

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2009/26

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
22/06/2009	Germany	2009.0800	migration of lead (13.58 mg/l) from brown glazed ceramic casserole from Italy, via Belgium	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
23/06/2009	Germany	2009.0805	migration of primary aromatic amines (475 µg/dm ²) from spoon for vegetables from China	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
23/06/2009	Italy	2009.0806	mercury (1.38 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen sliced swordfish from Spain	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) seized
23/06/2009	Austria	2009.0807	undeclared milk ingredient (4200 mg/kg - ppm) in dark chocolate rice wafers from the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) relabelled
23/06/2009	Germany	2009.0808	high content of DEHP - di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (16 %) and of DIBP - diisobutyl phthalate (3.8 %) in kitchen utensil (dough scraper) from unknown origin, via the Netherlands	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
25/06/2009	Greece	2009.0812	aflatoxins (B1 = 148; Tot. = 160 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Iran	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
25/06/2009	Greece	2009.0813	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.5; Tot. = 10.2 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Iran	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
25/06/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0814	aflatoxins (B1 = 28.9; Tot. = 33.0 µg/kg - ppb) in whole nutmegs from Indonesia, via Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
26/06/2009	the Slovak Republic	2009.0821	undeclared milk ingredient (19.10 mg/kg - ppm) in crackers with ham from Romania	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
26/06/2009	Poland	2009.0822	migration of lead (48.9 mg/kg - ppm) from porcelain plates from Poland	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
26/06/2009	Germany	2009.0823	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.02 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio paste intended to be used in the production of ice cream from Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) detained
26/06/2009	Slovenia	2009.0824	mercury (0.66 mg/kg - ppm) in chilled hake (Merluccius) from Croatia	border control - consignment released	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
26/06/2009	France	2009.0825	bulging packaging of and too high count of aerobic mesophiles (170000 CFU/g) in surimi rolls from Italy	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market

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
22/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0801	chlormequat (2.5 mg/kg - ppm) in conference pears from Belgium	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
22/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0802	chlormequat (1.5 mg/kg - ppm) in conference pears from Belgium	official control on the market	product already consumed
23/06/2009	Belgium	2009.0803	Salmonella (presence/25g) in fish meal from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / physical treatment
23/06/2009	France	2009.0804	mercury (1.464+-0.293 mg/kg - ppm) in yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) from Ecuador	border control - consignment released	product past use-by date / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
24/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0809	too high count of Enterobacteriaceae (>1100 CFU/g) in pork sticks from China	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
24/06/2009	Italy	2009.0810	unauthorised food additive formaldehyde (declared on label) in veal-turkey kebab from Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / reinforced checking
24/06/2009	Germany	2009.0811	unauthorised use of colour E 102 - tartrazine in pasta made from durum wheat semolina from Kazakhstan	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
25/06/2009	Germany	2009.0815	unauthorised genetically modified (maize MIR604; maize MON88017) pet food for dogs from the United States	border control - consignment released	information on distribution not (yet) available / destination of the product identified
25/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0816	aflatoxins (B1 = 243; Total = 277 µg/kg - ppb) in peanut snacks from Pakistan	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
25/06/2009	Germany	2009.0817	unauthorised genetically modified (maize MIR604; maize MON88017) pet food for dogs from the United States	border control - consignment released	information on distribution not (yet) available / destination of the product identified
25/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.0818	aflatoxins (B1 = 50; Tot. = 62 µg/kg - ppb) in chilgoza nuts from Pakistan	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
25/06/2009	France	2009.0819	too high content of vitamin B6 in food supplement from the United Kingdom	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible)
25/06/2009	Norway	2009.0820	fraudulent health certificate(s) for tenderloins from Argentina	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumers
26/06/2009	Italy	2009.BEV	mercury (1.29 mg/kg - ppm) in red tuna (Thunnus thynnus) from Spain	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) detained

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
22/06/2009	the Czech Republic	2009.BEK	aflatoxins (B1 = 16.2; Tot. = 17.8 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled peanuts from Vietnam	product (to be) detained
22/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.BEL	tuna chunks in brine from Ecuador with defective packaging	product (to be) destroyed
23/06/2009	Spain	2009.BEM	aflatoxins (B1 = 26.0+-7.0; Tot. = 31.2+-8.4 / B1 = 17.3+-4.7; Tot. = 19.6+-5.3 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds without shell from the United States	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
24/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.BEN	bad hygienic state of chilled fish from Chile	product (to be) destroyed
24/06/2009	Italy	2009.BEO	mercury (3.27+-0.29 mg/kg - ppm) in smoothhound shark (Mustelus mustelus) from Croatia	product (to be) re-dispached
24/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.BEP	bad hygienic state of frozen Louisiana catfish bites from the United States	product (to be) destroyed
24/06/2009	France	2009.BEQ	norovirus (presence in 3/5 samples) in frozen scallops from Peru	product (to be) re-dispached

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
24/06/2009	Spain	2009.BER	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt 63) rice sticks from China	product (to be) destroyed
25/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.BES	bad hygienic state of cheddar cheese from Chile	product (to be) destroyed
25/06/2009	Spain	2009.BET	bad hygienic state of chilled fish from Senegal	product (to be) destroyed
26/06/2009	Greece	2009.BEU	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.1; Tot. = 4.5 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled almonds from the United States	product under customs seals
26/06/2009	Italy	2009.BEW	aflatoxins (B1 = 15.6+-6.9; Tot. = 18.9+-8.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts with shell from Egypt	product (to be) re-dispatched
26/06/2009	Austria	2009.BEX	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.7; Tot. = 11.7 / B1 = 13.8; Tot. = 25.9 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
26/06/2009	Austria	2009.BEY	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.9; Tot. = 10.1 / B1 = 2.5; Tot. = 1.7 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted hazelnuts from Turkey	product (to be) re-dispatched
26/06/2009	Finland	2009.BEZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 19; Tot. = 30 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	product (to be) detained
26/06/2009	the United Kingdom	2009.BFA	Bacillus cereus (200; 120000; 77000; 270000; 6800 CFU/g) in fermented red bean curd from China	product (to be) destroyed

TABLE 4: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	CORRIGENDUM:
26/06/2009	inf01	2009.0759	24	Salmonella in sserie leaf/ betel leaf from Thailand	The correct name of the product is sserie leaf/ betel leaf.
23/06/2009	inf01	2009.BDC	25	unauthorised colour Gardenia Yellow in custard cream powder from the Republic of Korea	The product originates from the Republic of Korea and not from the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

TABLE 5: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
25/06/2009	add01	2009.0582	19	mercury in smoked swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Denmark	Taking into account the calculation of the level back to the fresh swordfish, using information about the water content of the smoked swordfish, the levels found were compliant. Therefore the notification is withdrawn.
25/06/2009	add01	2009.0627	20	mercury in smoked swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Denmark	Taking into account the calculation of the level back to the fresh swordfish, using information about the water content of the smoked swordfish, the levels found were compliant. Therefore the notification is withdrawn.
24/06/2009	inf01	2009.BEA	25	aflatoxins in dried figs from Turkey	This notification is identical to notification 2009.BDR and therefore withdrawn.