

## 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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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 2007/35

**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>
27/08/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0584	zearalenone (0.76 mg/kg - ppm) in soya hulls from Argentina, via the United States and via the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / reinforced checking
27/08/2007	Germany	2007.0585	unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine in confectionery from China, via Poland	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
29/08/2007	Belgium	2007.0586	lead (6706 µg/kg - ppb) in food supplement containing ginkgo biloba powder from China, via France	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
29/08/2007	Austria	2007.0587	botulinum toxin (in 1 out of 3 samples) in complete feed with chicken for cats from France	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
29/08/2007	Bulgaria	2007.0588	high content of zinc (1870; 2800; 3000; 3000 mg/kg - ppm) in complete feed for piglets from the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to use
29/08/2007	Austria	2007.0589	dioxins (51.86 pg WHO TEQ/g) in cod liver in own oil from Poland, via Denmark	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
29/08/2007	Austria	2007.0590	dioxins (44.7 pg WHO TEQ/g) in cod liver in own oil from Poland, via Denmark	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
29/08/2007	Sweden	2007.0591	inadequate heat processing of shrimps in brine from Sweden	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
30/08/2007	Germany	2007.0592	illegal trade of bovine and poultry animal by-products from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
30/08/2007	Germany	2007.0593	deoxynivalenol (DON) (1104 µg/kg - ppb) and zearalenone (84 µg/kg - ppb) in tortilla chips from Belgium	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
30/08/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.0594	unauthorised substances sulphadimethoxine (1.34 µg/kg - ppb), sulphathiazole (1.13 µg/kg - ppb) and sulphadimidine (2.10 µg/kg - ppb) in honey from Poland	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
31/08/2007	Italy	2007.0595	dioxins (4.98 ng/kg - ppt) in feed-grade glycine from China	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
31/08/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.0596	dried apricots from Turkey infested with mites ( <i>Carpoglyphus lactis</i> )	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
31/08/2007	the Netherlands	2007.0597	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (100.000 <---> 500.000 CFU/g) in various meat products from the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
31/08/2007	Italy	2007.0598	mercury (3.0 mg/kg - ppm) in smoked swordfish loins ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> ) from Denmark	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
31/08/2007	Germany	2007.0599	migration of DEHP - di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (99 mg/kg - ppm) from lids of jars containing dried tomatoes in oil from Turkey	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
31/08/2007	Lithuania	2007.0600	spoilage of maize fodder from Hungary	company's own check	information on distribution not (yet) available / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
31/08/2007	Austria	2007.0601	unauthorised genetically modified (LL RICE 62) long grain rice from the United States, via Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
31/08/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.0602	dried apricots from Turkey infested with mites ( <i>Carpoglyphus lactis</i> )	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
31/08/2007	France	2007.0603	<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7 in frozen minced beef from France, raw material from Ireland	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product changed
31/08/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.0604	unauthorised substance sulphadimidine (2.45 µg/kg - ppb) in honey from the Slovak Republic	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
31/08/2007	Sweden	2007.0605	<i>Salmonella</i> Mbandaka in organic alfalfa seeds for sprouting from Italy, via Denmark	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) returned to dispatcher

## 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
27/08/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.CAK	dried apricots from Turkey infested with mites	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
27/08/2007	the Netherlands	2007.CAL	prohibited substances nitrofurantoin (metabolite) furazolidone (AOZ) (3.8 µg/kg - ppb) and nitrofurantoin (metabolite) nitrofurantoin (AHD) (0.3 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen black tiger shrimps ( <i>Penaeus monodon</i> ) from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution
27/08/2007	Denmark	2007.CAM	Salmonella Saint Paul and Salmonella typhimurium (DT 120 multiresistant /25g) in turkey fillets from Germany	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product recall
27/08/2007	Germany	2007.CAN	mercury (638 µg/kg - ppb) in gutted red grouper ( <i>Epinephelus morio</i> ) from Brazil	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
27/08/2007	the Slovak Republic	2007.CAO	cyprodinil (0.28 mg/kg - ppm) in white table grapes from Morocco, via the Czech Republic and via Italy	market control	product already consumed / no stock left
27/08/2007	Austria	2007.CAP	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.7; Tot. = 5.4 / B1 = 0.34; Tot. = 1.5 / B1 = 0.088; Tot. = 0.39 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted chopped hazelnuts from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
27/08/2007	Austria	2007.CAQ	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.68; Tot. = 2.4 / B1 = 12; Tot. = 33 / B1 = 1.6; Tot. = 3.6 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted, chopped hazelnuts from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/08/2007	Lithuania	2007.CAR	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (1390 mg/kg - ppm) and of E 200 - sorbic acid (1230 mg/kg - ppm) in food supplement from the United States	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
28/08/2007	Germany	2007.CAS	aflatoxins (B1 = 5; Tot. = 5.5 / B1 = 0.3; Tot. = 0.3 / B1 = 0.4; Tot. = 0.4 µg/kg - ppb) in round pistachios in shell from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/08/2007	Greece	2007.CAT	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.5 / B1 < 0.5 / B1 = 4.4; Tot. = 18.3 µg/kg - ppb) in raw hazelnut kernels from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/08/2007	Greece	2007.CAU	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.5 / B1 = 4.4; Tot. = 5.2 / B1 < 0.5 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/08/2007	Italy	2007.CAV	migration of chromium (9.71 mg/kg - ppm) and of nickel (0.3 mg/kg - ppm) from knives from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/08/2007	Italy	2007.CAW	too high content and undeclared sulphite (81 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen precooked shrimp tails from India	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from recipient(s)
28/08/2007	Italy	2007.CAX	aflatoxins (B1 = 10.3; Tot. = 11 µg/kg - ppb) in curry powder with coffee from Sri Lanka	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/08/2007	Greece	2007.CAY	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.5; Tot. < 0.5 / B1 = 2.7; Tot. = 2.7 / B1 < 0.5; Tot. < 0.5 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
29/08/2007	Finland	2007.CAZ	Salmonella Tennessee in rape seed meal from Germany	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / prohibition to use
29/08/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CBA	Salmonella enteritidis (PT14b -2 out of 10 samples) in raw shell eggs from Spain	market control	product already consumed / no stock left
29/08/2007	Bulgaria	2007.CBB	unauthorised genetically modified (35-S - gene not identified) soy protein from Brazil	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
29/08/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CBC	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (168 mg/l) and sweetener E 954 - saccharin (89 mg/l) unauthorised in sparkling muscatella drink from Ghana	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
29/08/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CBD	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (189 mg/l) in orange flavour soft drink from Ghana	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
29/08/2007	Poland	2007.CBE	Salmonella (presence /25g) in soybean meal from Argentina	border control - screening sample	no distribution / physical treatment
29/08/2007	Italy	2007.CBF	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.04; Tot. = 9.36 µg/kg - ppb) in ground ogbono from Nigeria	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/08/2007	Finland	2007.CBG	Salmonella Tennessee in rape seed meal from Germany	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / prohibition to use
30/08/2007	Denmark	2007.CBH	Salmonella typhimurium DT 193 multiresistant (present in 2 out of 12 samples) in fresh pork tenderloin from Germany	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
30/08/2007	the Netherlands	2007.CBI	aflatoxins (B1 = 8.5; Tot. = 9.9 / B1 = 5.4; Tot. = 5.4 µg/kg - ppb) in blanched almonds pieces from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/08/2007	the Netherlands	2007.CBJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.4; Tot. = 8.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from South Africa	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment - sorting
30/08/2007	the Netherlands	2007.CBK	prochloraz (14 (Senegal); 9.9 (Brazil) mg/kg - ppm) in mango from Brazil and Senegal	market control	no stock left / no action taken
30/08/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CBL	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.8; Tot. = 2.6 / B1 = 3.3; Tot. = 3.8 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted peanuts from the United States	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country
30/08/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CBM	cadmium (0.180; 0.174; 0.172 mg/kg - ppm) in Atlantic pilchards from Morocco	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
31/08/2007	France	2007.CBN	mercury (1.386 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Vietnam	border control - screening sample	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / reinforced checking
31/08/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.CBO	dried apricots from Turkey infested with mites (Carpoglyphus lactis)	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
31/08/2007	Poland	2007.CBP	unauthorised placing on the market of food supplement containing ginkgo biloba leaves from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
31/08/2007	Spain	2007.CBQ	aflatoxins (Tot. = 18.8 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds without shell from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
31/08/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.CBR	dried apricots from Turkey infested with mites (Carpoglyphus lactis)	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>NOTIFIED BY:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>	<b>TYPE OF CONTROL:</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
31/08/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.CBS	dried apricots from Turkey infested with mites ( <i>Carpoglyphus lactis</i> )	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale

**TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION:</b>	<b>OF WEEK</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CORRIGENDUM:</b>
29/08/2007	inf01	2007.0516	31	too high content of E 200 - sorbic acid in dried pitted prunes from Poland	The subject of the notification is modified as follows: "too high content of E 200 - sorbic acid (1607 mg/kg - ppm) in dried pitted prunes from Poland" because the product was processed in Poland.

**TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION:</b>	<b>OF WEEK</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:</b>
31/08/2007	inf02	2007.BYR	33	Escherichia coli in frozen mussels from Chile	Information presented by the BIP of Porto: counter analysis with favourable outcome. The lot of mussels, originating from Chile, was released on the market.