

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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

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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
19/11/2007	Romania	2007.0840	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of salted herring roe extracted from frozen herring from the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
19/11/2007	Italy	2007.0841	mercury (1.19 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen slices of swordfish from Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
19/11/2007	Germany	2007.0842	dioxins (0.93 pg WHO TEQ/g) in compound feed for pigs from the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
19/11/2007	Belgium	2007.0843	traces of milk ingredient in plain organic chocolate from Belgium	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) relabelled
20/11/2007	the Slovak Republic	2007.0844	cadmium (0.267 mg/kg - ppm) in long grain rice from Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
20/11/2007	Belgium	2007.0845	Salmonella and too high count of Enterobacteriaceae (1100 CFU/g) in greaves meal from France	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / physical treatment
20/11/2007	Sweden	2007.0846	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt 63) rice vermicelli from China, via Hong Kong and via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
20/11/2007	Denmark	2007.0847	Salmonella Senftenberg (in 1 out of 5 samples) in frozen marinated turkey fillet from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
20/11/2007	Sweden	2007.0848	Salmonella typhimurium in lamb meat meal from New Zealand, via the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible)
20/11/2007	Sweden	2007.0849	Salmonella Mbandaka, Salmonella Senftenberg and Salmonella Tennessee in rapeseed meal dispatched from the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / physical treatment
20/11/2007	Italy	2007.0850	frozen mixed vegetables for soup from Belgium infested with insects	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
20/11/2007	Portugal	2007.0851	aflatoxins (B1 = 461; Tot. = 1370 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts from Turkey, via Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible)

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
21/11/2007	Germany	2007.0852	aflatoxins (B1 = 28.8; Tot. = 33.8 µg/kg - ppb) in raw peanuts from India, via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
21/11/2007	Germany	2007.0853	possible splintering of glass fragments from the top of bottles containing spirits manufactured in Germany and filled in the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
21/11/2007	Italy	2007.0854	cadmium (1.59 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh live crabs (Cancer pagurus) from France	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
21/11/2007	Belgium	2007.0855	lead (between 0.15 and 0.25 mg/kg - ppm) in carrots from the Netherlands	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
22/11/2007	Germany	2007.0856	unauthorised genetically modified (presence of BT63 strand) rice noodles vermicelli from China, via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
22/11/2007	Finland	2007.0857	aflatoxins (B1 = 10; Tot. = 11 µg/kg - ppb) in diced almonds from Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
22/11/2007	Italy	2007.0858	orange-apple biscuits infested with larvae of insects from France	market control	distribution on the market (possible)
22/11/2007	Estonia	2007.0859	sweetener E 952 - cyclamate (190 mg/kg - ppm) unauthorised in tomato ketchup from Latvia	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
23/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0860	Salmonella in seed mixes from Italy	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
23/11/2007	Italy	2007.0861	mercury (1.83 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
23/11/2007	Denmark	2007.0862	Salmonella enteritidis (presence in 11/12 samples) in frozen chicken breast fillets from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
23/11/2007	Poland	2007.0863	walnuts from Poland infested with insects	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
23/11/2007	the Slovak Republic	2007.0864	too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (382 mg/kg - ppm) and of colour E 129 - Allura Red AC (186 mg/kg - ppm) in lumpfish eggs from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
23/11/2007	Germany	2007.0865	mercury (2.131 mg/kg - ppm) in and parasitic infestation with tapeworms of fresh swordfish fillets (Xiphias gladius) from Mauritius	border control - screening sample	distribution on the market (possible) / destination of the product identified
23/11/2007	Poland	2007.0866	dried prunes from Poland infested with insects	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
23/11/2007	the Slovak Republic	2007.0867	migration of cadmium (5.01; 2.9 mg/kg - ppm) from decorated drinking glasses from unknown origin, via the Czech Republic	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
23/11/2007	Belgium	2007.0868	glass fragments in instant soup from the Netherlands	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / public warning - press release

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
23/11/2007	Italy	2007.0869	cadmium (2.42 mg/kg - ppm) in live crabs (Cancer pagurus) from France	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
23/11/2007	Belgium	2007.0870	Salmonella Newport and Salmonella Senftenberg in poultry meal from Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / physical treatment
23/11/2007	Poland	2007.0871	hazelnuts from Poland infested with insects	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
23/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0872	Salmonella Agona in seed mixes from Italy	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
23/11/2007	the Czech Republic	2007.0873	too high content of E 452 - polyphosphates (7495 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen blue whiting (Micromesistius poutassou) fillets from China, via the Czech Republic	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
19/11/2007	Germany	2007.CPV	too high content of sulphite in dried ginger (228 mg/kg - ppm) and undeclared sulphite in dried pineapple and melon from Thailand	company's own check	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from recipient(s)
19/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CPW	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.0; Tot. = 4.7 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio halva from Lebanon	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
19/11/2007	Italy	2007.CPX	insufficient labelling of raw pistachios from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
19/11/2007	Slovenia	2007.CPY	migration of nickel (1.58; 10.2 mg/l) and of manganese (0.99; 0.55 mg/l) from hip flask from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
19/11/2007	Greece	2007.CPZ	Salmonella (presence /25g) in squid meal from Peru	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/11/2007	Greece	2007.CQA	Salmonella (present /25g) in squid meal from Peru	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/11/2007	Greece	2007.CQB	Salmonella in dog chews from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/11/2007	Finland	2007.CQC	too high count of Enterobacteriaceae (5 900-18 000 CFU/g) in dog chews from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
20/11/2007	Germany	2007.CQD	amitraz (0.89 mg/kg - ppm) in pears from Turkey	market control	product already consumed / withdrawal from recipient(s)

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
20/11/2007	Italy	2007.CQE	streptomycin (520; 870 µg/kg - ppb) unauthorised in honey from Argentina	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/11/2007	Germany	2007.CQF	amitraz (1.2 mg/kg - ppm) in pears from Turkey	market control	product already consumed / informing recipients
20/11/2007	Italy	2007.CQG	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.3; Tot. = 5.6 / B1 = 6.0; Tot. = 6.4 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/11/2007	Italy	2007.CQH	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.4; Tot. < 1.6 / B1 = 3.4; Tot. = 4.8 / B1 = 12.0; Tot. = 24.4 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/11/2007	Italy	2007.CQI	aflatoxins (B1 = 18.8; Tot. = 19.2 µg/kg - ppb) in stemless red chilli from India	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/11/2007	Finland	2007.CQJ	methamidophos (3.4 mg/kg - ppm), acephate (0.96 mg/kg - ppm) and dicotophos (2.2 mg/kg - ppm) in Chinese cabbage from Thailand	border control - screening sample	product already consumed / no stock left
20/11/2007	France	2007.CQK	mercury (1,53 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen shark steaks (Hexanchus Griseus) from Brazil	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
20/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CQL	chlorpyrifos (0.11 mg/kg - ppm) and omethoate (0.59 mg/kg - ppm) in yard long beans from Thailand	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country / product (to be) destroyed
20/11/2007	France	2007.CQM	aflatoxins (B1 = 42,3; Tot. = 64,6 / B1 = 0,9; Tot. = 3,2 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/11/2007	France	2007.CQN	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.9; Tot. = 2.9 / B1 = 4.8; Tot. = 5.1 / B1 = 12.3; Tot. = 19.1 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted pistachios from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
20/11/2007	Denmark	2007.CQO	aflatoxins (B1 = 9; Tot. = 8.87 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product detained
21/11/2007	Greece	2007.CQP	aflatoxins (B1 < 0,5 / B1 = 0,8; Tot. = 0,8 / B1 = 31,0; Tot. = 34,1 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled blanchable almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
21/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CQQ	too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (560 mg/kg - ppm) and of colour E 129 - Allura Red AC (169 mg/kg - ppm) in coated chocolate beans from Malaysia	border control - import rejected	no distribution
21/11/2007	Denmark	2007.CQS	Campylobacter (presence in 12 out of 12 samples) in fresh whole chicken from France	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date)
21/11/2007	Lithuania	2007.CQT	Salmonella Mbandaka (presence /25g) in sunflower seed meal from Ukraine	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / physical treatment
21/11/2007	Italy	2007.CQU	mercury (1.19 mg/kg - ppm) in fresh slices of swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Spain	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / product (to be) destroyed
21/11/2007	Poland	2007.CQV	prohibited substance nitrofurantoin (metabolite) furazolidone (AOZ) in salted hog casings from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
21/11/2007	Italy	2007.CQW	aflatoxins (B1 = 26.5; Tot. = 35.9 / B1 = 26.1; Tot. = 35.9 / B1 = 28.2; Tot. = 38.9 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CQX	aflatoxins (B1 = 11; Tot. = 14 µg/kg - ppb) and too high content of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (396; 420 mg/kg - ppm) and of colour E 129 - Allura Red AC (141; 139 mg/kg - ppm) in candy coated peanuts from Malaysia	border control - import rejected	no distribution
21/11/2007	Poland	2007.CQY	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
21/11/2007	Poland	2007.CQZ	improper health certificate(s) for dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
21/11/2007	Spain	2007.CRA	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.6 / B1 = 0.6 / B1 > 24 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/11/2007	Italy	2007.CRB	histamine (2730 mg/kg - ppm) in and carbon monoxide treatment (1.30 mg/kg - ppm) of slices of fresh tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) from Spain	company's own check	product already consumed / no stock left
22/11/2007	Finland	2007.CRC	benzo(a)pyrene (3.6 µg/kg - ppb) in fatty acid food supplement from Norway	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/11/2007	Italy	2007.CRE	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.5 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
22/11/2007	Italy	2007.CRF	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen fresh chicken breast from Argentina	border control - import rejected	no distribution
22/11/2007	Italy	2007.CRG	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.6; Tot. = 0.7 / B1 = 0.3; Tot. = 0.4 / B1 = 34.8; Tot. = 37.6 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled pistachios from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/11/2007	Finland	2007.CRH	Salmonella Mbandaka and Salmonella Senftenberg in rape seed meal from Germany	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / prohibition to use
22/11/2007	Italy	2007.CRI	presence of bacterial inhibitor in frozen red shrimps (<i>Solenocera melantho</i>) from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
22/11/2007	Germany	2007.CRJ	Listeria monocytogenes (in one out of two samples: 6000 CFU/g) in chicken schnitzel from Germany	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date)
23/11/2007	Germany	2007.CRK	amitraz (0.96 mg/kg - ppm) in pears from Turkey	market control	product already consumed / informing recipients
23/11/2007	Denmark	2007.CRL	too high count of Escherichia coli (78 CFU/g) in cooked and peeled frozen crayfish tails (<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>) from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
23/11/2007	Austria	2007.CRM	inner coating peeling off from cans containing dog food from Norway, via Germany	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / reinforced checking
23/11/2007	Italy	2007.CRN	mercury (3.13 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen fillets of swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) from France	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date) / no stock left

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
23/11/2007	Denmark	2007.CRO	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.1; Tot. = 5.53 mg/kg - ppm) in hazelnuts from Turkey	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
23/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CRP	blanched peanut kernels from China infested with insects	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
23/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CRQ	blanched peanut kernels from China infested with larvae of insects	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched