

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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

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 mentioned as the origin of a product does not necessarily imply that the identified hazard(s) originated in the country concerned.

Week 2005/53

TABLE 1: ALERT NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications in blue typeface concern feed, all other notifications concern food.

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
27/12/2005	Norway	2005.973	nitrites unauthorised in smoked salmon, cured salmon, hot smoked salmon	NORWAY
27/12/2005	Italy	2005.974	too high content of sulphites in chilled scampi (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>)	UNITED KINGDOM
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.975	histamine in and carbon monoxide treatment of vacuum packed frozen tuna loins	COSTA RICA VIA SPAIN
29/12/2005	Sweden	2005.976	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> in salami	ITALY
29/12/2005	Germany	2005.977	unauthorised colour red yeast rice (Angkak) in red beancurd (tofu)	CHINA VIA SPAIN VIA THE NETHERLANDS
29/12/2005	Hungary	2005.978	aflatoxins in shelled pistachio nuts	AUSTRIA
29/12/2005	Germany	2005.979	migration of 4,4-diaminodiphenylmethane from nylon kitchen utensil	CHINA (HONG KONG)
30/12/2005	Italy	2005.980	carbon monoxide treatment of vacuum packed frozen tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	COSTA RICA VIA SPAIN
30/12/2005	Italy	2005.981	too high count of coliforms in fresh brie cheese	FRANCE
30/12/2005	Greece	2005.982	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in cheese	GREECE
30/12/2005	Cyprus	2005.983	altered organoleptic characteristics of white almonds	VIA GREECE
30/12/2005	Greece	2005.984	altered organoleptic characteristics of chocolate eggs	ITALY

TABLE 2: INFORMATION NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications in blue typeface concern feed, all other notifications concern food.

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
27/12/2005	Denmark	2005.DHG	mercury in porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	DENMARK
27/12/2005	Norway	2005.DHH	nitrites unauthorised in smoked salmon, cured salmon, hot smoked salmon	NORWAY
27/12/2005	Spain	2005.DHI	unauthorised substance malachite green in pangasius fillets (<i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i>)	VIETNAM
27/12/2005	Spain	2005.DHJ	unauthorised substance malachite green in pangasius fillets (<i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i>)	VIETNAM
27/12/2005	The Netherlands	2005.DHK	aflatoxins in groundnuts	BRAZIL
27/12/2005	France	2005.DHL	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
27/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHM	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
27/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHN	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
27/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHO	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
28/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHP	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
28/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHQ	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
28/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHR	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
28/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHS	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
28/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHT	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
28/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHU	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
28/12/2005	Hungary	2005.DHV	high content of morphine in poppy seed	HUNGARY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHW	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of red orange juice	ITALY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHX	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of red fruit juice	ITALY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHY	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of peach juice with pulp	ITALY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DHZ	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of exotic fruit juice	ITALY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DIA	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of grapefruit juice	ITALY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DIB	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of orange-carrots-lemon fruit juice	ITALY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DIC	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of pineapple juice	ITALY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DID	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of milk	ITALY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DIE	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of cream	ITALY
29/12/2005	Italy	2005.DIF	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of peach mango fruit juice	ITALY
30/12/2005	Italy	2005.DIG	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of whipping cream with vegetables fats UHT	ITALY
30/12/2005	Italy	2005.DIH	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of orange juice	ITALY
30/12/2005	Italy	2005.DII	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of orange juice	ITALY
30/12/2005	Italy	2005.DIJ	dioxins in zinc oxide 72%	TURKEY
30/12/2005	Italy	2005.DIK	aflatoxins in melon seed flour	NIGERIA