

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2008/22

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
26/05/2008	Slovenia	2008.0608	Salmonella enterica (presence /25g) in live edible snails (<i>Helix pomatia</i>) from Croatia	border control - screening sample	distribution on the market (possible) / informing recipients
26/05/2008	Germany	2008.0610	verotoxin producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> in cut silver lime flowers (<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>) for tea-making manufactured in Germany, raw material from Bulgaria	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / informing recipients
27/05/2008	Germany	2008.0613	verotoxin producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (< 100 CFU/g) in lime blossom tea from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
28/05/2008	Italy	2008.0621	parasitic infestation with <i>Anisakis</i> of fresh Atlantic cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) fillets from Denmark	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible)
29/05/2008	Italy	2008.0626	mercury (1.7 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen sliced swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) from Spain	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) seized

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
26/05/2008	Germany	2008.0605	Salmonella Ohio (0:7;H: b,l,w) in broiler starter feed from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
26/05/2008	Germany	2008.0606	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.2 / B1 = 15.9 / B1 = 24.2 / B1 = 57.2 µg/kg - ppb) in maize feed from Brazil	company's own check	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) detained

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
26/05/2008	Cyprus	2008.0607	migration of lead (11.9; 15.3 mg/l) from ceramic soup bowls from China	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumer
26/05/2008	Belgium	2008.0609	Salmonella (presence /25g) in dehydrated chicken flavouring innards from the United States, via Belgium	border control - screening sample	distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified
26/05/2008	Italy	2008.0611	cadmium (including hepatopancreas: 3.6; 4.2 mg/kg - ppm) in crabs (Cancer pagurus) from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
26/05/2008	Luxembourg	2008.0612	imazalil (0.02 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh spinach from France	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
27/05/2008	Germany	2008.0614	monocrotophos (0.56 mg/kg - ppm) in maracuja from Colombia, via France	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
27/05/2008	Germany	2008.0615	methamidophos (1.50 mg/kg - ppm) in lettuce from Italy	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
27/05/2008	Cyprus	2008.0616	undeclared milk ingredient (25000 mg/kg - ppm) in rice drink powder from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumer
27/05/2008	Italy	2008.0617	cadmium (including hepatopancreas: 1.1 mg/kg - ppm) in crabs (Maja squinado) from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
28/05/2008	Denmark	2008.0618	Salmonella enteritidis phagetype 4 (3 out of 12 samples /25g), Salmonella Indiana (7 out of 12 samples /25g) and Salmonella Virchow (2 out of 12 samples /25g) in chilled chicken breast fillets from Germany	official control on the market	product past use-by date / product (to be) recalled from consumer
28/05/2008	Denmark	2008.0619	Salmonella (not typable in 2 out of 12 samples) and Salmonella Saint Paul (in 10 out of 12 samples) in chilled turkey breast from Germany	official control on the market	product past use-by date / product (to be) recalled from consumer
28/05/2008	Norway	2008.0620	too high content of the sum of colour E 102 - tartrazine and of colour E 133 - Brilliant Blue FCF (according to document: 2500 mg/kg - ppm) in mint chutney from Pakistan	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
29/05/2008	Greece	2008.0622	too high level of total migration (of polyethylene in acetic acid: 13; of polyethylene in refined sun oil: 266 mg/dm ²) from polyethylene baby spoons from China	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumer
29/05/2008	the Czech Republic	2008.0623	migration of primary aromatic amines (aniline: 1.72; 3.75; 0.05 mg/kg - ppm) from nylon kitchen spoons from China (Hong Kong)	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from recipient(s)

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
29/05/2008	Denmark	2008.0624	Salmonella (multiresistant in 5 out of 12 samples /25g) in fresh pork meat from Germany	official control on the market	product past best before date / public warning - press release
29/05/2008	Belgium	2008.0625	Salmonella in dehydrated chicken flavouring innards from the United States	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible)
29/05/2008	Norway	2008.0627	aflatoxins (B1 = 3 µg/kg - ppb) in chopped roasted hazelnuts from Turkey	official control on the market	no distribution / prohibition to trade - sales ban
29/05/2008	Italy	2008.0628	illegal import of and unauthorised substance sulphamethazine (22 µg/kg - ppb) in white honey from Egypt	official control on the market	product past best before date / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
29/05/2008	Germany	2008.0629	high content of iodine (259 mg/kg - ppm) in dried seaweed from the Republic of Korea	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from recipient(s)
30/05/2008	Denmark	2008.0630	Salmonella Indiana (in 12 out of 12 samples /25g) in fresh chicken meat from France	official control on the market	product past use-by date / no action taken
30/05/2008	Luxembourg	2008.0631	thiabendazole (0.26 mg/kg - ppm) in spinach from Belgium	official control on the market	no stock left / no action taken
30/05/2008	Italy	2008.0632	cadmium (1.8 (including hepatopancreas) mg/kg - ppm) in crabs (cancer pagurus) from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible)
30/05/2008	Italy	2008.0633	botulinum toxin in truffle sauce from Italy	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumer
30/05/2008	Italy	2008.0634	undeclared sulphite (47 mg/kg - ppm) in giant tiger prawn (Penaeus monodon) from Senegal	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / no stock left

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
27/05/2008	Spain	2008.AUG	erythromycin (0.5 µg/kg - ppb) unauthorised in honey from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
27/05/2008	Spain	2008.AUH	arsenic (1.54 mg/kg - ppm) in spirulina tablets from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
27/05/2008	Spain	2008.AUI	unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine (9.2 mg/kg - ppm) in chewing gums from Mexico	product (to be) re-dispatched
27/05/2008	Poland	2008.AUJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.37; Tot. = 6.39 µg/kg - ppb) in ground chilli from India	product (to be) detained

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
27/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AUK	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.2 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched peanuts from Argentina	product (to be) detained
27/05/2008	Germany	2008.AUL	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.6; Tot. = 3.9 / B1 = 3.2; Tot. = 3.4 / B1 = 2.7; Tot. = 2.9 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio kernels from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
27/05/2008	Germany	2008.AUM	aflatoxins (B1 = 112.4; Tot. = 118.9 / B1 = ND; Tot. = 0.0 / B1 = ND; Tot. = 0.0 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts with shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
27/05/2008	Germany	2008.AUN	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.6; Tot. = 3.6 / B1 = 149.8; Tot. = 160.4 / B1 = ND; Tot. = 0.0 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts with shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
27/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AUO	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.3 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched groundnuts from Argentina	physical treatment - blanching
28/05/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AUP	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) furazolidone (AOZ) (18 µg/kg - ppb) in black tiger shrimps from India	product (to be) destroyed
28/05/2008	Belgium	2008.AUQ	unauthorised feed additive ethylenediamine dihydroiodide (EDDI) labelled on pet food from the United States	product (to be) detained
28/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AUR	aflatoxins (Tot. = 9 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - sorting
28/05/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AUS	aflatoxins (B1 = 55; Tot. = 87 µg/kg - ppb) in peanut butter balls from Nigeria	product (to be) destroyed
28/05/2008	Portugal	2008.AUT	Salmonella (in 5 out of 5 samples /25g) in frozen cooked shell-on clams (Meretrix lurate) from Vietnam	product (to be) re-dispatched
29/05/2008	Greece	2008.AUV	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.5; Tot. = 4.5 µg/kg - ppb) in basmati rice from Pakistan	product (to be) re-dispatched
29/05/2008	Poland	2008.AUW	bad hygienic state of natural honey from Ukraine with improper packaging	product (to be) re-dispatched
29/05/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AUX	benzo(a)pyrene (39.4 µg/kg - ppb) in smoked shrimps from the Gambia	product (to be) destroyed
29/05/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AUY	smoked fish from the Gambia infested with larvae of insects (demestes beetle)	product (to be) destroyed
29/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AUZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.1; Tot. = 42.5 / B1 = 0.0; Tot. = 0.0 / B1 = 0.3; Tot. = 1.8 µg/kg - ppb) in peanut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
29/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AVA	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.7; Tot. = 7.3 / B1 = 1.4; Tot. = 3.9 / B1 = 5.7; Tot. = 43.7 µg/kg - ppb) in peanut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
29/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AVB	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.0; Tot. = 0.0 / B1 = 4.8; Tot. = 5.8 / B1 = 0.0; Tot. = 0.0 µg/kg - ppb) in peanut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
29/05/2008	Poland	2008.AVC	bad temperature control of frozen pangasius fillet from Vietnam	product (to be) destroyed
29/05/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AVD	unauthorised colours Sudan 1 (68 mg/kg - ppm) and Sudan 4 (14 mg/kg - ppm) in curry powder from Turkey	product (to be) destroyed
30/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AVE	aflatoxins (B1 = 79.0; Tot. = 89.0 / B1 = 86.4; Tot. = 104.1 / B1 = 28.8; Tot. = 34.0 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
30/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AVF	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.4; Tot. = 9.5 / B1 = 26.8; Tot. = 31.2 / B1 = 29.6; Tot. = 34.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
30/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AVG	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.4 / B1 = 4.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
30/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AVH	aflatoxins (B1 = 22.8; Tot. = 27.8 / B1 = 12.4; Tot. = 15.4 / B1 = 4.5; Tot. = 5.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
30/05/2008	Poland	2008.AVI	improper health certificate(s) for salmon (Oncorhynchus gorbusha) fillets from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
30/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AVJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 19.7; Tot. = 23.8 / B1 = 16.5; Tot. = 19.4 / B1 = 31.7; Tot. = 37.5 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
30/05/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AVK	aflatoxins (B1 = 49.1; Tot. = 4.3 / B1 = 24.6; Tot. = 60.6 / B1 = 5.1; Tot. = 28.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) detained

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
30/05/2008	Greece	2008.AVL	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.5 / B1 = 22.6; Tot. = 24.1 / B1 < 0.5 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled almonds from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
30/05/2008	Greece	2008.AVM	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.1; Tot. = 3.6 / B1 = 36.7; Tot. = 182 / B1 = 0.7; Tot. = 0.7 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
30/05/2008	Greece	2008.AVN	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.8; Tot. = 1.8 / B1 < 0.5 / B1 = 6.8; Tot. = 7.9 µg/kg - ppb) in peanut kernels from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
30/05/2008	Greece	2008.AVO	large white kidney beans from China infested with moulds	product (to be) re-dispatched

TABLE 5: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFI- CATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
29/05/2008	add01	2008.ATK	20	histamine in frozen whole tuna from Ecuador	The company has objected against the results of the analyse of the samples. Counter analysis of the consignment was made and the result was negative for histamine. The analytical report is attached. This notification is hereby withdrawn