

## 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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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 2007/25

**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
18/06/2007	France	2007.0401	Salmonella enteritidis on fresh eggs from France	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
18/06/2007	Ireland	2007.0402	lead (196 mg/kg - ppm) in copper sulphate from the Russian Federation via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
18/06/2007	Belgium	2007.0403	hazelnuts from Italy infested with moulds	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
19/06/2007	Hungary	2007.0404	residue level above MRL for sulphachlorpyridazine (0,261; 0,153 mg/kg - ppm) in fattened goose liver from Hungary	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
19/06/2007	Slovenia	2007.0405	undeclared milk ingredient (>25.6 mg/kg - ppm) in carob and soy bar from the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
20/06/2007	France	2007.0406	Listeria monocytogenes (<10 /g) in pâté foie made from chicken liver from France	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
20/06/2007	Belgium	2007.0407	Salmonella in basil from Egypt	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
21/06/2007	Estonia	2007.0408	too high content of colour E 129 - Allura Red AC (462 mg/kg - ppm) and of colour E 133 - Brilliant Blue FCF (310 mg/kg - ppm) in marshmallow pops from China via Lithuania	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
21/06/2007	Germany	2007.0409	unauthorised substance sulphadimidine (11 µg/kg - ppb) in wildflower honey from Portugal	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
21/06/2007	France	2007.0410	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of sweets and lollipops with toy gadgets from Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
21/06/2007	Germany	2007.0411	undeclared sulphite in raisins vinegar from Turkey	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) relabelled

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
21/06/2007	Germany	2007.0412	benzo(a)pyrene (30 µg/kg - ppb) in canned tuna in olive oil from Turkey via Belgium	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
22/06/2007	Italy	2007.0413	mercury (2.4 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> ) from Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
22/06/2007	Ireland	2007.0414	undeclared gluten (401; 505 mg/kg - ppm) in gluten free organic fruit muesli from the United Kingdom	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
22/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.0415	carbaryl (1.4 mg/kg - ppm) in red wine (Merlot) from Chile	market control	distribution on the market (possible)
22/06/2007	Italy	2007.0416	Salmonella typhimurium (multiresistant, presence /25g) in frozen pig meat from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
22/06/2007	Italy	2007.0417	Salmonella typhimurium (multiresistant, presence /25g) in vacuum packed fresh pig meat from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized

## 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
18/06/2007	Spain	2007.BMP	endosulfan (0.091; 0.104 mg/kg - ppm) in yellow melon from Spain	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / no stock left
18/06/2007	Germany	2007.BMQ	unauthorised substance nitrofurans (metabolite) - furazolidone (AOZ) (3.0 µg/kg - ppb) in black tiger shrimps ( <i>Penaeus monodon</i> ) from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BMR	aflatoxins (B1 = 67; Tot. = 74.6 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BMS	aflatoxins (B1 = 32.2; Tot. = 78.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Brazil	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BMT	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.2 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2007	Italy	2007.BMV	unauthorised use of colour E 171 - titanium dioxide (119 mg/kg - ppm) in roasted chickpeas from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BMW	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.9; Tot. = 4.9 / B1 = 1.4; Tot. = 2.1 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from Nigeria	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
18/06/2007	Italy	2007.BMX	unauthorised genetically modified (RICE BT63) rice noodles from China	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country
19/06/2007	Spain	2007.BMY	too high content of sulphite (260.43; 153.55 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen crabs from Senegal	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
19/06/2007	France	2007.BMZ	Listeria monocytogenes (30000 CFU/g) in fresh sirloin from Spain	company's own check	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product (to be) destroyed
19/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BNA	bad temperature control (rupture of the cold chain) (-0.6 <--> -0.8 °C) and thawing of smoked fish (Sphyreana, Ethmalosa, Arius) from the Gambia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
19/06/2007	Italy	2007.BNB	unauthorised genetically modified (DAS 59122 2,9%) maize in cat feed from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
19/06/2007	Italy	2007.BNC	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.1; Tot. = 0.1 / B1 = 5.34; Tot. = 6.28 / B1 < 0.1; Tot. = 0.1 µg/kg - ppb) in peanut kernels from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
19/06/2007	Italy	2007.BND	mercury (5.41 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Spain	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product seized
19/06/2007	Germany	2007.BNE	oxamyl (0.076 mg/kg - ppm) in long shaped peppers from Turkey	market control	product already consumed / no stock left
20/06/2007	Denmark	2007.BNF	Salmonella Saint Paul (10 out of 12 samples /25g) in fresh skinless turkey breast from Poland	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product recall
20/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BNG	absence of certified analytical report (on Sudan dyes) for curry powder from Jamaica	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/06/2007	Italy	2007.BNH	migration of chromium (5.4; 18.1; 24.0 mg/l) and of nickel (<0.06; 0.17; 0.11 mg/l) from stainless steel set for barbecue from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/06/2007	Spain	2007.BNI	incorrect labelling (mislabelled as Seriola dumerili) on fillets of escolar fish (Lepidocybium spp) from Spain	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product seized
20/06/2007	Spain	2007.BNJ	incorrect labelling (mislabelled as Seriola dumerili) on fillets of escolar fish (Lepidocybium flavobrunneum) from Spain	consumer complaint	distribution restricted to notifying country / product seized
21/06/2007	Germany	2007.BNK	unauthorised colours Sudan 1 (26.2 mg/kg - ppm) and Sudan 4 (25.0 mg/kg - ppm) in sumac from Turkey	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
21/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BNL	aflatoxins (B1 = 10.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from South Africa	border control - screening sample	no distribution / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
21/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BNM	aflatoxins (B1 = 26.7 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from South Africa	border control - screening sample	no distribution / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
21/06/2007	Germany	2007.BNN	aflatoxins (B1 = 27.7; Tot. = 36.9 µg/dm <sup>2</sup> ) in roasted and salted pistachio nuts from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
21/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BNO	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.8; Tot. = 0.8 / B1 = 5.6; Tot. = 5.9 µg/kg - ppb) in oloyin beans from Nigeria	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
21/06/2007	Italy	2007.BNP	mercury (2.35 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Spain	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product (to be) destroyed

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
21/06/2007	Italy	2007.BNQ	mercury (1.67 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh swordfish (xiphias gladius) from Spain	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product (to be) destroyed
21/06/2007	Poland	2007.BNR	Salmonella in fish meal from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BNS	aflatoxins (B1 = 18.7; Tot. = 21.8 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	border control - screening sample	no distribution / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
21/06/2007	Germany	2007.BNT	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.5; Tot. < 0.500 / B1 = 28.85; Tot. = 98.04 / B1 < 0.5; Tot. = 1.42 µg/kg - ppb) in raw hazelnut kernels from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/06/2007	Germany	2007.BNU	mercury (1.11 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen marlin (Makaira indica) from Vietnam	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
22/06/2007	Spain	2007.BNV	aflatoxins (B1 = 80 µg/kg - ppb) in coconut (cake) feed from Côte d'Ivoire	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/06/2007	Cyprus	2007.BNW	abnormal smell (chlorine) of coated peanut from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
22/06/2007	Malta	2007.BNX	unauthorised novel food food supplement containing chia seeds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
22/06/2007	Poland	2007.BNY	Salmonella (presence /25g) in soybean meal in bulk from Argentina	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / product detained
22/06/2007	Malta	2007.BNZ	unauthorised novel food weight loss product containing Hoodia gordonii from the United States	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product detained
22/06/2007	Malta	2007.BOA	unauthorised novel food weight loss product containing Hoodia gordonii from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
22/06/2007	Germany	2007.BOB	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.14; Tot. = 7.37 / B1 = 1.83; Tot. = 11.01 µg/kg - ppb) in raw hazelnut kernels from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/06/2007	Malta	2007.BOC	unauthorised novel food weight loss product containing Hoodia gordonii from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
22/06/2007	Spain	2007.BOD	unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine (1.6 mg/kg - ppm) in sweets from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/06/2007	Italy	2007.BOE	histamine (428 <=> 1197 mg/kg - ppm) in salted anchovies in barrels from Croatia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/06/2007	Spain	2007.BOF	Salmonella (present /25g) in Octopus vulgaris from Mexico	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched