

## 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 headings<sup>1</sup>:

- **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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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 EEA<sup>2</sup>) 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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 2009/20

**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
12/05/2009	Slovenia	2009.0597	Listeria monocytogenes in assortment of delicatessen from France	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
12/05/2009	Germany	2009.0601	aflatoxins (B1 = 23.5; Tot. = 26.4 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio paste for the production of ice-cream from Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from recipient(s)
13/05/2009	Germany	2009.0602	Salmonella (presence /25g) in lightly smoked and air dried sausage from Austria	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
13/05/2009	Italy	2009.0604	Salmonella (presence /10g) in frozen chicken thighs from Hungary	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
13/05/2009	Italy	2009.0605	Enterobacter sakazakii (presence /10g) in creamed rice from Spain	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
13/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0606	cheek meat, thick skirt and tongues from the United Kingdom of cohort animals not withdrawn from the market	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / informing recipients
13/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0607	bovine meat from the United Kingdom of cohort animals not withdrawn from the market	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / informing recipients
13/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0609	undeclared milk ingredient in chicken forestier pate from the United Kingdom	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
14/05/2009	Germany	2009.0614	glass fragments (20 * 2 mm) in frozen chopped spinach from the Netherlands	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
14/05/2009	Poland	2009.0615	Salmonella (presence in 5 samples out of 5 /10g) in frozen turkey drumstick with skin and bone from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
14/05/2009	Belgium	2009.0617	fenitrothion (0.72 mg/kg - ppm) in satsuma mandarins ( <i>Citrus reticulata</i> ) from Argentina	border control - consignment released	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
15/05/2009	Slovenia	2009.0620	aflatoxins (B1 = 18.0; Tot. = 18.0 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey, via Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
15/05/2009	Germany	2009.0624	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.3 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted pistachio nuts from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
15/05/2009	Denmark	2009.0625	glass fragments in canned pineapple chunks from Thailand, via Germany	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
15/05/2009	Italy	2009.0627	mercury (1.41 mg/kg - ppm) in smoked swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> ) from Denmark	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed

## 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
11/05/2009	Austria	2009.0594	Salmonella Indiana (presence /25g) in fresh duck legs from France	official control on the market	product past use-by date / product (to be) destroyed
11/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0595	oxydemeton-methyl (0.09 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh valor beans from India	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / no stock left
12/05/2009	Belgium	2009.0596	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (19 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen freshwater headless shell on IQF shrimps ( <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> ) from Bangladesh	border control - consignment released	no distribution / product (to be) redispached or destroyed
12/05/2009	Belgium	2009.0598	migration of primary aromatic amines (4,4-diaminophenylmethane: 302; 298; 349 µg/kg - ppb) from kitchen utensils (spaghetti spoons) from China (Hong Kong)	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumers
12/05/2009	the Netherlands	2009.0599	chlorpyrifos (1.7 mg/kg - ppm), triazophos (40.7 mg/kg - ppm), acetamiprid (2.6 mg/kg - ppm), thiamethoxam (0.25 mg/kg - ppm) and clothianidin (0.48 mg/kg - ppm) in curry leaves from India	official control on the market	no stock left / no action taken

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
12/05/2009	Greece	2009.0600	undeclared peanut in milk chocolate egg with toy from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country
13/05/2009	Germany	2009.0603	Salmonella (presence /25g) in coarse whole wheat from Germany	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	France	2009.0608	mercury (2.267 mg/kg - ppm) in chilled swordfish fillets (Xiphias gladius) from Chile	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
13/05/2009	Denmark	2009.0610	too high content of sulphite (760 mg/kg - ppm) in dehydrated pear halves from China, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
13/05/2009	Italy	2009.0611	too high count of Escherichia coli (330 MPN/100g) in live clams (Tapes semidecusatus) from Italy	official control on the market	no stock left / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
13/05/2009	Denmark	2009.0612	too high content of sulphite (2400 mg/kg - ppm) in raisins from Chile, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / no action taken
13/05/2009	Italy	2009.0613	too high content of sulphite (243 mg/kg - ppm) in chilled shrimps (Penaeus kerathurus) from Senegal	official control on the market	no distribution / product (to be) recalled from consumers
14/05/2009	France	2009.0616	mercury (1.584 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen swordfish loins from the Seychelles	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
14/05/2009	Italy	2009.0618	cadmium (0.64 mg/kg - ppm) in crabs (Cancer pagurus) from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible)
15/05/2009	Austria	2009.0621	oxamyl (0.056 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh peaches from Egypt	official control following RASFF notification	product already consumed / no stock left
15/05/2009	Austria	2009.0622	oxamyl (0.032 mg/kg - ppm) in peaches from Egypt, via Italy	official control following RASFF notification	product already consumed / no stock left
15/05/2009	Italy	2009.0623	insufficient and incorrect labelling on various food products from China and Taiwan	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / prohibition to trade - sales ban
15/05/2009	Italy	2009.0626	unauthorised use of colour E 102 - tartrazine in wheat pasta from Taiwan	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumers

**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
11/05/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AXS	aflatoxins (B1 = 25.0; Tot. = 25.0 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from the United States	product (to be) detained
11/05/2009	Finland	2009.AXT	irradiation (Glow ratio: 0.998) in an unauthorised facility of dried, packed Goji berries ( <i>Lycium barbarum</i> ) from China, dispatched from the United States	product (to be) detained
11/05/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AXU	aflatoxins (B1 = 12; Tot. = 12 / B1 = 8.8; Tot. = 8.8 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
11/05/2009	Cyprus	2009.AXV	aluminium (94.0; 103.7; 90.7; 94.2; 94.2; 91.9; 77.6; 87.5 mg/kg - ppm) in instant noodles from Singapore	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
11/05/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AXW	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.4 µg/kg - ppb) in wasabi coated peanuts from Thailand	product (to be) re-dispatched
11/05/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AXX	aflatoxins (B1 = 11.2; Tot. = 13.1 µg/kg - ppb) in wasabi coated peanuts from Thailand	product (to be) re-dispatched
11/05/2009	Italy	2009.AXY	parasitic infestation with <i>Anisakis</i> of john dory ( <i>Zeus faber</i> ) from Tunisia	product (to be) destroyed
11/05/2009	Hungary	2009.AXZ	unauthorised establishment for ice cream from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	product (to be) re-dispatched
12/05/2009	Greece	2009.AYA	mineral oil (120 mg/kg - ppm) in crude maize oil from Ukraine	product (to be) re-dispatched
12/05/2009	Greece	2009.AYB	unauthorised use of colour E 123 - amaranth (107.2 mg/kg - ppm) in jellies from Australia	product (to be) destroyed
12/05/2009	Lithuania	2009.AYC	benzo(a)pyrene (3.0 µg/kg - ppb) in crude sunflower oil from Ukraine	product (to be) re-dispatched
12/05/2009	Italy	2009.AYD	rusty and mouldy lids of jars containing anchovies in oil from Tunisia	product (to be) re-dispatched
12/05/2009	Finland	2009.AYE	unauthorised novel food yacon ( <i>Smallanthus sonchifolius</i> ) syrup from Peru, dispatched from the United States	product (to be) detained
12/05/2009	Germany	2009.AYF	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.6; Tot. = 5.0 / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachio nuts with shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
12/05/2009	Germany	2009.AYG	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (4.1 mg/kg - ppm) in shrimps ( <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> ) from Sri Lanka	product (to be) destroyed
12/05/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AYH	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.6 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from Argentina	product (to be) detained
12/05/2009	Italy	2009.AYI	parasitic infestation with <i>Anisakis</i> of hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> ) from Croatia	product (to be) destroyed
12/05/2009	Finland	2009.AYJ	unauthorised novel food mesquite powder from Peru, dispatched from the United States	product (to be) detained
12/05/2009	Italy	2009.AYK	parasitic infestation with <i>Anisakis</i> of hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> ) from Croatia	product (to be) destroyed
12/05/2009	Belgium	2009.AYL	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (10.1; >10 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen headless shell on freshwater king prawns ( <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> ) from India	product (to be) re-dispatched
13/05/2009	Italy	2009.AYM	parasitic infestation with <i>Anisakis</i> of hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> ) from Croatia	product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	Italy	2009.AYN	parasitic infestation with <i>Anisakis</i> of hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> ) from Croatia	product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	Spain	2009.AYO	unauthorised use of colour E 129 - Allura Red AC (1.5 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen prawns from India	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
13/05/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AYP	ochratoxin A (B1 = 64 µg/kg - ppb) in spray dried soluble coffee from Ecuador	product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
13/05/2009	Germany	2009.AYQ	prohibited substance nitrofuran (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (total: 2.5; bound: 1.2 µg/kg - ppb) in chilled shrimps ( <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> ) from Sri Lanka	product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	the Netherlands	2009.AYR	bad hygienic state of tuna from Ecuador	product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.AYS	incorrect labelling on yellowtail flounder ( <i>Limanda ferruginea</i> ) from Canada	product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	Poland	2009.AYT	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.1; Tot. = 7.5 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
13/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.AYU	microbiological contamination of frozen fish from Vietnam	product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.AYV	insufficient labelling of cooked frozen peeled shrimps from Canada	product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	Germany	2009.AYW	prohibited substance nitrofuran (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (total: 6.6; bound: 2.4 µg/kg - ppb) in chilled shrimps ( <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> ) from Sri Lanka	product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	Germany	2009.AYX	aflatoxins (B1 = 10.8; Tot. = 72.3 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
13/05/2009	Lithuania	2009.AYY	parasitic infestation with nematodes ( <i>Philometra</i> spp.) and with larvae of trematodes of frozen <i>Esox lucius</i> fillets from the Russian Federation	product (to be) re-dispatched
13/05/2009	Spain	2009.AYZ	fraudulent health certificate(s) for tuna from Ecuador	product (to be) destroyed
13/05/2009	Italy	2009.AZA	cadmium (2.5 +- 0.7 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen whole cleaned octopus from India	product (to be) re-dispatched
13/05/2009	Germany	2009.AZB	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.1 / B1 = 3.5 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
13/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.AZC	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.6; Tot. = 8.2 / B1 = 0.9; Tot. = 1.4 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
13/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.AZD	<i>Salmonella</i> Tennessee (presence /25g) in halwa from Saudi Arabia	product (to be) re-dispatched
13/05/2009	Spain	2009.AZE	bad hygienic state of fish products from Mauritania	product (to be) re-dispatched
14/05/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.AZF	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.2; Tot. = 8.4 / B1 = 2.1; Tot. = 2.8 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
14/05/2009	Spain	2009.AZG	bad hygienic state of coffee cake from Côte d'Ivoire	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
14/05/2009	Finland	2009.AZH	chlorpyrifos (0.90; 0.20 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh coriander from Thailand	product (to be) destroyed
14/05/2009	Italy	2009.AZI	too high count of <i>Escherichia coli</i> (1300 MPN/100g) in live clams from Turkey	product (to be) destroyed
14/05/2009	Spain	2009.AZJ	spoilage of melons from Brazil	product (to be) re-dispatched
14/05/2009	Italy	2009.AZK	parasitic infestation with <i>Anisakis</i> of hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> ) from Croatia	product (to be) destroyed
14/05/2009	Spain	2009.AZL	spoilage of melons from Brazil	product (to be) destroyed
14/05/2009	Spain	2009.AZM	bad hygienic state of chilled pollock ( <i>Theragra chalcogramma</i> and <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> ) from Senegal	product (to be) destroyed
15/05/2009	Finland	2009.0619	migration of lead (0.72 to 1.5 mg/dm <sup>2</sup> ) from breakfast sets from China	product (to be) detained
15/05/2009	Italy	2009.AZN	spoilage of ripe mangoes from Ghana infested with moulds	product (to be) re-dispatched
15/05/2009	Finland	2009.AZO	aflatoxins (B1 = 12; Tot. = 22 / B1 = 6.7; Tot. = 9 µg/kg - ppb) in canned pistachio-almond-spice mix from South Africa	product (to be) detained

**TABLE 4: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>NOTIFI- CATION:</b>	<b>OF WEEK</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CORRIGENDUM:</b>
15/05/2009	add02	2009.0469	16	anabolic steroid stanozolol in anabolic mineral support formula from the United Kingdom	The quantitative analysis shows that it is probably only a contamination with Stanolozol (0,0009 mg/tablet).
11/05/2009	inf02	2009.AWP	19	bad hygienic state of frozen surimi (Nemipterus spp) from Thailand	The product concerned is surimi.

**TABLE 5: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>NOTIFI- CATION:</b>	<b>OF WEEK</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:</b>
12/05/2009	inf04	2009.0496	17	too high content of sulphite in dehydrated pear chunks from China, dispatched from Thailand	Because the traceability information of the product could not be verified and on the request of the notifying country, this information is hereby withdrawn.
14/05/2009	inf01	2009.AXM	19	prohibited substance nitrofurantoin (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) in chilled shrimps ( <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> ) from Sri Lanka	This notification is also notified through TRACES and is the double of notification 2009.AYQ. This notification is therefore withdrawn
14/05/2009	inf01	2009.AXN	19	prohibited substance nitrofurantoin (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) in chilled shrimps ( <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> ) from Sri Lanka	This notification is also notified through TRACES and is the double of notification 2009.AYW. This notification is therefore withdrawn