

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 EEA¹).

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

¹ 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 2007/27

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 |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| 02/07/2007 | Lithuania | 2007.0436 | presence of ruminant DNA in haemoglobin meal from the Netherlands via Denmark | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale |
| 02/07/2007 | France | 2007.0437 | Salmonella (presence in 1 g) in frozen chicken kebab from Germany | company's own check | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale |
| 02/07/2007 | Poland | 2007.0439 | cadmium (0.484; 0.70 mg/kg - ppm) in horse quarters from Poland | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified |
| 03/07/2007 | the United Kingdom | 2007.0440 | undeclared milk ingredient in prawn cocktail flavour crisps from the United Kingdom | consumer complaint | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale |
| 03/07/2007 | Greece | 2007.0441 | too high level of total migration (50; 46; 45 in acetic acid – 200; 635; 416 in sunflower oil mg/dm ²) from plastic spoon from China via the Netherlands | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / product recall |
| 03/07/2007 | Sweden | 2007.0442 | Salmonella Cerro (present in 1 of 8 samples) in soybean meal from Brazil | company's own check | distribution on the market (possible) / physical treatment |
| 04/07/2007 | Italy | 2007.0443 | mammalian protein (presence of bone fragments) in fish meal from Denmark | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / product recall |
| 04/07/2007 | Sweden | 2007.0444 | undeclared milk ingredient (presence of casein: 3000 mg/kg - ppm) in rice biscuits with dark chocolate from the Netherlands | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / product recall |
| 04/07/2007 | Italy | 2007.0445 | suspicion of histamine in fresh sliced red tuna from Spain | consumer complaint | distribution on the market (possible) / product recall |
| 04/07/2007 | the United Kingdom | 2007.0446 | unauthorised irradiation of ginseng powder capsule from China | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale |
| 05/07/2007 | Denmark | 2007.0447 | Salmonella Indiana (1 of 12 samples) and Salmonella Ohio (8 of 12 samples) in whole chicken from Germany | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale |

| DATE: | NOTIFIED BY: | REF.: | REASON FOR NOTIFYING: | TYPE OF CONTROL: | STATUS |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| 05/07/2007 | Denmark | 2007.0448 | residue level above MRL for amoxicillin (182 µg/kg - ppb) in sow meat from Denmark | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified |
| 06/07/2007 | Germany | 2007.0449 | sodium hydroxide in soya drink from France | company's own check | distribution on the market (possible) / product recall |
| 06/07/2007 | the Slovak Republic | 2007.0450 | aflatoxins (B1 = 12.1; Tot. = 26.4 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts kernels from Turkey via the Netherlands | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale |
| 06/07/2007 | Denmark | 2007.0451 | Salmonella Ohio (present in 7 out of 12 samples) in whole chicken for grilling without giblets from Germany | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale |
| 06/07/2007 | Spain | 2007.0452 | Enterobacter sakazakii (present /10g) in infant formulae from Switzerland via Germany | market control | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale |

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 |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 02/07/2007 | the Netherlands | 2007.BPW | aflatoxins (B1 = 43.4; Tot. = 48.4 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from Nicaragua | border control - import rejected | no distribution / destination of the product changed |
| 02/07/2007 | Germany | 2007.BPX | spoilage of frozen peeled red shrimps (<i>Metapenaeus monoceros</i>) from Bangladesh | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 02/07/2007 | Poland | 2007.BPY | too high content of E 452 - polyphosphates (0.58 %) in frozen fillets of Alaska pollock (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>) from China | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 02/07/2007 | Italy | 2007.BPZ | mercury (1.41 mg/kg - ppm) in swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) from Spain | market control | product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product seized |
| 02/07/2007 | the United Kingdom | 2007.BQA | unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine in crackers from India | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) destroyed |
| 02/07/2007 | Poland | 2007.BQB | too high content of E 452 - polyphosphates (0.53 %) in frozen fillets of Alaska pollock from China | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 02/07/2007 | Italy | 2007.BQC | <i>Bacillus cereus</i> (4000 CFU/g) and <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> (3000 CFU/g) in black pepper from India | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 03/07/2007 | the Netherlands | 2007.BQD | aflatoxins (B1 = 5.6; Tot. = 21.3 / B1 = 7.7; Tot. = 22.4 / B1 = 10.5; Tot. = 30.3 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from Malawi | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |

| DATE: | NOTIFIED BY: | REF.: | REASON FOR NOTIFYING: | TYPE OF CONTROL: | STATUS |
|------------|--------------------|----------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 03/07/2007 | the United Kingdom | 2007.BQE | aflatoxins (B1 = 12; Tot. = 15 µg/kg - ppb) in nut crunch from Lebanon | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) destroyed |
| 03/07/2007 | Greece | 2007.BQF | aflatoxins (B1 < 0.14; Tot. < 0.62 / B1 = 5.0; Tot. = 5.7 / B1 < 0.14; Tot. < 0.62 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 03/07/2007 | Slovenia | 2007.BQG | rusty cans (inner and outer side) of canned boiled bamboo shoots from China | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) destroyed |
| 03/07/2007 | Ireland | 2007.BQH | salted boneless skinless chicken breast contaminated during transport with diesel oil | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) destroyed |
| 03/07/2007 | Italy | 2007.BQI | metal piece in canned tuna in oil from Colombia | consumer complaint | distribution restricted to notifying country / product detained |
| 03/07/2007 | Germany | 2007.BQJ | aflatoxins (B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = 8.7; Tot. = 9.2 / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachio nuts with shell from Iran | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 03/07/2007 | Germany | 2007.BQK | aflatoxins (B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = 7.3; Tot. = 7.9 / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachio nuts with shell from Iran | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 03/07/2007 | the Netherlands | 2007.BQL | improper health certificate(s) for groundnuts from China | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 03/07/2007 | Germany | 2007.BQM | aflatoxins (B1 = 53.3; Tot. = 55.8 / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND / B1 = ND; Tot. = ND µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachio nuts with shell from Iran | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 03/07/2007 | Germany | 2007.BQN | peanuts with shell from China infested with moulds | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 03/07/2007 | Norway | 2007.BQO | improper health certificate(s) for pistachio nuts in shell from Turkey | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 03/07/2007 | Lithuania | 2007.BQP | aflatoxins (B1 = 17.06; Tot. = 20.59 / B1 = 14.15; Tot. = 17.39 / B1 = 12.07; Tot. = 14.78 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 03/07/2007 | Belgium | 2007.BQQ | unauthorised substance nitrofurans (metabolite) - furazolidone (AOZ) (> 5 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen cooked shrimps (<i>Penaeus vannamei</i>) from Indonesia | company's own check | distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) returned to dispatcher |
| 03/07/2007 | Denmark | 2007.BQR | unauthorised placing on the market of food supplement containing saw palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>) from the United States | market control | distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale |
| 04/07/2007 | Cyprus | 2007.BQS | traces of milk ingredient in ice cream with rose flavour from Cyprus | market control | distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall |
| 04/07/2007 | France | 2007.BQT | histamine (101.51<=>179.74 mg/kg - ppm) in yellow fin tuna loins (<i>Thunus albacares</i>) from Fiji | consumer complaint | product expired (exceeded use-by date) / withdrawal from sale |
| 04/07/2007 | Greece | 2007.BQU | too high count of total coliforms (166 X 10 ⁴ /ml) in heat-treated milk (pasteurized) from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |

| DATE: | NOTIFIED BY: | REF.: | REASON FOR NOTIFYING: | TYPE OF CONTROL: | STATUS |
|------------|--------------------|----------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 04/07/2007 | the United Kingdom | 2007.BQV | unauthorised irradiation of Echinacea food supplement from India | market control | distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale |
| 04/07/2007 | Denmark | 2007.BQW | Campylobacter (12 out of 12 samples between 800 and 5.700 CFU/g) in whole chicken from France | market control | product expired (exceeded use-by date) / withdrawal from sale |
| 04/07/2007 | the United Kingdom | 2007.BQX | cadmium (0.9 mg/kg - ppm) and lead (0.68 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen cooked and peeled prawns from Indonesia | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 04/07/2007 | Belgium | 2007.BQY | melamine (4560; 4886; 3101; 4616; 5739 mg/kg - ppm) in rice protein concentrate from China | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product detained |
| 05/07/2007 | Italy | 2007.BQZ | migration of nickel (0.44 mg/kg - ppm) from stainless steel ladle from China | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 05/07/2007 | Germany | 2007.BRA | oxamyl (0.23 mg/kg - ppm) in small cucumbers from Turkey | market control | product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product recall |
| 05/07/2007 | Germany | 2007.BRB | unauthorised substance sulphadimidine (27 µg/kg - ppb) in honeycomb honey from Turkey | market control | distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall |
| 06/07/2007 | Denmark | 2007.BRC | Campylobacter (9 out of 12 samples) in fresh whole chicken from Sweden | market control | product expired (exceeded use-by date) / withdrawal from sale |
| 06/07/2007 | Spain | 2007.BRD | suspicion of histamine in bonito (Sarda sarda) from Italy | market control | product expired (exceeded use-by date) / withdrawal from sale |
| 06/07/2007 | Norway | 2007.BRE | Salmonella Rubislaw (presence) in basil leaf (hairy and sweet) from Thailand | market control | product already consumed / no stock left |
| 06/07/2007 | France | 2007.BRF | bulging packaging of canned tuna (Thunnus albacares) from the Seychelles | border control - screening sample | distribution restricted to notifying country / reinforced checking |