

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2006/11

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:
13/03/2006	Czech Republic	2006.0170	hormones - dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), hormones - nandrolone and hormones - testosterone in whey protein	GERMANY
13/03/2006	Cyprus	2006.0171	suspicion of illegal trade of ice cream products	UNITED KINGDOM
13/03/2006	Cyprus	2006.0172	abnormal smell of dried sultanas	GREECE
13/03/2006	Denmark	2006.0173	histamine in tuna chunks in brine	THAILAND VIA GERMANY
13/03/2006	Italy	2006.0174	too high content of sulphites in cooked prawns (<i>Penaeus vannamei</i>)	BRAZIL VIA SPAIN
13/03/2006	Germany	2006.0175	Diarrhoeic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) toxins in mussels meat	NORWAY GERMANY
14/03/2006	Italy	2006.0177	cadmium in vacuum packed rice	ITALY
14/03/2006	Czech Republic	2006.0178	cadmium in parsnip	POLAND
14/03/2006	United Kingdom	2006.0179	dioxins in concentrated fish body oil	UNITED KINGDOM
15/03/2006	Germany	2006.0180	unauthorised colours Sudan 1 and Para Red in spices for georgian cooking	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
16/03/2006	Germany	2006.0181	too high content of E 452 - polyphosphates in alaska pollock (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>)	CHINA VIA DENMARK
16/03/2006	Norway	2006.0182	norovirus in raw oysters	FRANCE
16/03/2006	Belgium	2006.0183	fumonisin in mixed cereals (baby food)	THE NETHERLANDS
17/03/2006	Czech Republic	2006.0184	incorrect labelling as gluten-free of infant formula (cereal-milk porridge)	CZECH REPUBLIC
17/03/2006	Finland	2006.0185	high count of yeasts and high number of aerobic plate counts in lemon flavoured soft drink	GERMANY
17/03/2006	France	2006.0186	Salmonella in beef burgers	THE NETHERLANDS
17/03/2006	Italy	2006.0187	too high count of <i>Escherichia coli</i> in mussels (<i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i>)	GREECE

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:
13/03/2006	Slovakia	2006.ARM	aflatoxins in sweet paprika powder	SPAIN
14/03/2006	Germany	2006.ARN	unauthorised colours Para Red and toluidine red in grill spices	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
14/03/2006	Germany	2006.ARO	<i>Salmonella</i> spp in feed supplement for diary cows	LUXEMBOURG
14/03/2006	Belgium	2006.ARP	abnormal smell of ray fillets, cheeks, wings and tails (<i>Raja</i> spp)	ARGENTINA

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
14/03/2006	Belgium	2006.ARQ	unauthorised substance nitrofuran (metabolite) - furazolidone (AOZ) in raw fresh frozen cultured black tiger shrimps (<i>Penaeus monodon</i>)	INDIA
14/03/2006	United Kingdom	2006.ARR	dioxins in food supplement containing cod liver oil	UNITED KINGDOM
15/03/2006	Spain	2006.ARS	aflatoxins in almonds	THE UNITED STATES
15/03/2006	Germany	2006.ART	aflatoxins in raw pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
15/03/2006	Germany	2006.ARU	aflatoxins in raw pistachio nuts with shell	IRAN
15/03/2006	United Kingdom	2006.ARV	3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) in soy sauce	THE PHILIPPINES
15/03/2006	Denmark	2006.ARW	unauthorised animal ingredients in instant tripe soup	TURKEY
16/03/2006	Malta	2006.ARX	undeclared sulphites in dried apricots	TURKEY
16/03/2006	Belgium	2006.ARY	illegal import and incorrect labelling of pike roe	THE UNITED STATES
16/03/2006	United Kingdom	2006.ARZ	aflatoxins in roasted hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
17/03/2006	Czech Republic	2006.ASA	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
17/03/2006	France	2006.ASB	aflatoxins in groundnut in shells	CHINA
17/03/2006	United Kingdom	2006.ASC	3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) in soy sauce	THE PHILIPPINES
17/03/2006	Latvia	2006.ASD	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts in shell	IRAN

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
17/03/2006	add01	2006.ALN	7	On the basis of the result of the counter analysis (which was complying), the whole consignment was subsequently released into free circulation.