

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2009/24

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
08/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0726	arsenic (6 mg/kg - ppm) and lead (383 mg/kg - ppm) in unmolassed sugar beet pulp pellets from Austria	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / informing recipients
08/06/2009	Italy	2009.0727	undeclared sulphite (39 mg/kg - ppm) in pickled-cured shrimps (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>) from Denmark	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
08/06/2009	Italy	2009.0728	Salmonella Blockley in frozen chicken gyros from Greece	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
09/06/2009	Italy	2009.0730	potentially toxic fish species (presence of <i>Lagocephalus</i> spp.) in frozen headless fish blocks from Spain	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
09/06/2009	Finland	2009.0732	norovirus (presence /25g) in frozen raspberries from Poland	food poisoning	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
09/06/2009	France	2009.0733	unauthorised establishment (use of health brand they don't own) for poultry and veal preparations from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
09/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0735	undeclared sulphite, soya and wheat in prepared dishes from the United Kingdom	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
09/06/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.0737	dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorobiphenyls (sum of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs = 63.5 pg WHO TEQ/g) in cod liver in own oil from Poland	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
09/06/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0738	undeclared egg (11.50 mg/kg - ppm) in cocoa and hazelnuts cream filled biscuits from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
10/06/2009	Greece	2009.0741	traces of soya (positive for soy DNA) in mini milk chocolates from Greece	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
10/06/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0743	migration of formaldehyde (92.28 / 88.70 mg/dm ²) from melamine bowl from China, via the Czech Republic	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
10/06/2009	Germany	2009.0745	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.8+-0.3; Tot. = 4.6 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio paste from Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
10/06/2009	Germany	2009.0746	high content of iodine (43.9 mg/kg - ppm) in seaweed from China, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / no stock left
12/06/2009	Germany	2009.0750	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.4+-1.6; Tot. = 10.8 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio paste from Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
12/06/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.0751	cadmium (967, 732.5 mg/kg - ppm) in water bottle caps from Portugal	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
12/06/2009	Germany	2009.0754	BSE tests not conducted on fresh bovine meat and offal from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
12/06/2009	Italy	2009.0757	Diarrhoeic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) toxins (ocadic acid; dinophysistoxins; pectenotoxins) in live mussels (<i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i>) from Greece	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
08/06/2009	Austria	2009.0722	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (110000 CFU/g) in mackerel fillets with pepper from the Czech Republic	official control on the market	product past best before date / no stock left
08/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0723	imazalil (1.3 mg/kg - ppm) in conference pears from Belgium	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
08/06/2009	Austria	2009.0724	cadmium (2.38+-0.24 mg/kg - ppm) in squid from Italy	official control on the market	product past best before date / no stock left
08/06/2009	Denmark	2009.0725	snack sausages from Sweden infested with moulds	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
09/06/2009	Germany	2009.0729	metal fragments (copper-coloured metal splinter) in hazelnut toffee from Poland	consumer complaint	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
09/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0731	tebuconazole (0.6 / 0.2 mg/kg - ppm) in yam from Ghana	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
09/06/2009	Italy	2009.0736	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of gurnard fillets (Chelidonichthys cuculus) from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
10/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.0739	chlorpyrifos (0.82 mg/kg - ppm) and triazophos (38 mg/kg - ppm) in curry leaves from India	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
10/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.0740	chlorpyrifos (0.59 mg/kg - ppm) and triazophos (41 mg/kg - ppm) in curry leaves from India	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
10/06/2009	France	2009.0742	suspicion of carbon monoxide treatment (1700 µg/kg - ppb) of tuna (Thunnus albacares) from Spain	official control on the market	product past use-by date / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
10/06/2009	Poland	2009.0744	fragments of bones of land animals in sunflower oilcake from Ukraine	company's own check	no distribution / product (to be) detained
10/06/2009	Sweden	2009.0747	azinphos-methyl (0,33 mg/kg - ppm) in apples from Argentina	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
11/06/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0748	too high content of nitrate (991 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh white cabbage from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
12/06/2009	Germany	2009.0749	prohibited substance nitrofurantoin (metabolite) furazolidone (AOZ) (1.52 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen shrimps (Penaeus monodon) from India	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) detained
12/06/2009	Italy	2009.0752	cadmium (27.4 mg/kg - ppm) in crabs (Cancer pagurus) from France	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
12/06/2009	France	2009.0753	Salmonella (presence/10g) in poultry sausage from France	company's own check	product past use-by date / no action taken
12/06/2009	Sweden	2009.0755	omethoate (16.0; 12.8 mg/kg - ppm) in basil from Thailand	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
12/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.0756	Salmonella (1 out of 4 samples/25g) in praew leaf from Thailand	official control on the market	no stock left / no action taken

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
12/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.0758	Salmonella (2 out of 4) in pandang leaf from Thailand	official control on the market	no stock left / no action taken
12/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.0759	Salmonella (4 out of 4) in sierle leaf from Thailand	official control on the market	no stock left / no action taken
12/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.0760	Salmonella (2 out of 4/25g) in pakdum from Thailand	official control on the market	no stock left / no action taken
12/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.0761	Salmonella (3 out of 4/25g) in magaso sadao from Thailand	official control on the market	no stock left / no action taken

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
08/06/2009	Italy	2009.BCC	aflatoxins (B1 = 16.09+-4.8; Tot. = 18.1+-5.3 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts in shell from Egypt	product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2009	Germany	2009.BCD	dioxins (32.09 pg WHO TEQ/g) in anglerfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>) from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
08/06/2009	Poland	2009.BCE	dead mites (51 /100g) in puerh tea from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
08/06/2009	Poland	2009.BCF	unauthorised establishment for meat broth from the Russian Federation	product (to be) re-dispatched
09/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.BCG	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.6; Tot. = 8.7 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from the United States	physical treatment - blanching
09/06/2009	the Netherlands	2009.BCH	aflatoxins (B1 = 31.3; Tot. = 81.9 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	product (to be) detained
09/06/2009	Slovenia	2009.BCI	bovine skin from Croatia with defective packaging	product (to be) re-dispatched
09/06/2009	Spain	2009.BCJ	bad hygienic state of pumpkins from Argentina	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
09/06/2009	Spain	2009.BCK	unauthorised use of colour E 129 - Allura Red AC (3.1 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen peeled shrimps from India	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
09/06/2009	Italy	2009.BCL	unsuitable organoleptic characteristics of seabream (<i>Pagrus pagrus</i>) from Tunisia	product (to be) re-dispatched
09/06/2009	Spain	2009.BCM	parasitic infestation (<i>Mirosporidium</i> spp.) of anglerfish (<i>Lophius</i> spp.) from Senegal	product (to be) detained
09/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.BCN	prohibited substance chloramphenicol (1.4 µg/kg - ppb) in crustaceans from Myanmar	product (to be) destroyed
10/06/2009	Poland	2009.BCO	rodent excrements in dried hibiscus flowers from Nigeria	product (to be) detained
10/06/2009	Poland	2009.BCP	sunflower seeds from Ukraine infested with mites	product (to be) re-dispatched
10/06/2009	Italy	2009.BCQ	arsenic (47 mg/kg - ppm) in dried kelp from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
11/06/2009	Greece	2009.BCR	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in frozen boneless skinless chicken breast filets from Argentina	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
11/06/2009	Belgium	2009.BCS	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (2; 2; 7; 9 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen shrimps from Bangladesh	product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
11/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.BCT	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (2 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen raw HLSO freshwater shrimps from Bangladesh	product (to be) re-dispatched
12/06/2009	France	2009.BCU	aflatoxins (B1 = 8.5+-2.5; Tot. = 10.4+-2.6 µg/kg - ppb) in almond kernels from the United States	product under customs seals
12/06/2009	Greece	2009.BCV	aflatoxins (B1 = 12.2+-3.6; Tot. = 15.3 / B1 = 3.7+-1.1; Tot. = 4.1 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	product under customs seals
12/06/2009	France	2009.BCW	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.5; Tot. = 2.8 / B1 = 2.7; Tot. = 3.0 / B1 = 6.9; Tot. = 7.4 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Iran	product under customs seals
12/06/2009	France	2009.BCX	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.0; Tot. = 3.3 / B1 = 29.7; Tot. = 43.2 / B1 = 2.0; Tot. = 3.7 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	product under customs seals
12/06/2009	Denmark	2009.BCY	Salmonella Tennessee (1 out of 5) in fishmeal from Chile	product (to be) detained
12/06/2009	Italy	2009.BCZ	lead (3.7 mg/kg - ppm) in rice oil from Thailand	product (to be) redispached or destroyed

TABLE 4: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	CORRIGENDUM:
08/06/2009	add02	2009.0696	23	Shigella sonnei in fresh sugar peas from Kenya, via Denmark	Regretfully an error was made in the original notification. It should say sugar peas (not sugar beans).
12/06/2009	inf01	2009.0707	23	fragments of bones of land animals in dried blood from Hungary, via the Czech Republic	Hazard: fragments of bones of land animals in dried blood.
12/06/2009	inf01	2009.BBO	23	unauthorised genetically modified tortilla chips from the United States	The GMO detected concerns maize MON88017.
15/06/2009	inf01	2009.0716	23	unauthorised genetically modified maize (maize MON 88017) in extracted soya bean meal from Germany	The subject of the notification is modified as follows: "unauthorised genetically modified maize (maize MON 88017) in extracted soya bean meal from Germany".