

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2004/49

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:
29/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.621	colour Sudan 4 in zomi palm oil	GHANA
30/11/2004	SWEDEN	2004.622	Salmonella Thompson in rucola salad	ITALY
30/11/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.623	moulds in chocolate truffles	CHINA
01/12/2004	IRELAND	2004.624	Bacillus licheniformis in paprika powder	SPAIN VIA UNITED KINGDOM
01/12/2004	IRELAND	2004.625	Bacillus cereus in frozen yoghurt	BELGIUM VIA UNITED KINGDOM
01/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.626	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA VIA BELGIUM
01/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.627	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA VIA THE NETHERLANDS
01/12/2004	ITALY	2004.628	too high content of sulphites in whole frozen prawns (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>)	UNITED KINGDOM
02/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.629	Salmonella Havana in pizza spice	GERMANY
02/12/2004	NORWAY	2004.630	Listeria monocytogenes in gorgonzola cheese	ITALY VIA DENMARK
02/12/2004	GREECE	2004.631	too high count of Escherichia coli and coliforms in bivalve molluscs (<i>Venus verrucosa</i>)	TURKEY
02/12/2004	ITALY	2004.632	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	WESTERN AFRICA VIA FRANCE
03/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.633	ASP (amnesic shellfish poisoning) - Domoic acid in scallops	FRANCE
03/12/2004	NORWAY	2004.634	Salmonella enterica in beef forequarters	BOTSWANA VIA GERMANY
03/12/2004	DENMARK	2004.635	Salmonella in rucola lettuce	ITALY
03/12/2004	ITALY	2004.636	mercury in frozen swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SPAIN
03/12/2004	HUNGARY	2004.637	chloramphenicol in fishmeal	ICELAND VIA GERMANY
03/12/2004	ESTONIA	2004.638	Salmonella Kottbus in fresh pike perch fillets	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
03/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.639	Salmonella in frozen minced meat (beef)	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:
29/11/2004	FINLAND	2004.COZ	histamine in vacuum packed fresh tuna in ice	SRI LANKA VIA THE NETHERLANDS

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
29/11/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CPA	aflatoxins in chilli powder	INDIA
29/11/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CPB	aflatoxins in melon seeds	NIGERIA
29/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.CPC	mercury in frozen marlin (<i>Makaira indika</i>)	INDONESIA
29/11/2004	ITALY	2004.CPD	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> in fresh chicken breasts	SLOVENIA
30/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.CPE	colour Sudan 4 in zomi spiced palm oil	WESTERN AFRICA VIA BELGIUM AND VIA THE NETHERLANDS
30/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.CPF	too high content of cadmium in frozen prawns (<i>Metapenaeus endeavouri</i>)	AUSTRALIA
30/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.CPG	too high content of cadmium in frozen prawns (<i>Metapenaeus endeavouri</i>)	AUSTRALIA
30/11/2004	SPAIN	2004.CPH	too high content of cadmium in frozen prawns (<i>Metapenaeus endeavouri</i>)	AUSTRALIA
30/11/2004	GERMANY	2004.CPI	aflatoxins in groundnut in shell	CHINA
01/12/2004	SLOVENIA	2004.CPJ	cadmium in swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SINGAPORE
01/12/2004	SLOVENIA	2004.CPK	cadmium in swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SINGAPORE
01/12/2004	SLOVENIA	2004.CPL	cadmium and mercury in swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SINGAPORE
01/12/2004	SLOVENIA	2004.CPM	cadmium in swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SINGAPORE
01/12/2004	SLOVENIA	2004.CPN	cadmium in swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SINGAPORE
01/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CPO	leucomalachite green in frozen black cat fish (<i>Clarias fuscus</i>)	VIETNAM
01/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CPP	nitrofurans (metabolite) - nitrofurazone (SEM) in fresh water headless frozen shrimps (<i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i>)	BANGLADESH
01/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CPQ	nitrofurans (metabolite) - nitrofurazone (SEM) in fresh frozen raw headless water king prawns (<i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i>)	BANGLADESH
01/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CPR	leucomalachite green and malachite green in red frozen tilapia (<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>)	VIETNAM
01/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CPS	leucomalachite green in fresh yellowtail fillets (<i>Seriola quinqueradiata</i>)	JAPAN
02/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CPT	leucomalachite green in frozen milk fish (<i>Chanos chanos</i>)	INDONESIA
02/12/2004	BELGIUM	2004.CPU	nitrofurans (metabolite) - furazolidone (AOZ) in frozen black tiger head on shell on shrimps (<i>Pegasus monodon</i>)	INDONESIA
02/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CPV	cyprodinil in white grapes	ITALY
02/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CPW	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> in fennel seeds	EGYPT
02/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CPX	colour Sudan 1 and colour Sudan 4 in sumac	TURKEY
03/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CPY	damaged packaging of cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
03/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CPZ	damaged packaging of cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
03/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CQA	damaged packaging of cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
03/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CQB	damaged packaging of cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
03/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CQC	unauthorised additive (annato/bixin/norbixin - E 160b) in paprika powder	CHINA

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
03/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CQD	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
03/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CQE	mercury in frozen blue shark	SINGAPORE
03/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CQF	aflatoxins in groundnut kernels	EGYPT
03/12/2004	FINLAND	2004.CQG	migration of lead from ceramic mugs	HONG KONG
03/12/2004	CYPRUS	2004.CQH	Listeria monocytogenes in lountza rolls (smoked and marinated loin of pork)	CYPRUS
03/12/2004	BELGIUM	2004.CQI	“unfit for human consumption” labelled on powdered milkproduct declared to be “for human consumption”	NEW ZEALAND

TABLE 3: CORRIGENDA TO PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFI- CATION:	OF WEEK	CORRIGENDUM:
01/12/2004	inf01	2004.614	48	The country of origin of the product is Austria and not Germany. Please note that meanwhile this notification was withdrawn.

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFI- CATION:	OF WEEK	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
02/12/2004	inf01	2004.531	43	After the favourable results of the counter analysis, the lifting of this alert notification is requested