

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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

Week 2004/48

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:
22/11/2004	BELGIUM	2004.607	metal particles in canned tomato pulp	ITALY
22/11/2004	ITALY	2004.608	parasites - Anisakis in fresh mackerel (Scomber scombrus)	NORWAY
22/11/2004	ITALY	2004.609	too high content of sulphites in whole frozen prawns (Nephrops norvegicus)	UNITED KINGDOM
22/11/2004	SLOVAKIA	2004.610	3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) in soya sauce with garlic flavour	VIETNAM VIA CZECH REPUBLIC
22/11/2004	FRANCE	2004.611	ethylene glycol in bacon	FRANCE
22/11/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.612	Salmonella in chorizo picante extra	SPAIN
23/11/2004	HUNGARY	2004.613	antibiotics and sulphonamides in honey	UKRAINE VIA HUNGARY
24/11/2004	ITALY	2004.615	parasites - Anisakis in fresh mackerel (Scomber scombrus)	NORWAY VIA DENMARK
24/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.616	colour Sudan 4 in red palm oil	GHANA VIA THE NETHERLANDS
24/11/2004	SWEDEN	2004.617	undeclared soy protein in surimi	COUNTRY NOT MENTIONED
24/11/2004	LUXEMBOURG	2004.618	spider eggs and spider webs in mix of nuts	BELGIUM
25/11/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.619	damaged packaging of mochalatte and chocolate in glass bottle	DENMARK
26/11/2004	ITALY	2004.620	colour Sudan 1 in chili sauce in olive oil	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:
22/11/2004	ITALY	2004.CMR	too high count of faecal coliforms in melon seeds	NIGERIA
22/11/2004	GREECE	2004.CNF	Escherichia coli in live clams (Tapes decussatus)	TURKEY
22/11/2004	ITALY	2004.CNG	Escherichia coli, Bacillus cereus and too high count of Enterobacteriaceae in sesame seeds	INDIA
22/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.CNH	aflatoxins in groundnuts in shell	CHINA
22/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.CNI	Listeria monocytogenes in frozen chicken breasts	BRAZIL
22/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.CNJ	Listeria monocytogenes in chicken breasts and drumsticks	BRAZIL

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
22/11/2004	ITALY	2004.CNK	too high content of sulphites in modified atmosphere packed cooked shrimps (<i>Penaeus vannamei</i>)	FRANCE
22/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.CNL	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
22/11/2004	ITALY	2004.CNM	aflatoxins in cashew nut meal	BRAZIL
22/11/2004	HUNGARY	2004.CNN	Salmonella enteritidis in chilled whole chicken breast	ROMANIA
23/11/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.CNO	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN VIA SPAIN
23/11/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.CNP	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN VIA SPAIN
23/11/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.CNQ	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN VIA SPAIN
23/11/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CNR	aflatoxins in chilli powder	INDIA
23/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.CNS	Salmonella in chilled fillets of perch of the Nile (<i>Lates niloticus</i>)	TANZANIA
23/11/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.CNT	aflatoxins in groundnuts	THE UNITED STATES
23/11/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.CNU	aflatoxins in groundnuts	THE UNITED STATES
23/11/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.CNV	aflatoxins in groundnut kernels	ARGENTINA
23/11/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.CNW	aflatoxins in coconut cream flavoured peanuts	THAILAND
23/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.CNX	colour Sudan 1 and colour Sudan 4 in ground chilli	EGYPT
23/11/2004	IRELAND	2004.CNY	unauthorised animal ingredients in maize gluten feed	THE UNITED STATES
23/11/2004	SLOVAKIA	2004.CNZ	3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) in spicy soya sauce	VIETNAM VIA CZECH REPUBLIC
23/11/2004	SLOVAKIA	2004.COA	3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) in soya sauce	VIETNAM VIA CZECH REPUBLIC
24/11/2004	GREECE	2004.COB	aflatoxins in groundnut kernels	EGYPT
24/11/2004	GREECE	2004.COC	aflatoxins in almonds	THE UNITED STATES
24/11/2004	GREECE	2004.COD	Listeria monocytogenes in matured frozen boneless beef	BRAZIL
24/11/2004	GREECE	2004.COE	aflatoxins in groundnut kernels	EGYPT
24/11/2004	GREECE	2004.COF	Listeria monocytogenes in matured frozen boneless beef	BRAZIL
24/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.COG	unauthorised additive (annato/bixin/norbixin - E 160b) in ground paprika	EGYPT
24/11/2004	SWEDEN	2004.COI	undeclared soy protein in surimi	SINGAPORE
24/11/2004	SWEDEN	2004.COJ	undeclared soy protein in surimi	SINGAPORE
24/11/2004	SWEDEN	2004.COK	undeclared soy protein in surimi	SINGAPORE
24/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.COL	colour Sudan 1 and colour Sudan 4 in oriental spice mixture	EGYPT
25/11/2004	LITHUANIA	2004.COM	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
25/11/2004	LATVIA	2004.CON	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
25/11/2004	FRANCE	2004.COO	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
25/11/2004	MALTA	2004.COP	aflatoxins in ground nuts in shell	EGYPT
25/11/2004	SLOVENIA	2004.COQ	Salmonella spp in coconut flour	INDONESIA
26/11/2004	FRANCE	2004.COH	aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in sweet paprika powder	SPAIN

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
26/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.COR	iodine in sea kale salad with salmon	LITHUANIA
26/11/2004	FRANCE	2004.COS	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
26/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.COT	added polyphosphates in hamburger	ARGENTINA
26/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.COU	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
26/11/2004	ITALY	2004.COV	insufficient labelling of canned tuna (Thunnus alalunga)	CUBA
26/11/2004	SWEDEN	2004.COW	Salmonella Thompson in rucola lettuce	ITALY
26/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.COX	mercury in frozen swordfish	INDONESIA
26/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.COY	cadmium in frozen prawns	AUSTRALIA

TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	CORRIGENDUM:
04/10/2004	add01	2004.445	37	The honey is of Slovakian origin and was repackaged in Hungary.

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
22/11/2004	add01	2004.509	42	Subsequent risk assessment shows that a concentration below 10x4 CFU/g does not harm human health therefore the consignment is considered as safe and is released into sale.
22/11/2004	add03	2004.577	46	Favourable results of the counter analysis.
26/11/2004	add01	2004.CND	47	Notification withdrawn based on favourable analytical results.