

## 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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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 2007/28

**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>   |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| 09/07/2007   | the United Kingdom  | 2007.0453    | sparkling soft drinks from France infested with yeasts  | company's own check     | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale      |
| 09/07/2007   | Belgium             | 2007.0454    | polychlorobifenyls (273 µg/kg - ppb) in eel from the Netherlands  | market control          | distribution on the market (possible) / no stock left             |
| 10/07/2007   | France              | 2007.0455    | Listeria monocytogenes (120 CFU/g) in prepared dish with cheese and salmon from Italy   | market control          | distribution on the market (possible) / product recall            |
| 10/07/2007   | Denmark             | 2007.0456    | Salmonella Agona (multiresistant, presence in 5/12 samples) and Salmonella typhimurium (multiresistant, presence in 5/12 samples) in turkey breast cuttings from France | market control          | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale      |
| 10/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.0457    | undeclared sulphite (48 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen peeled prawns (Nephrops norvegicus) from the United Kingdom  | market control          | distribution on the market (possible) / product seized            |
| 10/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.0458    | mercury (2.64 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh chilled vacuum packed swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Spain  | market control          | distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed |
| 11/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.0459    | mercury (1.53 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen whole mako shark (Isurus oxyrinchus) from Uruguay via Spain  | market control          | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale      |
| 11/07/2007   | Poland              | 2007.0460    | unauthorised substances phenylbutazone (46.1 µg/kg - ppb) and oxyphenylbutazone (418.2 µg/kg - ppb) in chilled horse quarters from Poland                               | company's own check     | distribution on the market (possible)                             |
| 11/07/2007   | Norway              | 2007.0461    | Salmonella Agona (present /25g) in curry powder from Denmark  | company's own check     | distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed |
| 11/07/2007   | Denmark             | 2007.0462    | Salmonella enteritidis phagetype 4 ( in 3 out of 12 samples, quinolon-resistant) in frozen salted boneless skinless breast from Brazil via the United Kingdom           | market control          | distribution on the market (possible) / product recall            |
| 11/07/2007   | France              | 2007.0463    | Listeria monocytogenes (presence /25g) in cheese (taleggio capriolo) from Italy   | company's own check     | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale      |
| 11/07/2007   | Denmark             | 2007.0464    | unauthorised substance synephrine in food supplement from France  | market control          | distribution on the market (possible) / product recall            |

| DATE:      | NOTIFIED BY:       | REF.:     | REASON FOR NOTIFYING:  | TYPE OF CONTROL:                  | STATUS  |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 11/07/2007 | Germany            | 2007.0465 | high content of iodine (2284 mg/kg - ppm) in dried seaweed from unknown origin via France  | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale                  |
| 12/07/2007 | the Netherlands    | 2007.0466 | ochratoxin A (44 µg/kg - ppb) in licorice tea from Germany   | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible)   |
| 12/07/2007 | Denmark            | 2007.0467 | Salmonella (9,12:-: , 1/12 samples), Salmonella enteritidis phage type 4 (multiresistant, 2/12 samples), Salmonella Indiana (1/12 samples) and Salmonella Wien (multiresistant, 3/12 samples) in whole chicken for grilling without giblets from Germany | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale                  |
| 12/07/2007 | the Czech Republic | 2007.0468 | aflatoxins (B1 = 6.6 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted salted pistachio kernels from Iran  | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible)   |
| 12/07/2007 | Greece             | 2007.0469 | too high number of aerobic plate counts (166 X 10 <sup>4</sup> /ml) for pasteurized milk from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  | border control - screening sample | distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified |
| 12/07/2007 | Austria            | 2007.0470 | Enterobacter sakazakii (3 CFU/100g) in infant food from the Netherlands via Germany  | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale                  |
| 12/07/2007 | Austria            | 2007.0471 | Enterobacter sakazakii (3.6 CFU/100g) in infant food from the Netherlands via Germany  | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale                  |
| 13/07/2007 | Austria            | 2007.0472 | Enterobacter sakazakii (3.6 CFU/100g) in infant food from Germany  | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale                  |
| 13/07/2007 | Italy              | 2007.0473 | histamine (383; 766; 443 mg/kg - ppm) in tuna (Thunnus thynnus) from Italy   | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale                  |
| 13/07/2007 | Finland            | 2007.0474 | too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (88 mg/kg - ppm) in jelly sweets from the Netherlands   | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban      |
| 13/07/2007 | the Czech Republic | 2007.0475 | cyprodinil (0.029 mg/kg - ppm), fludioxonil (0.034 mg/kg - ppm) and fenhexamid (0.030 mg/kg - ppm) in fruit puree with strawberries for infants from the Czech Republic  | market control                    | distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale                  |
| 13/07/2007 | Denmark            | 2007.0476 | Salmonella Hadar (multiresistant in 8 out of 12 samples) in frozen sow tenderloins from 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.

| <b>DATE:</b> | <b>NOTIFIED BY:</b> | <b>REF.:</b> | <b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>   | <b>TYPE OF CONTROL:</b>           | <b>STATUS</b>   |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 09/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRG     | aflatoxins (B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 / B1 = 0.2; Tot. = 1.4 / B1 = 2.0; Tot. = 11.9 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey       | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 09/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRH     | aflatoxins (B1 = 6.4; Tot. = 51.4 / B1 = 2.7; Tot. = 18.3 / B1 = 1.5; Tot. = 9.7 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey      | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 09/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRI     | aflatoxins (B1 = 11.1; Tot. = 12.5 / B1 = 1.5; Tot. = 1.6 / B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Turkey            | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 09/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRJ     | aflatoxins (B1 = 3.1; Tot. = 9.8 / B1 = 1.0; Tot. = 2.9 / B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey        | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 09/07/2007   | France              | 2007.BRK     | Listeria monocytogenes (presence in 5/5 samples <10 CFU/g) in chicken slices from Israel   | border control - screening sample | distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale |
| 09/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRL     | cadmium (0.41; 0.34; 0.35; 0.37; 0.32; 0.35; 0.29; 0.32 mg/kg - ppm) in salted anchovies from Argentina                            | market control                    | distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale |
| 09/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRM     | mercury (2.16 mg/kg - ppm) in swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> ) from Spain  | market control                    | product expired (exceeded use-by date)                              |
| 09/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRN     | too high content of sulphite (203 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh Norway lobster ( <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> ) from the United Kingdom      | market control                    | product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product seized             |
| 10/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRO     | aflatoxins (B1 = 9.6; Tot. = 10.7 / B1 = 7.3; Tot. = 8.3 / B1 = 11.3; Tot. = 12.7 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Iran via Belgium | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 10/07/2007   | France              | 2007.BRP     | mercury (1.484 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> ) from Brazil  | border control - screening sample | product expired (exceeded use-by date) / reinforced checking        |
| 10/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRQ     | parasitic infestation with tapeworms (larvae of Trypanorhynca) of fresh grouper fillets ( <i>Epinephelus</i> spp) from Oman        | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 11/07/2007   | Germany             | 2007.BRR     | migration of DEHP - di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (140 mg/kg - ppm) from lids of jars containing grilled eggplant salad from Turkey   | market control                    | no stock left / withdrawal from sale                                |
| 11/07/2007   | Latvia              | 2007.BRS     | expired health certificate(s) for blanched peanuts from China  | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 11/07/2007   | Spain               | 2007.BRT     | Diarrhoeic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) toxins in frozen clams from Morocco   | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 11/07/2007   | Germany             | 2007.BRU     | aflatoxins (B1 = 1.6; Tot. = 1.8 / B1 = 6.3; Tot. = 6.7 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Iran                                       | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 11/07/2007   | Italy               | 2007.BRV     | cadmium (0.53 mg/kg - ppm) in sliced mushrooms ( <i>Agaricus bisporus</i> ) from China   | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                     |
| 11/07/2007   | the Netherlands     | 2007.BRW     | methomyl (0.83 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh seedless grapes from Egypt  | market control                    | product already consumed / no stock left                            |

| DATE:      | NOTIFIED BY:    | REF.:    | REASON FOR NOTIFYING:  | TYPE OF CONTROL:                  | STATUS  |
|------------|-----------------|----------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 12/07/2007 | Italy           | 2007.BRX | migration of chromium (9.123 mg/l) from stainless steel knives from China  | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |
| 12/07/2007 | Malta           | 2007.BRY | impurities (grey/black deposits) in natural mineral water from Malta   | consumer complaint                | distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall         |
| 13/07/2007 | Germany         | 2007.BRZ | acephate (0.16 mg/kg - ppm) and triazophos (0.63 mg/kg - ppm) in okra in bulk from India   | border control - import rejected  | product already consumed / no stock left                              |
| 13/07/2007 | Spain           | 2007.BSA | Escherichia coli (4.5 /g) in live clams (Callista chione) from Morocco   | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |
| 13/07/2007 | Denmark         | 2007.BSB | too high content of trans fatty acids (3.24 g/100g fat) in chocolate cake with icing from Ireland  | market control                    | product expired (exceeded use-by date) / withdrawal from sale         |
| 13/07/2007 | the Netherlands | 2007.BSC | aflatoxins (B1 = 5.2; Tot. = 25 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Malawi   | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / physical treatment - sorting                        |
| 13/07/2007 | Slovenia        | 2007.BSD | Salmonella (presence /25g) in candies from Serbia  | border control - screening sample | distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale   |
| 13/07/2007 | Italy           | 2007.BSE | cadmium (0.52 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen horse liver from Italy obtained from horses dispatched from Bulgaria                                  | market control                    | information on distribution not (yet) available / reinforced checking |
| 13/07/2007 | Germany         | 2007.BSF | aflatoxins (B1 = 4; Tot. = 4.3 / B1 = 2.6; Tot. = 2.8 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios in shell from Iran                                    | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |
| 13/07/2007 | Germany         | 2007.BSG | aflatoxins (B1 = 34.3; Tot. = 43.6 / B1 = 0.7; Tot. = max 0.9 / B1 < 0.2; Tot. = max 0.2 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios in shell from Iran | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |
| 13/07/2007 | Germany         | 2007.BSH | glass fragments in carrot salad in glass jars from Germany   | company's own check               | distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall         |
| 13/07/2007 | Italy           | 2007.BSI | migration of chromium (0.48 mg/l) from knives from China   | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |
| 13/07/2007 | Sweden          | 2007.BSJ | unauthorised genetically modified (LL 601, LL 62 detected) parboiled long grain milled rice from the United States                         | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |
| 13/07/2007 | Sweden          | 2007.BSK | unauthorised genetically modified (LL 601 detected) parboiled long grain milled rice from the United States                                | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |
| 13/07/2007 | Sweden          | 2007.BSL | unauthorised genetically modified (LL 601 detected) parboiled long grain milled rice from the United States                                | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |
| 13/07/2007 | Sweden          | 2007.BSM | unauthorised genetically modified (LL 601 detected) parboiled long grain milled rice from the United States                                | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |
| 13/07/2007 | Sweden          | 2007.BSN | unauthorised genetically modified (LL 601 detected) parboiled long grain milled rice from the United States                                | border control - import rejected  | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched                       |

| <b>DATE:</b> | <b>NOTIFIED BY:</b> | <b>REF.:</b> | <b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>  | <b>TYPE OF CONTROL:</b>          | <b>STATUS</b>                                   |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 13/07/2007   | Sweden              | 2007.BSO     | unauthorised genetically modified (LL 601 and LL 62 detected) parboiled long grain milled rice from the United States | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |
| 13/07/2007   | Sweden              | 2007.BSP     | unauthorised genetically modified (LL 601 detected) parboiled long grain milled rice from the United States           | border control - import rejected | no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched |