	INDIA
08/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AJD	unauthorised establishment for fish pickle and prawn pickle	INDIA
08/02/2007	Italy	2007.AJE	aflatoxins in raw hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
08/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AJF	Salmonella in raw holy basil	THAILAND
08/02/2007	Germany	2007.AJG	oxamyl and unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl in red peppers	SPAIN
08/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AJH	aflatoxins in roasted minced hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
09/02/2007	Luxembourg	2007.AJI	microbiological contamination of and too high content of nitrate in 10 L container of Zam Zam water	SAUDI ARABIA
09/02/2007	Luxembourg	2007.AJJ	microbiological contamination of, too high count of coliforms and too high content of nitrate in 10 L container of Zam Zam water	SAUDI ARABIA
09/02/2007	Italy	2007.AJK	too high content of sulphite in pre-cooked tropical prawns (Penaeus vannamei)	BRAZIL VIA FRANCE
09/02/2007	Latvia	2007.AJL	benzo(a)pyrene in unrefined sunflower oil	UKRAINE
09/02/2007	Finland	2007.AJM	semicarbazide (SEM) in honey	ARGENTINA
09/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AJN	aflatoxins in chilli powder gondal	INDIA
09/02/2007	United Kingdom	2007.AJO	aflatoxins in crushed chilli	INDIA

**TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>NOTIFI- CATION:</b>	<b>OF WEEK</b>	<b>CORRIGENDUM:</b>
08/02/2007	inf01	2007.0039	3	The water flask is transferring colour to the food which is not in conformity with Article 3 of 1935/2004. Materials and articles should not transfer substances into food in concentrations that could change unacceptably the composition of the food. Thus the reason for the notification was the migration of the colorant and not a too high total migration

**TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>NOTIFI- CATION:</b>	<b>OF WEEK</b>	<b>REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:</b>
07/02/2007	add01	2007.0067	4	Calculations show that this consignment is, in fact, in compliance with the Regulation. Therefore this notification is withdrawn.