

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2004/51

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:
13/12/2004	SLOVAKIA	2004.659	aflatoxins in sweet paprika powder	HUNGARY
13/12/2004	SWEDEN	2004.660	Campylobacter in rucola lettuce	ITALY
13/12/2004	ITALY	2004.661	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	VIA UNITED KINGDOM
13/12/2004	ITALY	2004.662	dioxins and PCB's in single feed	SPAIN
15/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.663	high content of iodine in algae	JAPAN VIA THE NETHERLANDS
15/12/2004	ITALY	2004.664	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	VIA FRANCE
15/12/2004	ITALY	2004.665	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	VIA UNITED KINGDOM
15/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.666	colour Sudan 4 in zomi palm oil	GHANA
15/12/2004	ITALY	2004.667	colour Sudan 4 in vegetable oil	VIA FRANCE
15/12/2004	SWEDEN	2004.668	Salmonella in frozen chicken	POLAND
15/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.669	iodine in dried algae	REPUBLIC OF KOREA VIA THE NETHERLANDS
16/12/2004	LITHUANIA	2004.670	too high count of Escherichia coli in frozen pork tongues	SPAIN VIA GERMANY
16/12/2004	LITHUANIA	2004.671	too high count of coliforms in dried smelt	LATVIA
17/12/2004	ITALY	2004.672	too high content of sulphites in cooked chilled shrimps	FRANCE
17/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.673	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA VIA BELGIUM
17/12/2004	ITALY	2004.674	Listeria monocytogenes in cheese	ITALY
17/12/2004	ITALY	2004.675	sulphites in frozen Norway lobsters (Nephrops norvegicus)	UNITED KINGDOM

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:
13/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRR	too high count of Escherichia coli and Salmonella in live mussels (Tapes philippinarum)	ITALY
13/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRS	too high count of Escherichia coli and too high count of faecal coliforms in live mussels (Tapes philippinarum)	ITALY
13/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CRT	colour Sudan 4 in pure zomi palm oil	GHANA
14/12/2004	PORTUGAL	2004.CRU	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
14/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRV	Salmonella spp in frozen chicken breast	BRAZIL

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
14/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRW	Salmonella spp in frozen octopus (octopus vulgaris)	MEXICO
14/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CRX	fraudulent health certificate(s) for canned mackerel-pike	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
14/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRY	aflatoxins in peanuts in shell	EGYPT
14/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CRZ	aflatoxins in peanuts in shell	EGYPT
14/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CSA	aflatoxins in peanuts in shell	TURKEY
14/12/2004	FINLAND	2004.CSB	unauthorised colour in peeled split mung beans	THAILAND
15/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CSC	aflatoxins in roasted salted pistachios	IRAN
15/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CSD	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
15/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CSE	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
15/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CSF	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	THE UNITED STATES
15/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CSG	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
15/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CSH	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
15/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CSI	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
15/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CSJ	too high content of sulphites in dried apricots	TURKEY
15/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CSK	aflatoxins in raw hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
15/12/2004	FINLAND	2004.CSL	unauthorised additive (Erythrosine - E 127) in assorted fruit flavoured candies: fruit hard candy and jelly beans	BRAZIL
15/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CSM	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN VIA TURKEY
15/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CSN	too high content of sulphites in whole cinnamon sticks	SRI LANKA
15/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.CSO	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
15/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CSP	too high count of faecal coliforms in live mussels (Mitilus galloprovincialis)	GREECE
15/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CSQ	aflatoxins in groundnuts with shell	EGYPT
15/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CSR	aflatoxins in groundnuts without shell	EGYPT
15/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CSS	aflatoxins in peanuts with shell	EGYPT
15/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.CST	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
15/12/2004	FINLAND	2004.CSU	migration of phtalates from piping bag in PVC material	CHINA
15/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.CSV	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
15/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CSW	nitrofurane (metabolite) - nitrofurazone (SEM) in fresh water prawns (Macrobrachium rosenbergii)	INDIA
16/12/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CSX	too high content of benzoic acid - E 210 in kola flavor soda	COLOMBIA
16/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CSY	aflatoxins in groundnuts without shell	EGYPT
16/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CSZ	aflatoxins in raw pistachios in shell	IRAN
16/12/2004	GREECE	2004.CTA	aflatoxins in walnuts without shell	UZBEKISTAN
16/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CTB	spoilage of blue crab (Callinectes sapidus)	THE UNITED STATES
17/12/2004	FRANCE	2004.CTC	aflatoxins in dried figs	TURKEY
17/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CTD	bacterial inhibitor in frozen pud blanched shrimps	INDIA
17/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CTE	aflatoxins in roasted, salted pistachio nuts	GERMANY
17/12/2004	GERMANY	2004.CTF	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
17/12/2004	SWEDEN	2004.CTG	Salmonella typhimurium in rucicola lettuce	ITALY
17/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CTH	parasites in chilled frog legs	TURKEY

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
17/12/2004	HUNGARY	2004.CTI	suffocation risk as a result of the swallowing of mini cup jellies	TAIWAN
17/12/2004	CYPRUS	2004.CTJ	too high content of sulphites in dried apricots	IRAN
17/12/2004	ITALY	2004.CTK	migration from teflon baking pan	CHINA
17/12/2004	ESTONIA	2004.CTL	organic selenium in cow fertility pack	HUNGARY

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
13/12/2004	inf02	2004.CQX	50	Identical to 2004.CQN.