

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2009/23

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
02/06/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.0683	aflatoxins (B1 = 32.6; Tot. = 33.3 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted salted pistachio nuts from Iran, via the Netherlands and via Poland	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
02/06/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.0689	Listeria monocytogenes (280 CFU/g) in smoked mackerel fillets with spices from Poland	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
02/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0690	migration of primary aromatic amines (0.420 mg/kg - ppm) from black nylon kitchen utensils from China	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
03/06/2009	Norway	2009.0696	Shigella sonnei in fresh sugar peas from Kenya, via Denmark	food poisoning	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
03/06/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0697	deoxynivalenol (DON) (1224.10 µg/kg - ppb) in alphabet pasta from Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
03/06/2009	Latvia	2009.0698	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (4.2 µg/kg - ppb) in acacia honey from Hungary	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
03/06/2009	Greece	2009.0699	undeclared sulphite (28 +- 2 mg/kg - ppm) in vegetables in vinegar from Greece	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
03/06/2009	Latvia	2009.0700	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (4.2 µg/kg - ppb) in honey from Hungary	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
04/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0709	plastic fragments in frozen apple pie from the United Kingdom	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
05/06/2009	Slovenia	2009.0713	Diarrhoeic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) toxins in mussels (Mytilus galloprovincialis) from Slovenia	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) redispached or destroyed

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
05/06/2009	Italy	2009.0714	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of fresh chilled mackerels from France	official control following RASFF notification	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) redispached or destroyed
05/06/2009	Italy	2009.0715	Escherichia coli (2400 MPN/100g) in clams (Tapes semidecussatus) from Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers

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
02/06/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.0684	too high content of sulphite (SO ₂) 1356 mg/kg - ppm) in candied peach halves from China (Hong Kong)	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
02/06/2009	Latvia	2009.0685	unauthorised irradiation and unlabelled irradiation of food supplements from the United States	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country
02/06/2009	Malta	2009.0686	unauthorised novel food ingredient Hoodia gordonii in food supplement from the United Kingdom	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
02/06/2009	Greece	2009.0687	animal protein in Fish meal from Portugal	official control on the market	information on distribution not (yet) available / product (to be) detained
02/06/2009	Italy	2009.0688	nicarbazin (3.2 +-0.6 µg/kg - ppb) unauthorised in fresh hen eggs from Spain	official control on the market	product already consumed / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
02/06/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.0691	altered organoleptic characteristics of whole rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) frozen gutted from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
02/06/2009	Slovenia	2009.0692	spoilage (mould) of red beetroots from Hungary	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
02/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0693	too high count of Enterobacteriaceae (900 CFU/g) in dog chews from Brazil	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) redispached or destroyed
02/06/2009	Denmark	2009.0694	Salmonella Minnesota (in 2 out of 5 samples) in marinated chicken fillets from Germany	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
02/06/2009	Romania	2009.0695	unauthorised substance sibutramine in capsula de slabit, Super Slim Pomegranate Weight Loss from China	company's own check	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
04/06/2009	Germany	2009.0701	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.9; Tot. = 6.1 µg/kg - ppb) in soft caramel with peanuts from Ukraine	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
04/06/2009	Italy	2009.0702	too high content of sulphite (202 +-32 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh chilled scampi (Nephrops Norvegicus 40/50) from the United Kingdom	official control on the market	product past best before date
04/06/2009	Poland	2009.0703	Salmonella in soybean meal from Argentina	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / reinforced checking
04/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0704	carbendazim (1.6 mg/kg - ppm) and thiophanate-methyl (6.2 mg/kg - ppm) in yam from Ghana	official control on the market	product past best before date / no stock left
04/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0705	carbendazim (0.5 mg/kg - ppm) and thiophanate-methyl (3.3 mg/kg - ppm) in white yam from Ghana	official control on the market	product past best before date / no stock left
04/06/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0706	unauthorised use of colour E 124 - Ponceau 4R / cochineal red A (13.00 mg/kg - ppm) in salami from Spain	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
04/06/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0707	animal protein in and absence of labelling (in Slovak language) on dried blood from Hungary, via the Czech Republic	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product changed
04/06/2009	Sweden	2009.0708	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.2; Tot. = 4.9 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Argentina	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) detained
04/06/2009	Greece	2009.0710	unauthorised substance bioprotein in fish meal from Portugal	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
04/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0711	Salmonella in fresh hairy basil from Thailand	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / reinforced checking

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
04/06/2009	Spain	2009.0712	foodborne outbreak (2 persons affected) caused by escolar (<i>Lepidocybium flavobrunneum</i>) from Panama	food poisoning	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) detained
05/06/2009	Germany	2009.0716	unauthorised genetically modified (MON 88017) extracted soya bean meal from Germany	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumers
05/06/2009	Germany	2009.0717	unauthorised genetically modified (2 types of Bt Rice) rice noodles from China, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
05/06/2009	Germany	2009.0718	BSE tests not conducted on bovine meat and offal from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
05/06/2009	Germany	2009.0719	aflatoxins (Tot. = 17.8 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
05/06/2009	Italy	2009.0720	mercury (1.61 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen slices of swordfish from Vietnam	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
05/06/2009	Italy	2009.0721	chlorpyrifos (0.1 mg/kg - ppm) and chlorpyrifos-methyl (0.16 mg/kg - ppm) in biological flour from Italy	official control on the market	product past use-by date / product (to be) withdrawn from the market

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
02/06/2009	Italy	2009.BBK	bad state of preservation of okra from Honduras	product (to be) re-dispatched
02/06/2009	Greece	2009.BBL	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.1; Tot. = 11.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell from China	product under customs seals
02/06/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.BBM	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of fruit jelly cups from Vietnam containing unauthorised E 407 - carrageenan	product (to be) detained
02/06/2009	Spain	2009.BBN	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.8; Tot. = 4.1 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled almonds from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
02/06/2009	Greece	2009.BBO	unauthorised genetically modified (0.07) tortilla chips from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
02/06/2009	Norway	2009.BBP	improper health certificate(s) (Incomplete health certificate, Non approved establishment, Best before date exceeded) for salted skinless boneless pollock fillet from China, via Canada and via Mexico	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
03/06/2009	Italy	2009.BBQ	cadmium (2.5 mg/kg - ppm) in octopus membranaceus from India	product (to be) re-dispatched
03/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.BBR	Salmonella spp. (1 out of 5) in fishmeal from Panama	physical treatment
03/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.BBS	E 407 - carrageenan unauthorised in pudding mixed with nata de Coco from Malaysia, via Singapore	product (to be) re-dispatched
03/06/2009	Germany	2009.BBT	aflatoxins (B1 = 35.2; Tot. = 59.8 / B1 = 11.8; Tot. = 17.6 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
03/06/2009	Spain	2009.BBU	aflatoxins (B1 = <0.5; Tot. = 2.0 / B1 = 3.8; Tot. = 4.5 / B1 = <0.5; Tot. = 2.0 µg/kg - ppb) in sweet almond grains from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
03/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.BBV	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.9; Tot. = 6.6 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Argentina	product (to be) detained
03/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.BBW	aflatoxins (B1 = 12.6; Tot. = 13.9 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Argentina	product (to be) detained
04/06/2009	Germany	2009.BBX	aflatoxins (B1 = 16.8+-4.5; Tot. = 27.7+-5.4 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted pistachios from Turkey	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
04/06/2009	Germany	2009.BBY	aflatoxins (B1 = 10.8+-1.7; Tot. = 12.2 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios in shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2009	Italy	2009.BBZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.6; Tot. = 4.4 µg/kg - ppb) in agushie from Ghana	product (to be) re-dispatched
04/06/2009	Cyprus	2009.BCA	dates from Egypt infested with larvae of insects	product (to be) destroyed
05/06/2009	Greece	2009.BCB	aflatoxins (B1 = 12.2; Tot. = 15.3 / B1 = 3.7; Tot. = 4.1 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	product under customs seals

TABLE 5: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFI-CATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
03/06/2009	inf01	2009.AGE	6	aflatoxins in shelled pistachios from Turkey	Notification 2009.AGE is withdrawn since the mentioned consignment is the same as Notification 2008.BYT.
04/06/2009	inf02	2009.0202	8	too high content of undeclared sulphite in frozen cooked shelled shrimps from Denmark	Based on the request in notification 2009.0202-add03 this notification is hereby withdrawn