

## 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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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 2007/26

**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>
25/06/2007	Denmark	2007.0418	Salmonella (present in 10/12 samples) in frozen whole chickens from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
25/06/2007	Germany	2007.0419	fumonisin (1288 µg/kg - ppb) in maize flour from Italy	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
25/06/2007	Italy	2007.0420	mercury (1.3 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> ) from Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
25/06/2007	Spain	2007.0421	endosulfan (0.091; 0.104 mg/kg - ppm) in yellow melon from Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / no stock left
25/06/2007	Italy	2007.0422	migration of lead (5.4 µg/dm <sup>2</sup> ) from pizza cardboard boxes from Italy	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
27/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0423	canned Chinese stir fry vegetables from China with defective packaging (seam)	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
27/06/2007	Bulgaria	2007.0424	Salmonella duisburg in frozen pork head meat from the Slovak Republic	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
27/06/2007	Denmark	2007.0425	Campylobacter (from 100 CFU/g to 2.500 CFU/g) in whole fresh chicken from France	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
27/06/2007	Finland	2007.0426	too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (230 mg/kg - ppm) in candy floss from Poland	market control	distribution on the market (possible)
27/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.0427	ethephon (43 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh pineapple from Côte d'Ivoire via France	company's own check	product already consumed / no action taken
27/06/2007	Poland	2007.0428	Salmonella (presence /25g) in chicken kebab from Poland	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
28/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0429	undeclared egg in frozen prepared dish of chicken tikka masala with pilau rice from Ireland	company's own check	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
28/06/2007	Finland	2007.0430	Salmonella chester (present /25g) in kangaroo fillet from Australia via the Netherlands	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
28/06/2007	Norway	2007.0431	Salmonella in dried sage ( <i>Salvia officinalis</i> ) from Turkey	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
29/06/2007	Estonia	2007.0432	Listeria monocytogenes in smoked poultry meat product from Estonia	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
29/06/2007	the Commission Services	2007.0433	residue level above MRL for oxytetracycline (300 mg/kg - ppm) in giant shrimps from Indonesia via Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
29/06/2007	Austria	2007.0434	Salmonella group C in whole egg powder from the Czech Republic	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
29/06/2007	Cyprus	2007.0435	traces of milk ingredient in rice based baby food from Greece	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product detained

## 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
25/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BOG	Enterobacter sakazakii (detected /g) in baby food from Uganda	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
25/06/2007	Italy	2007.BOH	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (1396.9 mg/kg - ppm) in hot sauce for roasting from the Philippines	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country
25/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BOI	aflatoxins (B1 = 14.0; Tot. = 16.0 / B1 = 14.4; Tot. = 16.9 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
25/06/2007	Belgium	2007.BOJ	migration of 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane (0.14; 0.19; 0.17 µg/dm <sup>2</sup> ) from nylon spaghetti spoon from China	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
25/06/2007	Poland	2007.BOK	aflatoxins (B1 = 10.31 µg/kg - ppb) in raw peanuts from Nicaragua	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
25/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BOL	aflatoxins (B1 = 98.2; Tot. = 115.0 / B1 = 65.7; Tot. = 84.7 / B1 = 57.4; Tot. = 68.9 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from Argentina	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
25/06/2007	Norway	2007.BOM	Salmonella Amsterdam (presence /25g) and Salmonella Dublin (presence /25g) in holy basil and mint leaves from Thailand	market control	product already consumed / prohibition to trade - sales ban

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
25/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BON	undeclared milk ingredient (casein) in whole seed fibre bar from the United States	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
26/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BOO	Salmonella Brunei (presence /25g) in holy basil from Thailand	border control - screening sample	product already consumed / reinforced checking
26/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BOP	unauthorised substance crystal violet (3.7 µg/kg - ppb) in tilapia from China	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country
26/06/2007	Italy	2007.BOQ	cadmium (7.12 mg/kg - ppm) in scallops in shell (Pecten maximus) from the United Kingdom	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / no stock left
26/06/2007	Norway	2007.BOR	Salmonella anatum (presence /25g) in coriander from Thailand	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
26/06/2007	Poland	2007.BOS	Salmonella (presence /25g) in soy bean meal from Argentina	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / physical treatment
26/06/2007	Belgium	2007.BOT	unauthorised substances nitrofurantoin (metabolite) - furaltadone (AMOZ) (4.6 µg/kg - ppb) and nitrofurantoin (metabolite) - furazolidone (AOZ) (>5 µg/kg - ppb) in black tiger shrimps (Penaeus monodon) from Bangladesh	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
27/06/2007	Germany	2007.BOU	methomyl (1.5 mg/kg - ppm) and acetamiprid (0.21 mg/kg - ppm) in green peppers from Turkey	market control	no stock left / product recall
27/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BOV	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.1; Tot. = 6.9 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from Nicaragua	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment - blanching
27/06/2007	the Netherlands	2007.BOW	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.4; Tot. = 8.3 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from Nicaragua	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment - blanching
27/06/2007	Greece	2007.BOX	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.7; Tot. = 2.7 µg/kg - ppb) in pop corn from the United States	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / product detained
27/06/2007	Greece	2007.BOY	expired health certificate(s) for groundnut kernels from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
27/06/2007	Italy	2007.BOZ	illegal import (fraud) of live clams (Venus verrucosa); Manila clams (Tapes philippinarum) datemussel (lithophaga lithophaga) from Croatia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
27/06/2007	Denmark	2007.BPA	Campylobacter (from 1.500 CFU/g to 30.000 CFU/g) in whole fresh chicken from France	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / withdrawal from sale
27/06/2007	Denmark	2007.BPB	Salmonella Dublin (presence in 1/12 samples /25g) in fresh beef from Denmark	market control	no stock left / product recall
28/06/2007	Spain	2007.BPC	too high content of sulphite (169 <=> 320 mg/kg - ppm) in shrimps (Aristeus varidens) from Angola	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
28/06/2007	Malta	2007.BPD	abnormal smell of chinotto flavoured drink from Malta	consumer complaint	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
28/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BPE	unauthorised irradiation of aloe vera extract from the United States	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
28/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BPF	unauthorised irradiation of ginger tablets from the United States	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
29/06/2007	Germany	2007.BPG	too high content of nitrate (336; 268 mg/kg - ppm) in vegetable based baby food for infants and young children from Germany	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
29/06/2007	Cyprus	2007.BPH	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.5; Tot. = 6.5 / B1 = 6.5; Tot. = 6.5 / B1 = 6.6; Tot. = 6.6 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
29/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BPI	Salmonella Bareilly in holy basil from Thailand	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
29/06/2007	Cyprus	2007.BPJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 13.6; Tot. = 14.6 / B1 = 13.6; Tot. = 14.6 / B1 = 13.6; Tot. = 14.6 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts in shell from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
29/06/2007	Cyprus	2007.BPK	aflatoxins (B1 = 37.7; Tot. = 41.2 / B1 = 34.9; Tot. = 38.4 / B1 = 37.6; Tot. = 41.2 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios in shell from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
29/06/2007	Spain	2007.BPL	mercury (1.68; 1.67; 0.58; 0.59; 0.25; 0.25 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen mako shark (Isurus glaucus) from Ghana	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
29/06/2007	France	2007.BPM	melamine (160 mg/kg - ppm) in concentrated rice protein from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
29/06/2007	Cyprus	2007.BPN	traces of milk ingredient in dark chocolate couverture from Cyprus	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
29/06/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.BPO	too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (455 mg/kg - ppm) in orange flavoured chew from Pakistan	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
29/06/2007	Germany	2007.BPP	aflatoxins (B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = 26.43; Tot. = 115.1 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts with shell from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
29/06/2007	Cyprus	2007.BPQ	traces of milk ingredient in dark chocolate couverture from Cyprus	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
29/06/2007	France	2007.BPR	benzo(a)pyrene (30.51 µg/kg - ppb) in smoked fish from Côte d'Ivoire	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from recipient(s)
29/06/2007	Cyprus	2007.BPS	traces of milk ingredient in dark chocolate couverture from Cyprus	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
29/06/2007	France	2007.BPT	benzo(a)pyrene (51.83 µg/kg - ppb) in smoked fish from Côte d'Ivoire	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from recipient(s)
29/06/2007	France	2007.BPU	benzo(a)pyrene (26.35 µg/kg - ppb) in smoked fish from Côte d'Ivoire	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from recipient(s)
29/06/2007	Austria	2007.BPV	Salmonella anatum (presence /10g) in seasoned chicken from Germany	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date)

**TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	CORRIGENDUM:
29/06/2007	inf01	2007.0405	25	traces of milk ingredient in carob and soy bar from the Netherlands	Since the milk ingredient is not an ingredient of the food product in question, it most likely ended up in the product through cross-contamination. The subject of the notification is accordingly modified to: "traces of milk ingredient (>25.6 mg/kg - ppm) in carob and soy bar from the Netherlands".

**TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
27/06/2007	add01	2007.BHZ	22	mercury in snapper ( <i>Lutjanus Sanguineus</i> ) from Indonesia	Based on the favourable results of the counter analysis this notification is hereby withdrawn.
27/06/2007	inf01	2007.BMB	24	dioxins in zinc oxide from Turkey	The notification and actions were based on the action level set in Regulation 1881/2006. As stated in the Regulation, these action levels are a tool for competent authorities and operators to highlight those cases where it is appropriate to identify a source of contamination and to take measures to reduce or eliminate it (i.e. at the source). Since the source of the contamination here (probably) lies in Turkey, there is no such action that can be undertaken. Since the levels found are below the legal limit for dioxins, it is not appropriate to notify under the RASFF. The notification is therefore withdrawn with the consent of Germany.