

## 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 headings<sup>1</sup>:

- **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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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 EEA<sup>2</sup>) 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

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<sup>1</sup> This classification was put in place on 1 January 2008 and differs from the classification used until then.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2008/25

**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
17/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0710	inadequate heat processing of frozen diced steam-cooked chicken fillets from Belgium	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
17/06/2008	Denmark	2008.0715	Salmonella (in 2 out of 5 samples) in frozen marinated chicken breast fillets from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible)
19/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0733	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption (compacted lumps of product) of infant formula from Ireland	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumer
19/06/2008	Belgium	2008.0734	migration of formaldehyde (200.6; 43.2; 153.7; 24.3 mg/l) from melamine mugs from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumer
20/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0737	Listeria monocytogenes (300 CFU/g) in smoked salmon from the United Kingdom	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumer
20/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0739	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt 63) fermented red rice powder from China, via Germany	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale

**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
16/06/2008	Austria	2008.0706	glass fragments in lime flavoured vodka-based spirit from France	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / public warning - press release
16/06/2008	Italy	2008.0707	cadmium (including hepatopancreas 8 mg/kg - ppm) in live crabs (Cancer pagurus) from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
16/06/2008	Spain	2008.0708	Salmonella in beef burgers from Spain	company's own check	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) detained
16/06/2008	Italy	2008.0709	cadmium (including hepatopancreas 0.7 mg/kg - ppm) in live crabs (Maja squinado) from France	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
17/06/2008	Italy	2008.0711	mercury (1.15 mg/kg - ppm) in chilled grouper (Epinephelus spp.) from Tunisia	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / reinforced checking
17/06/2008	Austria	2008.0712	Salmonella Montevideo in soy bean meal from Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
17/06/2008	Germany	2008.0713	aflatoxins (B1 = 14.5; Tot. = 34.2 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted pistachio nuts from Turkey	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
17/06/2008	Slovenia	2008.0714	migration of formaldehyde (8.8 mg/dm <sup>2</sup> ) from ladle with hole from China, via Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumer
17/06/2008	France	2008.0716	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.4; Tot. = 10.8 / B1 = 9.8; Tot. = 11.0 / B1 = 9.1; Tot. = 10.2 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
17/06/2008	Belgium	2008.0717	Salmonella in organic chicken meal from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / physical treatment - heat treatment
18/06/2008	France	2008.0718	cadmium (0.191 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh tuna from Sri Lanka	border control - consignment released	product past use-by date / reinforced checking
18/06/2008	Ireland	2008.0719	assortment of filled chocolates from Spain infested with larvae of insects (Ephestia cautella)	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
18/06/2008	France	2008.0720	mercury (1.117 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh tuna from Tunisia	border control - consignment released	product already consumed / reinforced checking
18/06/2008	Slovenia	2008.0721	migration of formaldehyde (3.5 mg/dm <sup>2</sup> ) from blender spoon from Taiwan	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumer

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
18/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0722	unauthorised genetically modified (rice BT 63) rice vermicelli from China	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
18/06/2008	Slovenia	2008.0724	unauthorised genetically modified (rice BT63) rice powder from China	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
18/06/2008	Sweden	2008.0725	Salmonella Lexington (1 out of 10 samples /25g) in soya pellets from Brazil, via Aruba and via Germany	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / physical treatment
18/06/2008	Germany	2008.0726	residues of nicarbazin (7.0 µg/kg - ppb) in whole chicken from France	official control on the market	product past use-by date / informing supplier
18/06/2008	Italy	2008.0727	mercury (2.09 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen shark (Ginglymostoma cirratum ) from Spain	official control on the market	product past use-by date / informing recipients
19/06/2008	France	2008.0728	unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl (0.014; 0.025; 0.036 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen diced grilled yellow peppers from Spain	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
19/06/2008	Austria	2008.0729	prophenophos (2.8 mg/kg - ppm) in seedless grapes from India	consumer complaint	product already consumed / no stock left
19/06/2008	France	2008.0730	too high content of colour E 102 - tartrazine (5800; 2900; 5500 mg/kg - ppm) and of colour E 124 - Ponceau 4R / cochineal red A (5000; 1900; 5200 mg/kg - ppm) in tandoori masala spice mixture from the United Kingdom	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible)
19/06/2008	Italy	2008.0731	unsuitable organoleptic characteristics (transparent solution with smell of chlorine) of semi-skimmed milk from France	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
19/06/2008	Sweden	2008.0732	Salmonella Mbandaka (2 out of 8 samples /25g) in soya pellets from Brazil, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / physical treatment
20/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.0735	microbiological contamination of chicken ragout from the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale
20/06/2008	Cyprus	2008.0736	unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine in instant drink powder from South Africa	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumer
20/06/2008	Belgium	2008.0738	Salmonella Tennessee (presence /25g) in soy protein isolate from China	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible)

**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
17/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AXP	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.2; Tot. = 6.4 / B1 = 2.8; Tot. = 3.0 µg/kg - ppb) in soft mini figs from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
17/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AXQ	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.7; Tot. = 6.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
17/06/2008	Italy	2008.AXR	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.75; Tot. = 2.92 / B1 = 1.92; Tot. = 2.06 / B1 = 1.90; Tot. = 2.06 µg/kg - ppb) in white corn flour from Colombia	product (to be) re-dispatched
17/06/2008	Italy	2008.AXS	Salmonella spp. (2 out of 10 samples /25g) in soybean meal from Argentina	product under customs seals
18/06/2008	Germany	2008.AXT	aflatoxins (B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = 18.9; Tot. = 20.8 / B1 = 0.3; Tot. = 0.3 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachio nuts with shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2008	Germany	2008.AXU	aflatoxins (B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = 11.5; Tot. = 12.1 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachio nuts with shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2008	Germany	2008.AXV	aflatoxins (B1 = 10.6; Tot. = 11.0 / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = 19.8; Tot. = 20.5 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachio nuts with shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2008	Germany	2008.AXW	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.6; Tot. = 3.6 / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachio nuts with shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2008	Germany	2008.AXX	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.6; Tot. = 2.0 / B1 = 2.8; Tot. = 3.3 µg/kg - ppb) in ground almonds with skin from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
18/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AXZ	histamine (526 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen dried fish from Myanmar	product (to be) destroyed
18/06/2008	Italy	2008.AYA	aflatoxins (B1 = 16.4; Tot. = 19.8 / B1 = 9.5; Tot. = 11.1 / B1 = 17.6; Tot. = 22.0 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
19/06/2008	Italy	2008.AYB	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.7; Tot. = 4.0 / B1 = 0.5; Tot. = 0.6 / B1 = 22.2; Tot. = 26.8 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts in shell from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
19/06/2008	Italy	2008.AYC	unauthorised use of colour E 160b - annato/bixin/norbixin in orange, apricot and peach marmalade from Argentina	product (to be) seized
19/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AYD	too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (280 mg/kg - ppm) and unidentified colour in sugar coated fennel seeds from India	product (to be) destroyed
19/06/2008	Poland	2008.AYE	suspicion of presence of mineral oil in crude sunflower oil from Ukraine	product (to be) re-dispatched
19/06/2008	Slovenia	2008.AYF	attempt to illegally import roasted peanuts in shell from China, via Mongolia	product (to be) destroyed
19/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYG	aflatoxins (B1 = 10.1; Tot. = 12.4 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
19/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYH	aflatoxins (B1 = 13.9; Tot. = 16 / B1 = 87.6; Tot. = 102.06 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
19/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYI	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.2; Tot. = 5.2 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched groundnut kernels from Argentina	physical treatment - sorting
19/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.5; Tot. = 10.6 / B1 = 51.1; Tot. = 57.8 / B1 = 56.1; Tot. = 63.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
19/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYK	aflatoxins (B1 = 17.0; Tot. = 19.5 / B1 = 5.5; Tot. = 6.2 / B1 = 25.6; Tot. = 30.0 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) detained

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
19/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYL	aflatoxins (B1 = 19.1; Tot. = 21.2 / B1 = 5.8; Tot. = 7.4 / B1 = 16.5; Tot. = 20.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) detained
19/06/2008	Poland	2008.AYM	aflatoxins (B1 = 18.17; Tot. = 24.57 µg/kg - ppb) in raw groundnut kernels from Nicaragua	product (to be) re-dispatched
19/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYN	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.0; Tot. = 7.4 / B1 = 2.2; Tot. = 17.6 / B1 = 6.9; Tot. = 18.7 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	destination of the product changed
20/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYO	aflatoxins (B1 = 75.7; Tot. = 89.3 / B1 = 27.5; Tot. = 32.2 / B1 = 40.1; Tot. = 46.5 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
20/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYP	aflatoxins (B1 = 12.9; Tot. = 17.2 / B1 = 44; Tot. = 51.8 / B1 = 3.4; Tot. = 4.1 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
20/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYQ	aflatoxins (B1 = 45.1; Tot. = 78.4 / B1 = 15.9; Tot. = 18.2 / B1 = 6.8; Tot. = 7.7 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
20/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYR	aflatoxins (B1 = 24; Tot. = 26.6 / B1 = 27.4; Tot. = 31 / B1 = 4.1; Tot. = 4.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
20/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYS	aflatoxins (B1 = 22.4; Tot. = 29.4 / B1 = 19; Tot. = 22.2 / B1 = 112.8; Tot. = 128.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
20/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYT	aflatoxins (B1 = 20.2; Tot. = 24 / B1 = 34.7; Tot. = 41.2 / B1 = 6; Tot. = 7.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
20/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYU	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.6; Tot. = 8.5 µg/kg - ppb) in nut mix from China	product (to be) detained
20/06/2008	France	2008.AYV	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.5; Tot. = 3.2 / B1 = 7.4; Tot. = 7.8 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
20/06/2008	the Netherlands	2008.AYW	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.9; Tot. = 8.5 / B1 = 47.1; Tot. = 51.8 / B1 = 15.8; Tot. = 18.9 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	physical treatment - blanching
20/06/2008	Poland	2008.AYX	migration of formaldehyde (259.9; 52.8 mg/kg - ppm) from melamine cup from China	product (to be) detained
20/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AYY	too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (60 mg/kg - ppm) and E 385 - calcium disodium ethylene diamine tetra acetate (CDEDTA) unauthorised in soft drink from Syria	product (to be) destroyed
20/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AYZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 11; Tot. = 12 µg/kg - ppb) in halawa topped with pistachio from Syria	product (to be) destroyed
20/06/2008	Italy	2008.AZA	bad state of preservation of various food products from Ghana	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
20/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AZB	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.8; Tot. = 14 / B1 < 0.25; Tot. < 1 / B1 < 0.25; Tot. < 1 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
20/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AZC	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.5; Tot. = 5.2 / B1 < 0.25; Tot. < 1 / B1 < 0.25; Tot. < 1 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) re-dispatched
20/06/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.AZD	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.25; Tot. < 1 / B1 = 7.7; Tot. = 15 / B1 = 5.6; Tot. = 7.0 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) re-dispatched

**TABLE 4: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>NOTIFI- CATION:</b>	<b>OF WEEK</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CORRIGENDUM:</b>
20/06/2008	inf03	2008.0535	19	histamine in vacuum packed tuna fillets from Sri Lanka	The manufacturer of the product is authorised for export to the EU. The notification's subject is modified accordingly.
17/06/2008	inf02	2008.0542	20	aflatoxins in roasted and salted peanuts manufactured in the Slovak Republic, raw material from India	The raw material came from India and not from Argentina.
18/06/2008	add01	2008.0581	21	inadequate heat processing of sliced steam-cooked chicken fillets from Brazil	The sliced steam-cooked chicken filets are produced in Brazil.

**TABLE 5: 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>
19/06/2008	add03	2008.0358	13	lead in fresh chilled pork loins from Belgium	The counter analysis made by the national Institute of Health (ISS) is favourable. Therefore this notification is hereby withdrawn.
20/06/2008	add01	2008.0540	19	Listeria monocytogenes in kebab meat from Germany	The local sanitary authority has informed that notification is withdrawn. Another sample was analyzed and Listeria was found below 10 CFU/g.
19/06/2008	add01	2008.0647	23	unauthorised genetically modified soybean grist from Austria	All further analytical reports of drawn samples and the counter analysis show that no contamination is existent. The authorities released the blocked product. This notification is therefore withdrawn.