

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2008/30

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
22/07/2008	Italy	2008.0882	too high count of Escherichia coli (450 MPN/100g) in live oysters (Crassostrea gigas) from France	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
22/07/2008	Slovenia	2008.0883	Salmonella coein in live snails from Serbia	border control - consignment released	distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified
22/07/2008	the Slovak Republic	2008.0885	3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) (75.50 µg/kg - ppb) in soy sauces from Vietnam, via the Czech Republic	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from recipient(s)
23/07/2008	Germany	2008.0895	Listeria monocytogenes (between 360 and 8,5 x 10E4 CFU/g) in fresh mascarpone-gorgonzola cheese from Italy	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
24/07/2008	France	2008.0899	unauthorised colours Sudan 4 (51.3; 39.5 mg/kg - ppm) and Sudan Red G (4.8; 3.5 mg/kg - ppm) in palm oil from Senegal	official control on the market	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
22/07/2008	Norway	2008.0884	unauthorised substance EPN (0.43 mg/kg - ppm) in long green beans from Thailand	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / reinforced checking
22/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0886	foreign body (piece of glass) in chicken dippers from Brazil	consumer complaint	distribution restricted to notifying country
22/07/2008	France	2008.0887	mercury (up to 3.77 mg/kg - ppm) in blue marlin (Makaira mazara) from Ecuador	border control - consignment released	product already consumed / reinforced checking

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
22/07/2008	Latvia	2008.0888	unauthorised and unlabeled irradiation of food supplements from the United States	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
22/07/2008	Latvia	2008.0889	Salmonella Agona and Salmonella enteritidis in chilled broiler chicken wings from Lithuania	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
22/07/2008	Denmark	2008.0890	Campylobacter (in 11 out of 12 samples) in chilled whole broiler chickens from Sweden	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumers
22/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0891	migration of formaldehyde (68 mg/dm ²) from tumblers from China	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
23/07/2008	Spain	2008.0892	mercury (2.1 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen swordfish from Spain	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) seized
23/07/2008	Denmark	2008.0893	abnormal smell (when heated) of parboiled rice from Germany	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
23/07/2008	Germany	2008.0894	Salmonella Hvittingfoss in dried black mushrooms from Thailand	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
24/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0896	too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (416 mg/kg - ppm) in cheese snack from Iran	border control - consignment released	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumers
24/07/2008	Sweden	2008.0897	Salmonella enterica (presence /25g) in vacuum packed pork fillets from Denmark	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.0898	parasitic infestation with nematodes of frozen halibut fillets from unknown origin, via the Netherlands	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
24/07/2008	the Czech Republic	2008.0900	dimethoate (0.109 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh radish from Germany	official control on the market	product already consumed / no stock left
24/07/2008	Cyprus	2008.0901	unauthorised use of colour E 100 - Curcumin, of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF, of colour E 129 - Allura Red AC and of colour E 133 - Brilliant Blue FCF in fruit flavoured multigrain cereals from South Africa	official control on the market	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) recalled from consumers

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	NOTIFICATION BASIS	STATUS
24/07/2008	the Slovak Republic	2008.0902	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of canned cod livers in own oil from Poland, via the Czech Republic	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
25/07/2008	Finland	2008.0903	undeclared wheat (wheat flour not labelled in Finnish) in chocolate marshmallows from Denmark	consumer complaint	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) relabelled
25/07/2008	Austria	2008.0904	Salmonella infantis (presence /10g) in chicken spits from Austria	official control on the market	product past best before date / no stock left
25/07/2008	Slovenia	2008.0905	foreign body (hair) in dried figs from Turkey infested with insects	company's own check	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
25/07/2008	Denmark	2008.0906	Salmonella Thompson (in 11 out of 12 samples) in frozen chicken breasts from Argentina, via Germany	official control on the market	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from the market
25/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.0907	plastic fragments (pieces of hard blue plastic) in prebaked apple pies from the United Kingdom	company's own check	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed

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
22/07/2008	Italy	2008.BCR	spoilage of fresh pineapples from Ecuador	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/07/2008	Greece	2008.BCS	aflatoxins (B1 = 13.3; Tot. = 20.8 / B1 = 1.9; Tot. = 2.2 / B1 < 0.4; Tot. < 0.62 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios in shell from the United States	product under customs seals
22/07/2008	the Netherlands	2008.BCT	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.3; Tot. = 5.7 / B1 = 7.8; Tot. = 8.9 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Brazil	physical treatment - blanching
22/07/2008	the Netherlands	2008.BCU	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.6; Tot. = 7.1 / B1 = 0.4; Tot. = 0.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Brazil	physical treatment - blanching
22/07/2008	Spain	2008.BCV	mercury (0.9 mg/kg - ppm) in pink cusk-eel (Genypterus blacodes) from New Zealand	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
22/07/2008	Italy	2008.BCW	Salmonella in surimi (Nemipterus spp) from Vietnam	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
22/07/2008	Italy	2008.BCX	migration of chromium (0.45; 11.1 mg/l) and of nickel (0.17 mg/l) from steel knives and scissors from China	product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
22/07/2008	Cyprus	2008.BCY	unauthorised use of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF, of colour E 129 - Allura Red AC and of colour E 133 - Brilliant Blue FCF in fruit flavoured and coloured cereals from Egypt	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
22/07/2008	Italy	2008.BCZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 19.1; Tot. = 21.8 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDA	aflatoxins (B1 = 41.7; Tot. = 43.4 / B1 = 2.7; Tot. = 2.7 / B1 < 0.2; Tot. = 0.2 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios in shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDB	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.8; Tot. = 5.1 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios in shell from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDC	aflatoxins (B1 = 13.3; Tot. = 14.2 / B1 = 33.4; Tot. = 37.7 / B1 = 23.2; Tot. = 24.3 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio kernels from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
22/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BDD	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.9; Tot. = 8.8 µg/kg - ppb) in fried peanuts from Bangladesh	product (to be) destroyed
22/07/2008	Italy	2008.BDE	bad state of preservation of and fraudulent health certificate(s) for jellyfish in brine from China infested with insects	product (to be) destroyed
22/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BDF	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.0; Tot. = 9.9 µg/kg - ppb) in halawa topped with pistachio from Syria	product (to be) destroyed
22/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BDG	too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (57 mg/l) and E 385 - calcium disodium ethylene diamine tetra acetate (CDEDTA) unauthorised in orange drink from Syria	product (to be) destroyed
22/07/2008	Norway	2008.BDH	Vibrio cholerae NON O:1/NON O:139 and Vibrio parahaemolyticus in frozen black tiger shrimps from India	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
22/07/2008	Italy	2008.BDI	aflatoxins (B1 = 13.2; Tot. = 14.7 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
23/07/2008	Finland	2008.BDJ	migration of cadmium (0.47-0.52 mg/dm ²) and of lead (10.8-12.8 mg/dm ²) from painted mugs from China, via China (Hong Kong)	product (to be) detained
23/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BDK	aflatoxins (B1 = 73; Tot. = 93 µg/kg - ppb) in ground egusi (melon seeds) from Nigeria	product (to be) destroyed
23/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BDL	aflatoxins (B1 = 53; Tot. = 62 µg/kg - ppb) in melon seeds from Nigeria	product (to be) destroyed
23/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BDM	too high content of sulphite (4035 mg/kg - ppm) in dried apricots from Iran	product (to be) destroyed
23/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BDN	lead (11.8 mg/kg - ppm) in calabash chalk from Nigeria	product (to be) destroyed
24/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BDO	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.6; Tot. = 2.1 / B1 = 19; Tot. = 26 µg/kg - ppb) in peanut crunch from Lebanon	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BDP	too high content of sulphite (4035 mg/kg - ppm) in dried apricots from Iran	product (to be) destroyed
24/07/2008	Norway	2008.BDQ	Vibrio cholerae NON O:1/NON O:139 and Vibrio parahaemolyticus in frozen black tiger shrimps from India	product (to be) re-dispatched or destroyed
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDR	aflatoxins (B1 = 49.5; Tot. = 52.9 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDS	aflatoxins (B1 = 16.2; Tot. = 17.8 / B1 = 0.3; Tot. = 0.3 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDT	aflatoxins (B1 = 116.8; Tot. = 127.2 / B1 = 0.5; Tot. = 0.5 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDU	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.4; Tot. = 3.7 / B1 = 5.4; Tot. = 6.0 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDV	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.4; Tot. = 10.2 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDW	aflatoxins (B1 = 52.3; Tot. = 52.3 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDX	aflatoxins (B1 = 20.6; Tot. = 22.4 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE	NOTIFIED BY	REF.	REASON FOR NOTIFYING	ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDY	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.2; Tot. = 1.4 / B1 = 3.6; Tot. = 4.0 / B1 = 43.7; Tot. = 46.3 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BDZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 146.4; Tot. = 159.2 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BEA	aflatoxins (B1 = 19.8; Tot. = 21.6 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BEB	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.8; Tot. = 2.8 / B1 = 3.9; Tot. = 3.9 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Germany	2008.BEC	aflatoxins (B1 = 16.3; Tot. = 17.6 17.6 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios from Iran	product (to be) re-dispatched
24/07/2008	Cyprus	2008.BED	too high content of sulphite (167 mg/kg - ppm) and E 210 - benzoic acid (701 mg/kg - ppm) unauthorised in apricot jam from Syria	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
24/07/2008	Greece	2008.BEE	large white kidney beans from China infested with moulds	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
25/07/2008	Belgium	2008.BEF	prohibited substance nitrofurane (metabolite) nitrofurazone (SEM) (> 1 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen raw freshwater king prawns from India	product (to be) re-dispatched
25/07/2008	the Netherlands	2008.BEG	Salmonella (presence /25g) in dog chews from India	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
25/07/2008	Spain	2008.BEH	too high content of sulphite (167; 173 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen prawns (Penaeus vannamei) from Ecuador	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
25/07/2008	Germany	2008.BEI	unauthorised genetically modified (LL 601 rice) dry pet food from the United States	product (to be) re-dispatched
25/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BEJ	Bacillus cereus in salted bean curd cubes in brine from China (Hong Kong)	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
25/07/2008	the United Kingdom	2008.BEK	aflatoxins (B1 = 66; Tot. = 72 / B1 = 40; Tot. = 46 / B1 = 0.3; Tot. < 1 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from China	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
25/07/2008	the Netherlands	2008.BEL	Salmonella (present /25g) in dog chews from India	product (to be) redispached or destroyed
25/07/2008	Finland	2008.BEM	Salmonella Newport in fresh water spinach and coriander from Thailand	product (to be) detained

TABLE 4: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFI-CATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	CORRIGENDUM:
22/07/2008	add01	2008.0855	29	unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine in food supplement manufactured in Spain	The food supplement capsules have not been produced in Germany but in Spain.