

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 (and the EEA¹).

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

¹ European Economic Area

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 information does not appear in the publicly accessible weekly overviews.

Newly added columns are the "type of control" and "status" columns.

The type of control column indicates what type of control lay at the basis of the notification:

- border control – import rejected: controls at the border posts of the outer EU (and EEA.) borders when the consignment was not accepted for import (“import rejected”);
- 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”);
- market control: 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; notifications initiated through reported food poisoning outbreaks are classified under this category.

The status column is a combination of two values, "distribution status" and "action 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 taken represents the action already 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.

Another addition to the table is the insertion between brackets of the outcome of the analysis to the "reason for notifying" column, whenever that information is available. This information allows evaluating the seriousness of the notified finding.

Week 2007/21

TABLE 1: ALERT NOTIFICATIONS

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

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
21/05/2007	Hungary	2007.0335	benzo(a)pyrene (18.7 µg/kg - ppb) in smoked sprats in oil from Poland	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
21/05/2007	France	2007.0336	Salmonella (presence /1g) in frozen marinated beef from the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
21/05/2007	Ireland	2007.0337	unauthorised genetically modified (DAS 59122-7) maize gluten feed and dried grains meal from the United States	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
21/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0338	illegal import of acrid tang and chafing dish compound containing beef fat from China	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
21/05/2007	France	2007.0339	cadmium (1.4; 1.6 mg/kg - ppm) in scallops from France	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
21/05/2007	Norway	2007.0340	dried apricots from the Netherlands infested with mites (dried fruit mites)	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
22/05/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.0341	too high content of sulphite (1126 mg/kg - ppm) in candied pears from China via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
22/05/2007	Germany	2007.0342	origin unclear of frozen chicken meat trimmings, allegedly from Spain via Italy	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
25/05/2007	Norway	2007.0343	migration of 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane (0.241 mg/dm ²) from kitchen tools from unknown origin via Germany	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
25/05/2007	Germany	2007.0344	cyanide (967 mg/kg - ppm) in bitter apricot kernels from Uzbekistan via Austria	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
25/05/2007	Germany	2007.0345	too high content of E 620 - glutamic acid (13.7 g/kg) and unauthorised colour acid red 52 in Japanese vegetables in brine from Japan (according to the original label) or from China (according to an additional sticker), via the United Kingdom	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
25/05/2007	Norway	2007.0346	unauthorised substances synephrine and theobromine in food supplement from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
25/05/2007	Germany	2007.0347	BSE tests not conducted on fresh bovine meat from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
25/05/2007	Hungary	2007.0348	unauthorised herbs in food supplement from Sweden	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
25/05/2007	Belgium	2007.0349	Escherichia coli O157:H7 in fresh meat (thigh of bovine) from Belgium	market control	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:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
21/05/2007	Germany	2007.BFG	melamine (0.24; 0.26 %) in single feed for dogs (pellets) from South Africa	consumer complaint	no stock left / product (to be) destroyed
21/05/2007	Italy	2007.BFH	cadmium (1.445 mg/kg - ppm) in live clams (<i>Modiola barbata</i>) from Greece	market control	product already consumed
21/05/2007	Germany	2007.BFI	bad temperature control (-2 <--> -8 °C) of pike perch fillets with skin (<i>Stizostedion lucioperca</i>) from Kazakhstan	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BFJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.3; Tot. = 4.7 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio halva from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
21/05/2007	Germany	2007.BFK	bad temperature control (-8 <--> -14 °C) of pike perch fillets with skin (<i>Stizostedion lucioperca</i>) from Kazakhstan	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BFL	oloyin beans from Nigeria infested with insects	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
21/05/2007	Greece	2007.BFM	aflatoxins (B1 = 49.3; Tot. = 50.9 µg/kg - ppb) in crushed chilli from Bangladesh	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	Poland	2007.BFN	white kidney beans from China infested with moulds and insects	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
21/05/2007	Lithuania	2007.BFO	benzo(a)pyrene (3.6 µg/kg - ppb) in crude sunflower seed oil from Ukraine	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
21/05/2007	Italy	2007.BFP	too high count of Enterobacteriaceae (65000 CFU/g) in sesame seeds from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	Greece	2007.BFQ	improper health certificate(s) (validity date exceeded) for peanuts from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BFR	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.5; Tot. = 31 µg/kg - ppb) in drum beans from Nigeria	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
21/05/2007	Greece	2007.BFS	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (162 mg/l) in lychee drink from Thailand	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	Germany	2007.BFT	oxamyl (0.14 mg/kg - ppm) in aubergine (eggplant) from Spain	market control	product already consumed / no action taken
21/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BFU	fragments of bones of land animals in fish feed from Israel	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	Spain	2007.BFV	mercury (1.6; 1.39 mg/kg - ppm) in swordfish from Brazil	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	Greece	2007.BFW	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (1518 mg/kg - ppm) in ginger garlic chilli sauce from Pakistan	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	Poland	2007.BFX	lead (0.4 mg/kg - ppm) in white beans from Moldova	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	Greece	2007.BFY	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (164 mg/l) in orange drink from Thailand	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BFZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 18; Tot. = 19 µg/kg - ppb) in red chilli powder from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BGA	aflatoxins (B1 = 22; Tot. = 23 µg/kg - ppb) in red chilli powder from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/05/2007	France	2007.BGB	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.2; Tot. = 15.9 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey	border control - screening sample	no distribution / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
22/05/2007	Sweden	2007.BGC	unauthorised genetically modified (LL Rice 62) parboiled long grain rice from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
23/05/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BGD	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Nicaragua	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment
23/05/2007	Norway	2007.BGE	Salmonella Rissen and Salmonella Virchow in pak wan and red mint leaves from Thailand	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
24/05/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BGF	aflatoxins (B1 = 11.4; Tot. = 12.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Argentina	border control - import rejected	no distribution
24/05/2007	Slovenia	2007.BGG	ochratoxin A (24 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
24/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BGH	too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (170 mg/kg - ppm) in sugar coated fennel seeds from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
24/05/2007	Malta	2007.BGI	unauthorised novel food pure liquid stevia (<i>Stevia rebaudiana</i> Bertoni) from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
24/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BGJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.4; Tot. = 4.2 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from Pakistan	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
24/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BGK	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.3; Tot. = 7.8 µg/kg - ppb) in melon seeds from Nigeria	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
24/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BGL	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.6; Tot. = 6.7 µg/kg - ppb) in melon seeds from Nigeria	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
24/05/2007	Spain	2007.BGM	unauthorised substances: ciprofloxacin, tetracycline, trimethoprim, sulphadiazine and sulphamethoxazole in honey from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
24/05/2007	Spain	2007.BGN	unauthorised substances: ciprofloxacin, tetracycline, trimethoprim, sulphadiazine and sulphamethoxazole in honey from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
24/05/2007	Spain	2007.BGO	unauthorised substances: ciprofloxacin, tetracycline, trimethoprim, sulphadiazine and sulphamethoxazole in honey from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
24/05/2007	Italy	2007.BGP	prophenophos (5.97 mg/kg - ppm) in gotu kola (<i>Centella asiatica</i>) from Sri Lanka	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
24/05/2007	Norway	2007.BGQ	Salmonella Virchow in coriander (<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>) from Thailand	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
24/05/2007	Spain	2007.BGR	unauthorised substances: ciprofloxacin, tetracycline, trimethoprim, sulphadiazine and sulphamethoxazole in honey from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
24/05/2007	Spain	2007.BGS	ciprofloxacin (6.4 µg/kg - ppb) unauthorised in honey from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
24/05/2007	Malta	2007.BGT	unauthorised novel food weight loss product containing Hoodia gordonii from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product under customs seals
24/05/2007	Malta	2007.BGU	unauthorised novel food weight loss product containing Hoodia gordonii from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product under customs seals
24/05/2007	Malta	2007.BGV	unauthorised novel food weight loss product containing Hoodia gordonii from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product under customs seals
25/05/2007	Denmark	2007.BGW	too high content of sulphite (2400 mg/kg - ppm) in dried apricots from Turkey	market control	no distribution / product detained
25/05/2007	Belgium	2007.BGX	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.07 µg/kg - ppb) in white sunflower seeds from Egypt	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
25/05/2007	Denmark	2007.BGY	Campylobacter (between 600-9700 CFU/g) in fresh chicken from France	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
25/05/2007	Greece	2007.BGZ	melamine (melamine and related compounds: 68.5 g/kg) in rice protein concentrate from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
25/05/2007	Denmark	2007.BHA	Campylobacter (from 500 to 26000 CFU/g) in whole fresh chicken from France	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product (to be) destroyed
25/05/2007	Spain	2007.BHB	incorrect labelling (mislabelled as white grouper) on escolar (Lepydocihium flavobrunneum) from Spain	consumer complaint	information on distribution not (yet) available / product (to be) destroyed
25/05/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BHC	unauthorised novel food powdered kava from Fiji	border control - screening sample	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
25/05/2007	Spain	2007.BHD	aflatoxins (B1 > 24 / B1 > 24 / B1 > 24 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
25/05/2007	Spain	2007.BHE	aflatoxins (B1 = 20.9; Tot. = 22.1 / B1 = 23.1; Tot. = 24.5 / B1 = 22.3; Tot. = 24.2 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
25/05/2007	Belgium	2007.BHF	Salmonella (presence /25g) in dog chews from Brazil	market control	no distribution
25/05/2007	Slovenia	2007.BHG	Listeria monocytogenes (1300; 3350 CFU/g) in sliced champignon in brine from Poland	consumer complaint	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
21/05/2007	add01	2006.CLV	44	lead in food supplement from Italy	The result obtained for the counter-analysis can be considered favourable. This notification is hereby withdrawn.