

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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
26/11/2007	Austria	2007.0874	unauthorised genetically modified (LL RICE 601) rice from the United States, via Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from recipient(s)
26/11/2007	Romania	2007.0875	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of frozen mackerel from Spain, via the United Kingdom	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) destroyed
26/11/2007	Slovenia	2007.0876	inner coating peeling off from deep fryer set from China (Hong Kong)	border control - screening sample	distribution on the market (possible) / informing recipients
26/11/2007	Spain	2007.0877	dioxins (12.9 pg WHO TEQ/g) in cod liver oil capsules from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
26/11/2007	Denmark	2007.0878	Salmonella (present in 2/5 samples) in spiced barbecue and grill chicken from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible)
26/11/2007	Poland	2007.0879	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> (19000 CFU/g) and <i>Salmonella enteritidis</i> in spray dried egg powder from Germany	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
27/11/2007	Finland	2007.0880	<i>Salmonella</i> Mbandaka and <i>Salmonella</i> Senftenberg in rape seed meal from Germany	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to use
27/11/2007	Denmark	2007.0881	<i>Salmonella infantis</i> (2 out of 12 samples /25g) and <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> DT 193 multiresistant (4 out of 12 samples /25g) in oven-ready chicken from the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible)
27/11/2007	Germany	2007.0882	aflatoxins (B1 = 17.0; Tot. = 19.32 / B1 = 43.78; Tot. = 70.62 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Greece, via Austria	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
27/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0883	undeclared milk ingredient in plain chocolate and plain chocolate coated cookies from Belgium and France	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
27/11/2007	the Netherlands	2007.0884	altered organoleptic characteristics of pickled gherkins from Germany	company's own check	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
28/11/2007	Estonia	2007.0885	benzo(a)pyrene (7.7 µg/kg - ppb) in smoked sprats in oil from Latvia	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
28/11/2007	Austria	2007.0886	dioxins (in cod liver 6.2; in oil 17.19 pg WHO TEQ/g) and dioxin-like polychlorobifenyls (in cod liver 41.21; in oil 140.02 pg WHO TEQ/g) in smoked cod liver in its own oil and juice from Denmark	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
28/11/2007	Austria	2007.0887	dioxins (in cod liver 6.84; in oil 15.35 pg WHO TEQ/g) and dioxin-like polychlorobifenyls (in cod liver 646.77; in oil 118.79 pg WHO TEQ/g) in smoked cod liver in its own oil and juice from Denmark	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product detained
29/11/2007	Romania	2007.0888	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of frozen mackerel from Spain	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
29/11/2007	Belgium	2007.0889	aflatoxins (B1 = 21; Tot. = 23 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts from Turkey, via the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
29/11/2007	Germany	2007.0890	migration of DEHP - di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (210 mg/kg - ppm) from lid of jars containing sesame paste from Turkey	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product recall
29/11/2007	Belgium	2007.0891	metal fragments in milk chocolate from France	consumer complaint	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
29/11/2007	Italy	2007.0892	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen cooked shelled mussels (Mytilus galloprovincialis) from Chile, via Spain	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / product seized
30/11/2007	Iceland	2007.0893	Salmonella Derby and Salmonella infantis in dog chew from the Netherlands	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / prohibition to trade - sales ban
30/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.0894	aflatoxins (B1 = 28.8; Tot. = 67.3 / B1 = 37.9; Tot. = 69.5 µg/kg - ppb) in raw peanuts from China, dispatched from China (Hong Kong)	market control	distribution on the market (possible) / withdrawal from sale
30/11/2007	Italy	2007.0895	cadmium (13.1 mg/kg - ppm) in live crabs (Cancer pagurus) from France	market control	distribution on the market (possible)

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
26/11/2007	Italy	2007.CRR	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (370 mg/kg - ppm) in ginseng soft drink from the Republic of Korea	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
26/11/2007	Germany	2007.CRS	amitraz (0.33 mg/kg - ppm) in pears from Turkey	market control	product already consumed / no stock left

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
26/11/2007	Belgium	2007.CRT	ethephon (2.69 mg/kg - ppm) in tomatoes from Belgium	company's own check	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
26/11/2007	Spain	2007.CRU	dioxins (1.04 pg WHO TEQ/g) in palm fat distillate from Malaysia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product detained
26/11/2007	Poland	2007.CRV	possible fraud with technical casein labelled as feed-grade casein from Ukraine	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
26/11/2007	Finland	2007.CRW	migration of chromium (2.61 <---> 51 mg/dm ²) from cheese knives set from China	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
26/11/2007	Germany	2007.CRX	bad temperature control of and fraudulent take-over declaration for frozen chicken fillets from Brazil	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
26/11/2007	Denmark	2007.CRY	Salmonella (in 8 out of 12 samples) in vacuum packed veal from the Netherlands	market control	product expired (exceeded use-by date)
26/11/2007	Italy	2007.CRZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.9; Tot. = 8.5 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios in shell from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
26/11/2007	Italy	2007.CSA	aflatoxins (B1 = 40.3; Tot. = 42.9 / B1 = 42.9; Tot. = 45.3 / B1 = 21.1; Tot. = 22.3 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios in shell from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
26/11/2007	Italy	2007.CSB	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.6; Tot. = 6.2 / B1 = 5.7; Tot. = 6.4 / B1 = 5.0; Tot. = 5.6 / B1 = 14.6; Tot. = 15.7 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios in shell from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
26/11/2007	Italy	2007.CSC	pentachlorophenol (> 0.010 mg/kg - ppm) in guar gum from India	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product detained
26/11/2007	the Netherlands	2007.CSD	unauthorised genetically modified (LL 62) long grain milled rice from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
26/11/2007	Slovenia	2007.CSE	aflatoxins (B1 = 13.8; Tot. = 27.8 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
27/11/2007	Greece	2007.CSF	undeclared soya (soy lecithin) in gum filled lollipop from Ecuador, via Peru	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) relabelled
27/11/2007	Greece	2007.CSG	undeclared soya (soy lecithin) in and insufficient labelling (the indication "excessive consumption may induce laxative effects" is not mentioned on the labelling) of gum filled lollipop from Ecuador, via Peru	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) relabelled
27/11/2007	Greece	2007.CSH	undeclared soya (soy lecithin) in chewing gum from Ecuador, via Peru	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) relabelled
27/11/2007	Greece	2007.CSI	insufficient labelling (the indication "excessive consumption may induce laxative effects" is not mentioned on the labelling) of chewing gums from Ecuador, via Peru	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) relabelled

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
27/11/2007	Poland	2007.CSJ	dried apricots from Turkey infested with insects (live and dead)	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
27/11/2007	France	2007.CSK	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.6; Tot. = 5.6 / B1 = 6.8; Tot. = 7.0 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
27/11/2007	Poland	2007.CSL	migration of cadmium (0.77 mg/l) and of lead (28.0 mg/l) from ceramic plates from China	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
27/11/2007	Poland	2007.CSM	missing and improper health certificate(s) for frozen crustaceans and eel from Vietnam	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
27/11/2007	Bulgaria	2007.CSN	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of whole frozen atlantic mackerel (Scomber scombrus) from Canada	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment
27/11/2007	Bulgaria	2007.CSO	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of whole frozen atlantic mackerel (Scomber scombrus) from Canada	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment
28/11/2007	Germany	2007.CSP	aflatoxins (B1 = 85.7; Tot. = 94.8 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/11/2007	Italy	2007.CSQ	aflatoxins (B1 = 15.3; Tot. = 17.1 / B1 = 14.1; Tot. = 15.6 / B1 = 15.5; Tot. = 17.2 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/11/2007	Italy	2007.CSR	cadmium (4.44 mg/kg - ppm) in live crabs (Cancer pagurus) from France	market control	product already consumed / no stock left
28/11/2007	Italy	2007.CSS	aflatoxins (B1 = 1.9; Tot. = 2.6 / B1 = 2.9; Tot. = 4.2 / B1 = 5.7; Tot. = 8.7 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/11/2007	Italy	2007.CST	aflatoxins (B1 = 11.6; Tot. = 13.3 / B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 / B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 µg/kg - ppb) in organic peanuts in shell from Egypt	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
28/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CSU	semicarbazide (SEM) (34 mg/kg - ppm) in gaskets of jars containing ginger garlic paste from India	border control - screening sample	distribution restricted to notifying country
29/11/2007	the Netherlands	2007.CSV	aflatoxins (B1 = 30.3; Tot. = 33.0 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment - sorting
29/11/2007	Poland	2007.CSW	migration of cadmium (6.87 mg/l) from ceramic soup plates from Poland	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / product recall
29/11/2007	Spain	2007.CSX	mercury (1.5 mg/kg - ppm) in swordfish (Xiphias gladius) from Namibia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
29/11/2007	Bulgaria	2007.CSY	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of frozen whole Atlantic mackerel (Scomber scombrus) from Canada	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment
29/11/2007	Denmark	2007.CSZ	aflatoxins (B1 = 15; Tot. = 20.2 / B1 = 2.6; Tot. = 5.28 / B1 = 2.5 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	market control	no distribution / product detained
29/11/2007	Denmark	2007.CTA	aflatoxins (B1 = 17; Tot. = 20.19 / B1 = 3; Tot. = 8.67 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	market control	no distribution / product detained

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
29/11/2007	Poland	2007.CTB	dried figs from Turkey infested with larvae of insects	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
29/11/2007	Bulgaria	2007.CTC	parasitic infestation with Anisakis of whole frozen Atlantic mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>) from Canada	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment
29/11/2007	Italy	2007.CTD	cadmium (8.81 mg/kg - ppm) in live crabs (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>) from France	market control	product already consumed
30/11/2007	the Netherlands	2007.CTE	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.9; Tot. = 11.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Paraguay	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment
30/11/2007	the Netherlands	2007.CTF	aflatoxins (B1 = 15; Tot. = 25.1 / B1 = 13.7; Tot. = 38.9 / B1 = 9.9; Tot. = 15.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Argentina	border control - import rejected	no distribution / physical treatment - blanching
30/11/2007	Italy	2007.CTG	aflatoxins (B1 = 24.5; Tot. = 31.3 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Spain	2007.CTH	mercury (1.7 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen mako shark from Senegal	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Norway	2007.CTI	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.5; Tot. = 5.8 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CTJ	too high count of Enterobacteriaceae (> 1100 CFU/g) in dog chews from Thailand	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Spain	2007.CTK	too high count of coliforms (5100 CFU/g) in cereal-based baby food from Spain	market control	no stock left / withdrawal from sale
30/11/2007	Germany	2007.CTL	aflatoxins (B1 = 11.95; Tot. = 13.18 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted pistachios from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Italy	2007.CTM	fraudulent health certificate(s) for frozen cuttlefish (<i>Sepia officinalis</i>) from Tunisia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Spain	2007.CTN	unknown hazard in ketchup from Spain	consumer complaint	information on distribution not (yet) available
30/11/2007	Poland	2007.CTO	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.81; Tot. = 19.43 / B1 = 19.89; Tot. = 42.10 / B1 = 34.44; Tot. = 96.62 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	the Netherlands	2007.CTP	aflatoxins (B1 = 19.1 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Italy	2007.CTQ	aflatoxins (B1 = 0.1; Tot. = 0.9 / B1 = 3.4; Tot. = 4.0 / B1 = 6.0; Tot. = 6.1 µg/kg - ppb) in peanuts in shell from Egypt	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Spain	2007.CTR	unauthorised establishment for pork rind from Spain	market control	distribution restricted to notifying country / withdrawal from sale
30/11/2007	the United Kingdom	2007.CTS	unauthorised colour Rhodamine B and unidentified red colour in sugar coated fennel seed from Pakistan	border control - import rejected	no distribution
30/11/2007	Poland	2007.CTT	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.81; Tot. = 19.43 / B1 = 19.89; Tot. = 42.10 / B1 = 34.44; Tot. = 96.62 / µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	TYPE OF CONTROL:	STATUS
30/11/2007	Spain	2007.CTU	aflatoxins (B1 = 11.0 µg/kg - ppb) in almonds from the United States	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Italy	2007.CTV	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.4; Tot. < 1.6 / B1 < 0.4; Tot. < 1.6 / B1 = 4.0; Tot. = 20.5 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Italy	2007.CTW	absence of expiry date on salted anchovies and sardines from Tunisia	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Cyprus	2007.CTX	methamidophos (0.17 mg/kg - ppm), methomyl (0.8 mg/kg - ppm), carbendazim (0.9 mg/kg - ppm) and cypermethrin (1.6 mg/kg - ppm) in red grape from Lebanon	market control	product already consumed / no stock left
30/11/2007	Italy	2007.CTY	aflatoxins (B1 = 25.4; Tot. = 27.0 / B1 = 98.0; Tot. = 103.2 / B1 = 1.7; Tot. = 1.8 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from Iran	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched
30/11/2007	Italy	2007.CTZ	aflatoxins (B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 / B1 < 0.1; Tot. < 0.1 / B1 = 12.1; Tot. = 13.5 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey	border control - import rejected	no distribution / product (to be) re-dispatched

TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	CORRIGENDUM:
30/11/2007	add02	2007.0844	47	cadmium in long grain rice from Italy	The product was manufactured in Italy.

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	SUBJECT	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
27/11/2007	inf02	2007.0841	47	mercury in frozen slices of swordfish from Spain	Because product sampled and analytical report are identical as in notification 2007.CQU, the notification has been withdrawn.