

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2004/50

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:
07/12/2004	SWEDEN	2004.640	Salmonella in beef meat cuts	POLAND
07/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.641	colour Sudan 4 in spicy red pepper flakes	TURKEY
07/12/2004	MALTA	2004.642	too high content of sulphites in golden raisins	CHILE VIA THE NETHERLANDS
07/12/2004	AUSTRIA	2004.643	Listeria monocytogenes in fine liver pate	BELGIUM
08/12/2004	SLOVENIA	2004.644	Salmonella Napoli in rucola lettuce	ITALY
08/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.645	high content of iodine in dried algae	CHINA VIA FRANCE
08/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.646	colour Sudan 1 and colour Sudan 4 in spices for kebab	VIA THE NETHERLANDS
08/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.647	colour Sudan 1 and colour Sudan 4 in spices for minced meat	VIA THE NETHERLANDS
08/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.648	colour Sudan 1 and colour Sudan 4 in spices salt for chicken	VIA THE NETHERLANDS
08/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.649	colour Sudan 1 and colour Sudan 4 in spiced salt for gyros	VIA THE NETHERLANDS
08/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.650	colour Sudan 1 and colour Sudan 4 in different spices	TURKEY
08/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.651	colour Sudan 1 in mixed spices	TURKEY
09/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.652	colour Sudan 1 in sweet paprika powder	TURKEY
09/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.653	colour Sudan 1 in sweet paprika	TURKEY
09/12/2004	ITALY	2004.654	colour Sudan 4 in pure palm oil	VIA UNITED KINGDOM
09/12/2004	SWEDEN	2004.655	Salmonella Gold Coast in frozen beef (topside)	POLAND
10/12/2004	ITALY	2004.656	too high content of sulphites in frozen prawns (<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>)	ITALY
10/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.657	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA VIA BELGIUM
10/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.658	Enterobacter sakazakii in infant formula	THE NETHERLANDS

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:
06/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CQJ	deterioration of yam (<i>Dioscorrea</i>)	GHANA
06/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CQK	nitrofurans (metabolite) - furazolidone (AOZ) in frozen jumbo tiger prawns	VIETNAM
06/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CQL	aflatoxins in groundnut kernels	BRAZIL
06/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CQM	aflatoxins in groundnuts in shell	ISRAEL
06/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CQN	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
06/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.CQO	unfit for human consumption lamp oil instead of olive oil	TUNISIA
07/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.CQP	lead in zinc monoxide	TURKEY
07/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CQQ	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA
07/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CQR	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA
07/12/2004	BELGIUM	2004.CQS	nitrofurans (metabolite) - furazolidone (AOZ) in frozen black tiger head on shell on shrimps (<i>Peneaus monodon</i>)	INDONESIA
08/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CQT	aflatoxins in roasted and salted pistachios	THE UNITED STATES VIA LUXEMBOURG
08/12/2004	PORTUGAL	2004.CQU	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
08/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CQV	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
08/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CQW	deterioration of frozen semi-dehydrated tomatoes	TUNISIA
08/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CQX	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
08/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CQY	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
08/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CQZ	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
08/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CRA	colour Sudan 4 in pure palm and pure palm zomi oil	GHANA
08/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CRB	bad temperature control of frozen Alaska pollack (<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>)	CHINA
08/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CRC	colour Sudan 4 in pure palm and pure palm zomi oil	GHANA
08/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CRD	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA
08/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CRE	colour Sudan 4 in pure palm oil	NIGERIA
08/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.CRF	toxic mushrooms in boletus mushrooms, stems and pieces	CHINA VIA THE NETHERLANDS VIA SWITZERLAND
09/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRG	high bacterial count and moulds in sesame seeds	TURKEY
09/12/2004	CZECH REPUBLIC	2004.CRH	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
09/12/2004	HUNGARY	2004.CRI	parasitic infestation of black caviar	AUSTRIA
10/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRJ	aflatoxins in roasted and salted pistachios	ITALY
10/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRK	aflatoxins in roasted and salted pistachios	IRAN
10/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CRL	unauthorised as novel food genetically modified papaya	THE UNITED STATES
10/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRM	carbon monoxide treatment of fresh tuna loin (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	SPAIN
10/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CRN	colour Sudan 4 in pure palm oil	GHANA
10/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CRO	high content of iodine in dried algae	REPUBLIC OF KOREA VIA THE NETHERLANDS

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
10/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CRP	aflatoxins in halawa with pistachios	SAUDI ARABIA
10/12/2004	FINLAND	2004.CRQ	Salmonella Tennessee in rape seed meal	GERMANY

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
09/12/2004	inf01	2004.563	45	Notification 2004.563 should be withdrawn because a second testing result (< 1 µg/kg) is more of the lot. The difference in testing results can be explained by the heterogeneous character of the contamination.