

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2008/17

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
21/04/2008	Belgium	2008.0446	traces of peanut (between 6.4 and 36 mg/kg - ppm) in biscuits from the Czech Republic	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
21/04/2008	Estonia	2008.0447	Salmonella Agona in ground sage from Germany	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
21/04/2008	Norway	2008.0448	norovirus in oysters from the United Kingdom	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
21/04/2008	Italy	2008.0449	mercury (2.66 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen swordfish fillets from Singapore	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
21/04/2008	Austria	2008.0450	high content of DEHP - di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (46 %) in baby bottle & bottle cleaning brush from China	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / public warning - press release
22/04/2008	the Slovak Republic	2008.0457	benzo(a)pyrene (7.2 µg/kg - ppb) in smoked sprat paste from Latvia	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
23/04/2008	France	2008.0461	mineral oil (5790 mg/kg - ppm) in sunflower oil destined for refining from Ukraine	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
23/04/2008	Denmark	2008.0462	deoxynivalenol (DON) (2600 µg/kg - ppb) in wheat flour from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
23/04/2008	Belgium	2008.0464	prochloraz (10.34 mg/kg - ppm) in mangos from Costa Rica	border control - screening sample	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
24/04/2008	Austria	2008.0470	pieces of bone and a pig's tooth in homemade aspic from Austria	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / informing recipients

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
24/04/2008	the Slovak Republic	2008.0471	sharp fragments (2 pieces of sharp, hard and clear objects, size 2.5 x 1.5 mm and 5 x 2 mm) in herring fillets in oil from Latvia	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
24/04/2008	Finland	2008.0472	aluminium (foil pieces <2 mm) in thickening powder from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
25/04/2008	Belgium	2008.0476	triadimenol (1.69 mg/kg - ppm) and triadimefon (4.02 mg/kg - ppm) in pineapples from Ecuador	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
25/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0482	Salmonella poona in dill seeds from the United Kingdom	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale

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
21/04/2008	Germany	2008.0445	verotoxin producing Escherichia coli (Genes stx1 & stx2 /25g) in swiss cheese made from raw milk from Switzerland	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumer
21/04/2008	France	2008.0451	prohibited substance chloramphenicol (0.3 µg/kg - ppb) in salted sheep casings from China	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
21/04/2008	Finland	2008.0452	unauthorised irradiation (glow ratio: 1.9; 1.7; 2.0) of herbal extract food supplements from Denmark	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
21/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0453	Salmonella Senftenberg in sesame seeds from India	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumer
22/04/2008	Belgium	2008.0454	methomyl (0.94 mg/kg - ppm) in green grapes from India	consumer complaint	product already consumed / reinforced checking
22/04/2008	Germany	2008.0455	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.2; Tot. = 7.3 µg/kg - ppb) in peanut butter from Canada	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from sale

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
22/04/2008	Finland	2008.0456	unauthorised substance vanadyl sulphate in food supplement from the United States	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / public warning - press release
22/04/2008	Austria	2008.0458	migration of primary aromatic amines (aniline: 0,0635; 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane: 0.726 mg/dm ²) from black plastic egg beater dispatched from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / public warning - press release
22/04/2008	Slovenia	2008.0459	chlormequat (0.76 mg/kg - ppm) in pears from Slovenia	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / public warning - press release
23/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0460	animal protein (terrestrial animal and fish bone fragments and muscle fibres) in wheat feed pellets from Sweden	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
23/04/2008	Latvia	2008.0463	unauthorised and unlabeled irradiation of food supplement from the United States	border control - screening sample	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumer
23/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0465	undeclared celery in mixed vegetable pizza from Germany	company's own check	product past use-by date / public warning - press release
23/04/2008	Austria	2008.0466	migration of primary aromatic amines (aniline: 0.024 mg/dm ²) from nylon kitchen utensils from unknown origin, dispatched from Austria	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / public warning - press release
24/04/2008	Sweden	2008.0467	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of fruit jelly cups containing unauthorised E 406 - agar from Vietnam	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
24/04/2008	Sweden	2008.0468	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of fruit jelly cups from Thailand containing unauthorised E 407 - carrageenan	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / prohibition to trade - sales ban
24/04/2008	Greece	2008.0469	too high content of sulphite (2532 mg/kg - ppm) in whole pitted dried apricots from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumer
25/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0473	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (1 µg/kg - ppb) in chilled head-on scampi (Macrobrachium rosenbergii) from India	border control - screening sample	no stock left / no action taken
25/04/2008	Denmark	2008.0474	metal fragments in Turkish pepper liquorice sweets from Denmark	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
25/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0475	Salmonella in various houmous preparations from the United Kingdom	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
25/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0477	unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine (30 mg/kg - ppm) in orange flavour jelly from Pakistan	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
25/04/2008	Sweden	2008.0478	Salmonella Montevideo in poultry meal from the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
25/04/2008	Poland	2008.0479	inner coating peeling off (precipitating black deposit while cooking water) from whistling kettle from China (Hong Kong)	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
25/04/2008	Slovenia	2008.0480	thiabendazole (0.071 mg/kg - ppm) and diphenylamine (0.016 mg/kg - ppm) in fruit based baby food from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
25/04/2008	Denmark	2008.0481	altered organoleptic characteristics (abnormal taste) of rice snacks from Denmark	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
25/04/2008	Germany	2008.0483	aflatoxins (B1 = 3; Tot. = 3.3 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio kernels from Iran, via Germany	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / informing recipients

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
21/04/2008	Spain	2008.AQF	oxytetracycline (12 µg/kg - ppb) unauthorised in natural honey from Argentina	product (to be) re-dispatched
21/04/2008	France	2008.AQG	unauthorised colour Sudan 4 (76.4; 97 mg/kg - ppm) in palm oil from Senegal, raw material from Guinea	product (to be) re-dispatched
21/04/2008	Poland	2008.AQH	ochratoxin A (17.0 µg/kg - ppb) in raisins from Iran	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
21/04/2008	Poland	2008.AQI	aflatoxins (B1 = 13.12; Tot. = 15.05 / B1 = 7.29; Tot. = 8.09 / B1 = 46.68; Tot. = 55.43 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
21/04/2008	Germany	2008.AQJ	Salmonella Newport in dog chew made from dried bovine stomachs from India	product (to be) re-dispatched
21/04/2008	Italy	2008.AQK	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.3; Tot. = 5.9 / B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 / B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	product (to be) redispached or destroyed

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
21/04/2008	Sweden	2008.AQL	aflatoxins (B1 = 80; Tot. = 88 / B1 = 87; Tot. = 97 / B1 = 30; Tot. = 32 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/04/2008	Poland	2008.AQM	hibiscus flower from Egypt infested with moulds and contaminated with faeces of rodents	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/04/2008	Italy	2008.AQN	Salmonella (present /25g) in sesame seeds from India	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
22/04/2008	Greece	2008.AQO	histamine (314 mg/kg - ppm) in canned mackerel from Thailand	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/04/2008	Italy	2008.AQP	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.8; Tot. = 6.0 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell from Egypt	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
22/04/2008	Italy	2008.AQQ	migration of primary aromatic amines (30 mg/dm ²) from nylon kitchen utensils set from China	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
22/04/2008	Italy	2008.AQR	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.1; Tot. = 4.5 / B1 = 4.1; Tot. = 5.7 / B1 = 2.4; Tot. = 7.1 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/04/2008	Greece	2008.AQT	aflatoxins (B1 = 331; Tot. = 360 / B1 = 616; Tot. = 670 / B1 = 497; Tot. = 534 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios in shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AQU	damaged and bulging packaging of canned corned beef from Brazil infested with larvae	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AQV	aflatoxins (B1 = 58; Tot. = 74 µg/kg - ppb) in kebab powder from Ghana	product (to be) destroyed
22/04/2008	Greece	2008.AQW	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.7; Tot. = 7.8) in dried nuts snack from Turkey	product (to be) detained
22/04/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AQX	aflatoxins (B1 = 10.2 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched peanuts from China	product (to be) detained
22/04/2008	France	2008.AQY	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.1; Tot. = 4.7 / B1 = 4.0; Tot. = 4.0 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio kernels from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
23/04/2008	Italy	2008.AQZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.9; Tot. = 5.1 / B1 = 9.2; Tot. = 47.4 / B1 = 10.3; Tot. = 51.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
23/04/2008	Italy	2008.ARA	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.5; Tot. < 0.7 / B1 = 16.9; Tot. = 20.0 / B1 < 0.5; Tot. < 0.7 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from Egypt	product (to be) re-dispatched
23/04/2008	Spain	2008.ARB	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.05; Tot. = 4.54 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
23/04/2008	Germany	2008.ARC	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.5; Tot. = 2.5 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted pistachio nuts from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
23/04/2008	Greece	2008.ARD	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.8; Tot. = 10.1 / B1 = 1.4; Tot. = 2.3 / B1 < 0.5; Tot. < 0.5 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	product (to be) detained
23/04/2008	Italy	2008.ARE	migration of chromium (5.7 mg/l) and of nickel (0.15 mg/l) and too high level of total migration (192 mg/l) from cutlery set from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
23/04/2008	Italy	2008.ARF	bad temperature control (rupture of the cold chain) of frozen squid and shrimps from Albania	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.ARG	aflatoxins (B1 = 131; Tot. = 155 / B1 = 62; Tot. = 96.5 / B1 = 60.1; Tot. = 116 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Brazil	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
25/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.ARH	aflatoxins (B1 = 15; Tot. = 17 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted pistachios from Israel	product (to be) destroyed
25/04/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.ARI	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.5; Tot. = 15 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted peanuts from Israel	product (to be) destroyed
25/04/2008	Poland	2008.ARJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.34; Tot. = 4.77 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell from China	product (to be) detained
25/04/2008	Germany	2008.ARK	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) furazolidone (AOZ) (1.1 µg/kg - ppb) in shrimps (<i>Penaeus monodon</i>) from India	product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
25/04/2008	Poland	2008.ARL	aflatoxins (B1 = 11.37; Tot. = 12.73 / B1 = 3.85; Tot. = 4.41 / B1 = 3.11; Tot. = 3.54 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
25/04/2008	Poland	2008.ARM	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.76; Tot. = 20.88 / B1 = 8.57; Tot. = 19.69 / B1 = 13.31; Tot. = 30.76 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell from China	product (to be) re-dispatched

TABLE 4: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFI- CATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	CORRIGENDUM:
22/04/2008	add01	2008.0443	16	aflatoxins in blanched groundnut kernels from China	This notification concerns a border rejection.
21/04/2008	inf01	2008.0444	16	sulphathiazole unauthorised in honey from Lithuania	The concerned honey is originating from Lithuania, the title has been therefore changed to: sulphathiazole unauthorised in honey from Lithuania.