

## 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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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 2007/46

**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
12/11/2007	Italy	2007.0817	Escherichia coli O157:H7 in frozen beef from Canada	market control	distribution on the market (possible)
12/11/2007	Italy	2007.0818	cadmium (6.1 mg/kg - ppm) in live crabs (Cancer pagurus ) from Ireland, via France	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
12/11/2007	Germany	2007.0819	Salmonella (3 out of 7 samples /10g) in deboned fresh turkey thighs with skin from Poland	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
13/11/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.0820	dried dates from Tunisia, via France, infested with insects	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
13/11/2007	Germany	2007.0821	migration of DEHP - di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate ((1) 220 ; (2)140 mg/kg - ppm) from lids of jars containing a mixture of vegetables(1) or aubergine salad(2) from Bulgaria	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
13/11/2007	the Slovak Republic	2007.0822	aflatoxins (B1 = 8.7; Tot. = 10.5 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted pistachio nuts in shell from the Slovak Republic, raw material from Iran, via Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
13/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0823	wires in biscuits from the United Kingdom	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
13/11/2007	Poland	2007.0824	walnuts from Poland infested with insects	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
13/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0825	wires in cheesecakes from the United Kingdom	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
13/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0826	rodent in raspberry cake from Denmark	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible)
13/11/2007	Germany	2007.0827	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.5; Tot. = 6.1 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Turkey	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
13/11/2007	Sweden	2007.0828	Salmonella Montevideo in fishmeal from Denmark	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible)
13/11/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.0829	dried dates from Tunisia, via France, infested with insects	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
13/11/2007	Belgium	2007.0830	Salmonella in greaves meal from France	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / physical treatment
14/11/2007	Greece	2007.0831	insufficient labelling of chocolate with milk filling from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / public warning - press release
14/11/2007	Greece	2007.0832	too high level of total migration (polyethylene: in 3% acetic acid from 37 to 39 mg/dm <sup>2</sup> and in refined sunflower oil from 23 to 190 mg/dm <sup>2</sup> ) from plastic baby spoons from China	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
14/11/2007	Finland	2007.0833	Salmonella Newport and Salmonella Senftenberg in beef tripe from India, via Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
15/11/2007	Bulgaria	2007.0834	absence of labelling on frozen beef cuts from Spain with packaging unsuitable for foodstuffs	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
15/11/2007	Portugal	2007.0835	aflatoxins (B1 = 305; Tot. = 1300 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts from Turkey, via Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
15/11/2007	Denmark	2007.0836	Salmonella typhimurium (in 12 out of 12 samples) in frozen vacuum packed turkey thighs from Poland	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
15/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0837	Salmonella in sesame seeds from India	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
16/11/2007	Italy	2007.0838	parasitic infestation with Anisakis (larvae) of smoked herrings from Greece	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
16/11/2007	Italy	2007.0839	tetracycline (25 µg/kg - ppb) and sulphathiazole (100 µg/kg - ppb) unauthorised in honey used for the production of biscuits from Italy	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall

## 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
12/11/2007	Cyprus	2007.COF	monocrotophos and carbendazim (2.1 mg/kg - ppm) in grapes from Lebanon	border control - screening sample	no action taken / no stock left
12/11/2007	Bulgaria	2007.COG	parasitic infestation with Anisakis simplex of frozen Atlantic mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> ) from Canada	border control - screening sample	no distribution / product detained
12/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.COH	unauthorised irradiation of food supplement from the United States	market control	no action taken/ no stock left

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
12/11/2007	Lithuania	2007.COI	bacterial contamination (>300 at 22°C; 24 at 37°C CFU/ml) of bottled water from Monaco	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
12/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.COJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 49; Tot. = 59 µg/kg - ppb) in melon seeds from Nigeria	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
13/11/2007	France	2007.COK	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.2; Tot. = 1.5 / B1 = 5.9; Tot. = 5.9 / B1 = 0.9; Tot. = 0.9 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
13/11/2007	France	2007.COL	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.7; Tot. = 4.7 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted pistachios from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
13/11/2007	Finland	2007.COM	Salmonella Augustenborg in watercress from Thailand, via the Netherlands	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) destroyed
13/11/2007	Sweden	2007.CON	Salmonella Agona (1 out of 10 samples) in rapeseed meal from Poland	company's own check	distribution restricted to notifying country
13/11/2007	Spain	2007.COO	arsenic (21.4 mg/kg - ppm) in seaweed from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
13/11/2007	Poland	2007.COP	too high content of E 452 - polyphosphates (0.60 %) in fillets of frozen alaska pollock (Theragra chalcogramma) from China	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / prohibition to trade - sales ban
13/11/2007	Italy	2007.COQ	Escherichia coli (330 MPN/100g) in live mussels from Spain	market control	product already consumed / withdrawal from sale
13/11/2007	Belgium	2007.COR	Salmonella (present /25g) in pet food from Canada, via Belgium	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
14/11/2007	Finland	2007.COT	Salmonella Mbandaka and Salmonella Senftenberg in rape seed meal from Germany	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / prohibition to trade - sales ban
14/11/2007	Greece	2007.COU	improper health certificate(s) for dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
14/11/2007	Finland	2007.COV	Salmonella Mbandaka and Salmonella Senftenberg in rape seed meal from Germany	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / prohibition to trade - sales ban
14/11/2007	Italy	2007.COW	bad hygienic state (excessive presence of sand) of frozen fish and cephalopods from Senegal	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
14/11/2007	Italy	2007.COX	Salmonella Weltevreden (multiresistant in 1 out of 5 samples) in frozen cuttlefish (Sepia pharaonis) from India	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / product detained
14/11/2007	Italy	2007.COY	histamine (2187 mg/kg - ppm) in yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) from the Philippines	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>NOTIFIED BY:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>	<b>TYPE OF CONTROL:</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
14/11/2007	Austria	2007.COZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.16; Tot. = 1.16 / B1 = 11.24; Tot. = 19.95 / B1 = 1.44; Tot. = 1.44 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
14/11/2007	Greece	2007.CPA	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.0; Tot. = 4.5 µg/kg - ppb) in basmati rice from Pakistan	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
14/11/2007	Italy	2007.CPB	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.2; Tot. = 7.8 / B1 = 14.6; Tot. = 19.9 / B1 = 58.3; Tot. = 63.3 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled almonds from Australia, via the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
14/11/2007	Germany	2007.CPC	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.13; Tot. = 8.62 / B1 < 0.2; Tot. = 0.2 / B1 < 0.2; Tot. = 0.2 / B1 < 0.19; Tot. = 0.98 / B1 = 2.54; Tot. = 7.49 / B1 < 0.19; Tot. = 0.70 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
14/11/2007	France	2007.CPD	aflatoxins (B1 = 27.5; Tot. = 29.2 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
15/11/2007	Germany	2007.CPE	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.53; Tot. = 13.10 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - screening sample	no distribution / product (to be) returned to dispatcher
15/11/2007	Italy	2007.CPF	carbofuran (0.38 mg/kg - ppm) in sweet peppers from Egypt	border control - import rejected	no distribution
15/11/2007	Poland	2007.CPG	carbendazim (0.46; 0.32 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh apples (Golden Delicious and Ligol) from Poland	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / reinforced checking
15/11/2007	France	2007.CPH	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.6; Tot. = 9.8 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
15/11/2007	Sweden	2007.CPI	oxamyl (0.10 mg/kg - ppm) and thiophanate-methyl (0.32 mg/kg - ppm) in cucumbers from Spain, via Finland	market control	no stock left / reinforced checking
15/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CPJ	aflatoxins (B1 = 14; Tot. = 18 / B1 = 40; Tot. = 50 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
15/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CPK	aflatoxins (B1 = 74; Tot. = 111 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
16/11/2007	Italy	2007.CPL	cadmium (5.96 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh crabs (Cancer pagurus) from France	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product detained
16/11/2007	Germany	2007.CPM	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.3; Tot. = 19.9 / B1 = 5.4; Tot. = 15.5 / B1 = 3.0; Tot. = 5.1 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
16/11/2007	Germany	2007.CPN	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.5; Tot. = 6.5 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
16/11/2007	Italy	2007.CPO	Salmonella (presence /25g) in salami from Italy	company's own check	no distribution / product recall
16/11/2007	Italy	2007.CPP	aflatoxins (B1 = 234.0; Tot. = 262.5 / B1 = 6.3; Tot. = 8.0 / B1 = 22.9; Tot. = 26.6 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts with shell from Egypt	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
16/11/2007	Finland	2007.CPQ	lead (76 mg/kg - ppm) and mercury (3010; 51 mg/kg - ppm) in ayurvedic food supplements from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
16/11/2007	Spain	2007.CPR	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.9 / B1 < 0.5 / B1 = 15.9 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
16/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CPS	Escherichia coli and Salmonella (present /25g) in fresh basil mint from Vietnam	border control - import rejected	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / reinforced checking
16/11/2007	Finland	2007.CPT	too high content of colour E 124 - Ponceau 4R / cochineal red A (1460 mg/kg - ppm) in cake decorations from Mauritius	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
16/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CPU	monocrotophos (0.88 mg/kg - ppm) in yard long beans from Thailand	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country

**TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	CORRIGENDUM:
12/11/2007	inf01	2007.CNT	45	too high count of Enterobacteriaceae in dog chews from China, via India	Product originated from China via India

**TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
15/11/2007	add03	2007.0725	41	milk powder for infants from the Netherlands infested with insects	Considering the time passed between the buying of the product and the time of the consumer complaint and the favourable result of the other packaging of the same batch, notification 2007.0725 is hereby withdrawn.