

## 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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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 EEA<sup>1</sup>).

**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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 2007/23

**TABLE 1: ALERT NOTIFICATIONS**

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

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>NOTIFIED BY:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>	<b>TYPE OF CONTROL:</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
04/06/2007	Greece	2007.0369	fragments of bones of land animals in pork blood meal from France via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
04/06/2007	Greece	2007.0370	fragments of bones of land animals in hydrolysed feather meal from Italy via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
05/06/2007	the Slovak Republic	2007.0371	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (752 mg/kg - ppm) in mixed fruit filling from Poland	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
05/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0372	foreign body (glass) in assorted bread roll selection from Poland	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
05/06/2007	Norway	2007.0373	unauthorised substance yohimbine (per tablet 1.7 mg) in food supplement from Denmark	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
05/06/2007	Germany	2007.0374	unlabeled sweetener E 951 - aspartame (label also does not mention that the product contains a source of phenylalanine) in sweet ginger in vinegar from Thailand via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
06/06/2007	Spain	2007.0375	botulinum toxin (suspicion) in prepared dish with chicken from France	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
06/06/2007	Spain	2007.0376	presence of poisonous mushrooms - Amanita phalloides in frozen mushrooms from Portugal	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
07/06/2007	Italy	2007.0377	cadmium (10.53 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen scallops (Pecten maximus) via France and via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
07/06/2007	the Slovak Republic	2007.0378	unauthorised genetically modified (LL 601) long grain rice from Italy	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
08/06/2007	Germany	2007.0379	aflatoxins (B1 = 8.89; Tot. = 9.98 µg/kg - ppb) in turmeric powder (curcuma) via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / no stock left

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
08/06/2007	Greece	2007.0380	migration of DEHP - di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (13.6 %) and of DINP - di-isononyl phthalate (21.4 %) from plastic spoons for babies from China	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
08/06/2007	Denmark	2007.0381	Salmonella Agona in minced dehydrated white onions from India	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
08/06/2007	Ireland	2007.0382	benzo(a)pyrene (10.2 µg/kg - ppb) in dried smoked catfish stripped fillet from Suriname via the United Kingdom	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)

## 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
04/06/2007	Germany	2007.BIH	cyanide (1373 mg/kg - ppm) in bitter apricot kernels from Turkey via the United States	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
04/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BII	mercury (1.265 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen mako shark loins (Isirus oxyrinchus) and frozen swordfish loins (Xiphias gladius) from Namibia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2007	Italy	2007.BIJ	absence of health certificate(s) and absence of certified analytical report for peanuts from China via Singapore	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2007	Italy	2007.BIK	mercury (2.98 mg/kg - ppm) in swordfish loins (Xiphias gladius) from Spain	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product seized
04/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BIL	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment
04/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BIM	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.5; Tot. = 17 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	border control - screening sample	no distribution / destination of the product changed
04/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BIN	lead (1.3 mg/kg - ppm) in green hot peppers from Turkey	border control - screening sample	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
04/06/2007	Slovenia	2007.BIO	migration of manganese (0.39 mg/l) from cookware set from China (Hong Kong)	border control - import rejected	no distribution
04/06/2007	Spain	2007.BIP	cadmium (0.71 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen king prawns from Australia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2007	Slovenia	2007.BIQ	migration of manganese (0.19 mg/l) from cookware set from China (Hong Kong)	border control - import rejected	no distribution

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
04/06/2007	Norway	2007.BIR	Salmonella Stanley (4,5,12 : d : 1,2 (basil only)) and Salmonella Zanzibar (3,10 : k : 1,5) in fresh herbs (lemon gras (Cymbopogen citratus) and sweet basil (Ocimum bascilicum)) from Thailand	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
04/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BIS	unauthorised colour Sudan 1 (15 mg/kg - ppm) in thyme & spices from Syria	border control - screening sample	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
04/06/2007	Italy	2007.BIT	aflatoxins (B1 = 44.59 µg/kg - ppb) in white sunflower seeds from Egypt	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2007	Portugal	2007.BIU	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.4; Tot. = 4.6 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BIV	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.1 / B1 = 8.9; Tot. = 13.9 / B1 = 9.9; Tot. = 11.9 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment
04/06/2007	Portugal	2007.BIW	cadmium (1.53; 1.165 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen squids and cuttlefish from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2007	Greece	2007.BIX	unauthorised substances malachite green (1.53 µg/kg - ppb) and leucomalachite green (2.18 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen pangasius fillets (Pangasius hypophthalmus) from Vietnam	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2007	Italy	2007.BIY	aflatoxins (B1 = 11.8; Tot. = 14.1 / B1 = 11.9; Tot. = 13.8 / B1 = 12.3; Tot. = 14.3 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2007	Germany	2007.BIZ	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl (0.04 mg/kg - ppm) in sweet peppers (tricolor) from Spain	consumer complaint	product already consumed / no stock left
04/06/2007	Italy	2007.BJA	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.8; Tot. = 11.8 / B1 = 9.2; Tot. = 10.7 / B1 = 6.3; Tot. = 9.7 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BJB	erucic acid (56.2 % of the fatty acid content) in mango hot pickle from Bangladesh	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
05/06/2007	Poland	2007.BJC	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.25; Tot. = 0.55 / B1 = 0.54; Tot. = 2.26 / B1 = 26.58; Tot. = 22.25 µg/kg - ppb) and absence of health certificate(s) for hazelnuts kernels from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
05/06/2007	Norway	2007.BJD	Salmonella Heidelberg (presence /25g) in peppermint (Mentha cordifolia Opiz.) from Thailand	market control	product already consumed / no stock left
05/06/2007	Norway	2007.BJE	Salmonella Stanley (presence /25g) in kaffir lime leaves (Citrus hystris dc.) from Thailand	market control	product already consumed / no stock left
05/06/2007	Austria	2007.BJF	methomyl (5.528 mg/kg - ppm) in lettuce from Italy	market control	product already consumed / no stock left
05/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BJG	histamine (710 mg/kg - ppm) in dried anchovy from Malaysia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
05/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BJH	histamine (340 mg/kg - ppm) in salted dried queen fish and salted dried mackerel from Malaysia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
05/06/2007	Germany	2007.BJI	unauthorised colour Sudan 4 (0.025 mg/kg - ppm) in sumac from Turkey	market control	no stock left / withdrawal from recipient(s)

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>NOTIFIED BY:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>	<b>TYPE OF CONTROL:</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
05/06/2007	Germany	2007.BJJ	unauthorised colour Sudan 4 (0.026 mg/kg - ppm) in sumac from Turkey	market control	no stock left / withdrawal from recipient(s)
05/06/2007	France	2007.BJK	benzo(a)pyrene (7.91 µg/kg - ppb) in smoked fish from Côte d'Ivoire	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
05/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BJL	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.2; Tot. = 10.7 µg/kg - ppb) in sunflower seeds from Egypt	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
06/06/2007	Germany	2007.BJM	oxamyl (0.046 mg/kg - ppm) in tomatoes from Turkey	market control	product already consumed / no stock left
06/06/2007	Norway	2007.BJN	unauthorised substance tadalafil (5.9 mg per capsule) in food supplement from Norway	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
06/06/2007	Norway	2007.BJO	Salmonella Hvitvingfoss (in sweet basil and acacia) and Salmonella Weltevreden (in pak-peaw and Thai morning glory) in fresh herbs from Thailand	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date)
06/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BJP	aflatoxins (B1 = 19.2; Tot. = 24 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
06/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BJQ	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Nicaragua	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
06/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BJR	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.1 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Nicaragua	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
06/06/2007	Norway	2007.BJS	unauthorised substance tadalafil (33.4mg per tablet) in food supplement from unknown origin	market control	information on distribution not (yet) available / prohibition to trade - sales ban
06/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BJT	methamidophos (9.7 mg/kg - ppm) in water spinach (Ipomoea aquatica) from Vietnam	market control	no stock left / no stock left
06/06/2007	Belgium	2007.BJU	aflatoxins (B1 = 49.67; Tot. = 52.17 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
06/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BJV	triazophos (1.2 mg/kg - ppm) in long yard beans from Thailand	market control	no stock left / no stock left
07/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BJW	histamine (220 mg/kg - ppm) in dried anchovy (guttled) from Malaysia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
07/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BJX	histamine (210 mg/kg - ppm) in dried mackerel from Malaysia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
07/06/2007	Belgium	2007.BJY	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.5 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
07/06/2007	Finland	2007.BJZ	unauthorised genetically modified (DAS-59122-7) maize in pet food from the United States	market control	information on distribution not (yet) available / withdrawal from sale

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
07/06/2007	Italy	2007.BKA	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.1; Tot. = 3.8 µg/kg - ppb) in basmati rice from Pakistan	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
07/06/2007	Slovenia	2007.BKB	triazophos (0.090 mg/kg - ppm) in limes from Brazil	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
07/06/2007	Ireland	2007.BKC	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (185 mg/l) in soft drink from Nigeria	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from recipient(s)
07/06/2007	Greece	2007.BKD	lead (571 mg/kg - ppm) in zinc oxide from Turkey	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
07/06/2007	France	2007.BKE	Listeria monocytogenes (1900 CFU/g) in dried flavoured beef from Switzerland	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / product detained
07/06/2007	Italy	2007.BKF	mercury (1.3 mg/kg - ppm) in swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Spain	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / reinforced checking
07/06/2007	Italy	2007.BKG	abnormal colour of frozen fish (Pomatomus saltatrix and Seriola dumerili) from Oman	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
07/06/2007	Italy	2007.BKH	unauthorised colour Sudan 1 (3.5 mg/kg - ppm) in spices from Jordan	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Spain	2007.BKI	aflatoxins (B1 = 70.1; Tot. = 79.9 / B1 = 0.1; Tot. = 0.1 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BKJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.8; Tot. = 19.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Brazil	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment - blanching
08/06/2007	Spain	2007.BKK	Diarrhoeic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) toxins in raw clams from Peru	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Spain	2007.BKL	too high content of sulphite (168; 211; >320 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen prawns from Angola	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Greece	2007.BKM	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.1; Tot. = 1.3 / B1 = 3.4; Tot. = 4.1 / B1 = 0.3; Tot. = 0.3 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Greece	2007.BKN	unauthorised substances malachite green (3.48 µg/kg - ppb) and leucomalachite green (3.54 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen fish fillets (Pangasius hypophthalmus) from Vietnam	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Greece	2007.BKO	unauthorised substances malachite green (4.55 µg/kg - ppb) and leucomalachite green (3.75 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen fish fillets (Pangasius hypophthalmus) from Vietnam	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
08/06/2007	Slovenia	2007.BKP	migration of formaldehyde (3.0 mg/dm <sup>2</sup> ) from basting spoon from Taiwan	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
08/06/2007	Denmark	2007.BKQ	aflatoxins (B1 = 18; Tot. = 21 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Poland	2007.BKR	abnormal smell of long grain brown rice from Pakistan infested with larvae of insects	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BKS	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (190 mg/l) in orange flavour soft drink from Nigeria	border control - import rejected	no distribution
08/06/2007	Italy	2007.BKT	migration of chromium (34.8; 38.9 mg/l) and nickel (0.26; 0.42 mg/l) from barbecue utensils from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Malta	2007.BKU	unauthorised novel food - food supplement containing phytosterols from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Finland	2007.BKV	ochratoxin A (22 µg/kg - ppb) in rye from the Russian Federation	border control - import rejected	no distribution
08/06/2007	Denmark	2007.BKW	Salmonella typhimurium (DT U 288 multiresistant: presence in 2 out of 12 samples /25g) in fresh pork tenderloins from the United Kingdom	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / public warning - press release
08/06/2007	Italy	2007.BKX	migration of chromium (0.20; 27.2; 16.8 mg/l) and of nickel (<0.01; 0.33; 0.19 mg/l) from barbecue utensils from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Malta	2007.BKY	unauthorised novel food - food supplement containing phytosterols from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2007	Italy	2007.BKZ	migration of chromium (13.2<-->61.7 mg/l) and of nickel (0.24<-->>0.94 mg/l) from barbecue utensils from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

**TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	CORRIGENDUM:
04/06/2007	inf01	2007.BGF	21	aflatoxins in groundnuts from Nicaragua	The correct country of origin was Nicaragua.

**TABLE 4: 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>
06/06/2007	add04	2007.0339	21	cadmium in frozen scallops from France	A conversion factor of 0.55 was established for the product in question. Results obtained applying this factor are below the legal limit. Therefore this alert is withdrawn.