

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, notifications are classified under three different headings¹:

- **ALERT NOTIFICATIONS**

Alert notifications are sent when a food or feed presenting a serious 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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 that was placed on the market 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 or is no longer present on their market or because the nature of the risk does not require any immediate action.

- **BORDER REJECTIONS**

These notifications concern food and feed consignments that have been tested and rejected at the external borders of the EU (and the EEA²) when a health risk was found. The notifications are transmitted to all EEA border posts in order to reinforce controls and to ensure that the rejected product does not re-enter the Community through another border post.

The Commission publishes a weekly overview of RASFF notifications belonging to the above three categories. 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 all required 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

¹ This classification was put in place on 1 January 2008 and differs from the classification used until then.

² European Economic Area

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.

The notifications reported in the weekly overviews published on the European Commission's web site are so-called "original notifications", representing a new case reported on a health risk detected in one or more consignments of a food or feed. On these cases, control authorities are exchanging additional information on measures taken and outcome of investigations. This additional information does not appear in the publicly accessible weekly overviews.

A short explanation about some of the notification tables' columns follows.

The "notification basis" column, appearing in the alert and information notifications tables, indicates what type of control, report or investigation lay at the basis of the notification:

- border control – screening sample: notification initiated through a sample taken at a border post for analysis but the consignment was meanwhile released to the market (“screening sample”);
- official control on the market: official control on the EU (and EEA) internal market;
- company own-check: notification initiated through a company notifying the outcome of an own-check to the competent authority;
- consumer complaint: notification initiated through a consumer lodging a complaint with the competent authority;
- food poisoning outbreak: reports of a food poisoning leading to the notification of a risk in a food on the market that has caused the food poisoning.

The status column is a combination of two values, "distribution status" and "action (to be) taken".

The distribution status indicates knowledge existing **at the time of notification** about the possible distribution of the product on the market. The concept "market" is to be interpreted in a geographical way: "the internal Community market" i.e. this does not necessarily mean that the product is already on the shelves available to consumers, as often it is not.

The action (to be) taken represents the action already taken or to be taken by the notifying country **at the time of notification**. If "no action taken" is given for an **alert** notification, this normally indicates that the product is not on the market of the notifying country (therefore: no action taken by the notifying country) but it may be on the market of other member countries.

Week 2009/10

TABLE 1: ALERT NOTIFICATIONS

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

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
02/03/2009	Italy	2009.0252	melamine (205.8; 47.1 mg/kg - ppm) in dog food from Italy	official control on the market	information on distribution not (yet) available / public warning - press release
02/03/2009	Austria	2009.0255	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt 63) rice noodles from China, via the Netherlands	official control following RASFF notification	distribution on the market (possible)
02/03/2009	Italy	2009.0256	mercury (1.32 mg/kg - ppm) in vacuum packed defrosted swordfish (Xiphias Gladius) from Vietnam, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) seized
04/03/2009	Italy	2009.0262	Listeria monocytogenes (1290 CFU/g) in vacuum packed cuttings of frozen smoked salmon (Salmo salar) from Poland, dispatched from Denmark	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
04/03/2009	Italy	2009.0263	aflatoxins (B1 = 29; Tot. = 32 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled pistachio nuts from Iran, via Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
05/03/2009	the Commission Services	2009.0272	unauthorised colours Sudan 1 (80 mg/kg - ppm) and Sudan 4 (4 mg/kg - ppm) in curry powder from Portugal	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
05/03/2009	the Commission Services	2009.0273	unauthorised colours Sudan 1 (90 mg/kg - ppm) and Sudan 4 (7 mg/kg - ppm) in saffron from Portugal	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
05/03/2009	Germany	2009.0274	migration of DINP - di-isononyl phthalate (282 mg/kg - ppm) from lids of glass jars containing hot bean sauce from Taiwan, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
06/03/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.0275	melamine (3.98 mg/kg - ppm) in oriental mix from China, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
06/03/2009	Ireland	2009.0277	unauthorised colour Sudan 4 (5.1 mg/kg - ppm) in cooking palm oil from Ghana	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
06/03/2009	Germany	2009.0280	aflatoxins (B1 = 16.0; Tot. = 17.9 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted pistachio nuts from Germany, with raw material from the United States	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
06/03/2009	Belgium	2009.0282	prohibited substance nitrofurane (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (7; 5; 9.76 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen shrimps from India	border control - consignment released	distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified
06/03/2009	Italy	2009.0283	too high count of Escherichia coli (790 CFU/100g) in live clams (Venus verrucosa) from Greece	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible)

TABLE 2: INFORMATION NOTIFICATIONS

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

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
02/03/2009	France	2009.0250	mercury (0.979 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh barracuda without skin (Sphaeraena spp) from India	border control - consignment released	product already consumed / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
02/03/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.0251	unauthorised irradiation of food supplement containing ginseng from the United States	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
02/03/2009	Cyprus	2009.0253	too high content of sweetener E 952 - cyclamate (317 mg/kg - ppm) in carbonated drink from Bulgaria	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
02/03/2009	Belgium	2009.0254	prohibited substance nitrofurane (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (13; 10 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen shrimps (Macrobrachium rosenbergii) from Bangladesh	border control - consignment released	no distribution / product (to be) detained
03/03/2009	Germany	2009.0257	unauthorised novel food ingredient Stevia rebaudiana in ginger tea from Vietnam, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
03/03/2009	Germany	2009.0258	unauthorised novel food ingredient Stevia rebaudiana in ginger tea from Vietnam, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
03/03/2009	Germany	2009.0259	carbendazim (0.28 mg/kg - ppm) and oxamyl (0.63 mg/kg - ppm) in green long paprika from Turkey	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
03/03/2009	Poland	2009.0260	Enterobacter sakazakii in infant formulae from Poland	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
03/03/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0261	aflatoxins (B1 = 106 / B1 = 218 / B1 = 27.7 / B1 = 113 / B1 = 136 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts for bird feed from India	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / physical treatment - blanching
04/03/2009	Slovenia	2009.0265	carbendazim (4.2 mg/kg - ppm) in lettuce from Croatia	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / reinforced checking
04/03/2009	Luxembourg	2009.0266	high content of copper (43 mg/kg - ppm) in chicken feed from Belgium	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible)
05/03/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0267	arsenic (5.9 mg/kg - ppm) in food supplement from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
05/03/2009	France	2009.0268	altered organoleptic characteristics (taste of oil) of cheese from Spain	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
05/03/2009	Austria	2009.0269	altered organoleptic characteristics (smell) of organic flaxseed dispatched from Austria contaminated with mouse faeces	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
05/03/2009	Belgium	2009.0270	Salmonella Mbandaka (presence /25g) in soybean pellets from Belgium	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified
05/03/2009	Belgium	2009.0271	Salmonella typhimurium (presence /25g) in chicken meal from Belgium	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified
06/03/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0276	residues of nicarbazin (dinitrocarbanilide: 310 µg/kg - ppb) in chicken liver pate from the Netherlands, via Belgium	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
06/03/2009	Slovenia	2009.0278	migration of formaldehyde (2.9 mg/kg - ppm) from melamine cups from the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
06/03/2009	Italy	2009.0279	mercury (1.27 µg/kg - ppb) in red tuna (Thunnus thynnus) from Spain	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
06/03/2009	Italy	2009.0281	bulging packaging of spicy soy pate from China (Hong Kong)	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
06/03/2009	Poland	2009.0284	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen chicken liver from Hungary	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / physical treatment

TABLE 3: BORDER REJECTIONS

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

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
02/03/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.ALJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 15; Tot. = 19 µg/kg - ppb) in melon seeds from Nigeria	product (to be) destroyed
02/03/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.ALK	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.7; Tot. = 22 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Nigeria	product (to be) destroyed
03/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.ALL	melamine (6.3 mg/kg - ppm) and cyanuric acid (88 mg/kg - ppm) in sun dried Gammarus and koi pellet food from China	product (to be) destroyed
03/03/2009	Finland	2009.ALM	omethoate (0.15 mg/kg - ppm) and dimethoate (0.34 mg/kg - ppm) in aubergines (eggplant) from Thailand	product (to be) destroyed
03/03/2009	Germany	2009.ALN	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.87; Tot. = 6.99 / B1 = 2.27; Tot. = 6.25 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted chopped hazelnuts from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
03/03/2009	Italy	2009.ALO	unauthorised novel food food supplement containing Butea superba from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
03/03/2009	Norway	2009.ALP	Salmonella carrau in frozen beef tenderloins from Argentina	product (to be) redispatched or destroyed
03/03/2009	Spain	2009.ALQ	bad hygienic state of chilled squid from Morocco	product (to be) re-dispatched
03/03/2009	Spain	2009.ALR	aflatoxins (B1 = 10.1; Tot. = 11 / B1 = 24; Tot. = 24 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
03/03/2009	Italy	2009.ALS	deterioration (ferrous powder coming off) of thosai pan from Sri Lanka	product (to be) re-dispatched
04/03/2009	Finland	2009.ALT	tin (224; 221 mg/kg - ppm) in canned pineapple in natural juice from Thailand	product (to be) detained
04/03/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.ALU	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of mini cup jelly from Taiwan	product (to be) redispatched or destroyed
04/03/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.ALV	unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine (73 - 76 mg/kg - ppm) in sugar coated fennel seeds from India	product (to be) destroyed
05/03/2009	Germany	2009.ALW	aflatoxins (B1 = 25.8; Tot. = 28.4 µg/kg - ppb) in sweets from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.ALX	aflatoxins (B1 = 18.3; Tot. = 21.0 / B1 = 63.5; Tot. = 71.7 / B1 = 109; Tot. = 125 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.ALY	aflatoxins (B1 = 92.6; Tot. = 99.2 / B1 = 15.5; Tot. = 17.8 / B1 = 53.4; Tot. = 63.9 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.ALZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.5; Tot. = 4.9 / B1 = 8.8; Tot. = 9.7 / B1 = 1.7; Tot. = 1.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AMA	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.8; Tot. = 5.4 / B1 = 4.1; Tot. = 4.9 / B1 = 15.1; Tot. = 17.5 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AMB	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.5; Tot. = 4.1 / B1 = 0.5; Tot. = 0.9 / B1 = 29.0; Tot. = 31.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AMC	aflatoxins (B1 = 21.0; Tot. = 23.9 / B1 = 4.6; Tot. = 5.1 / B1 = 5.8; Tot. = 6.6 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AMD	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.1; Tot. = 10.7 / B1 = 0.4; Tot. = 0.4 / B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AME	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.6; Tot. = 1.8 / B1 = 23.0; Tot. = 25.4 / B1 = 12.0; Tot. = 13.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AMF	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.7; Tot. = 0.7 / B1 = 2.9; Tot. = 3.1 / B1 = 13.9; Tot. = 15.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AMG	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.0; Tot. = 7.7 / B1 = 18.8; Tot. = 20.2 / B1 = 2.3; Tot. = 2.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AMH	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.5; Tot. = 5.0 / B1 = 0.1; Tot. = 0.1 / B1 = 23.1; Tot. = 25.7 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	destination of the product changed
05/03/2009	Germany	2009.AMI	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.26; Tot. = 59 µg/kg - ppb) in almond brittle from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
05/03/2009	Cyprus	2009.AMJ	high content of DEHP - di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (187.9 mg/kg - ppm) in spring water with added fluoride from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
05/03/2009	Romania	2009.AMK	absence of health certificate(s) for canned tuna fish in vegetable oil from Thailand	product (to be) re-dispatched
06/03/2009	Italy	2009.AML	prophenophos (0.2 mg/kg - ppm) in spring onions (cipollotti) from Egypt	product (to be) re-dispatched
06/03/2009	Austria	2009.AMM	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.36; Tot. = 3.36 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted pistachios from Turkey	product under customs seals
06/03/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.AMN	bad hygienic state of poultry meat from Thailand	product (to be) destroyed
06/03/2009	Italy	2009.AMO	migration of chromium (1.8; 44; 3.6 mg/kg - ppm) and of nickel (0.2 mg/kg - ppm) from stainless steel cutlery set from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
06/03/2009	Germany	2009.AMP	aflatoxins (B1 = 89; Tot. = 95 µg/kg - ppb) in sweets from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
06/03/2009	Poland	2009.AMQ	chlorpyrifos (0.2 mg/kg - ppm), malathion (0.5 mg/kg - ppm), aldicarb (0.05 mg/kg - ppm) and diazinon (0.02 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh cucumbers from Jordan	product (to be) re-dispatched

TABLE 5: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFI- CATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
02/03/2009	add02	2009.0199	8	Enterobacter sakazakii in infant formula from France	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Since the analyses made by the South-Korean veterinary authorities on samples of the baby formula found no trace of Enterobacter sakazakii,- Since the results of self-checking by the producing company and the results of official control undertaken by our service did not show the presence of these same bacteria,- Given the satisfactory result of the inspection of the factory by the supervisory authorities, The French authorities asked that the notification 2009.0199 that they placed on the alert network be withdrawn.
06/03/2009	inf01	2009.ALI	9	Salmonella in dog chews from Brazil	This notification is withdrawn as it is identical to notification 2009.AKE.