

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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 2005/11

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:
07/03/2005	FRANCE	2005.134	Listeria monocytogenes in raw milk cheese	FRANCE
07/03/2005	BELGIUM	2005.135	migration of lead from ceramic (dessert) plates	ROMANIA VIA FRANCE
07/03/2005	BELGIUM	2005.136	too high content of cadmium in mackerel fillets in olive oil	PERU VIA THE NETHERLANDS
07/03/2005	NETHERLANDS	2005.137	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts	IRAN VIA SPAIN
07/03/2005	ITALY	2005.138	unauthorised colour Sudan 1 and unauthorised colour Sudan 4 in pasta with chilli pepper	ITALY
08/03/2005	GERMANY	2005.139	unauthorised colour erythrosine (E 127) in ginger in vinegar	THAILAND VIA THE NETHERLANDS
08/03/2005	SWEDEN	2005.140	tube nutriment for children with defective packaging	SWEDEN
08/03/2005	IRELAND	2005.141	suffocation risk as a result of the swallowing of breakfast cereals	FRANCE
09/03/2005	ESTONIA	2005.142	too high content of sorbic acid in dried black prunes	CHILE VIA LITHUANIA
09/03/2005	AUSTRIA	2005.143	fumonisin in maize meal	GERMANY
09/03/2005	GERMANY	2005.144	high content of iodine in dried sea algae	CHINA VIA THE NETHERLANDS
10/03/2005	ITALY	2005.145	Salmonella spp in chitterlings	FRANCE
10/03/2005	GERMANY	2005.146	malachite green in trout eggs	SWEDEN
10/03/2005	ITALY	2005.147	histamine in frozen tuna fillets	SPAIN
11/03/2005	GERMANY	2005.148	unauthorised irradiation and irradiation not labelled of instant noodles	REPUBLIC OF KOREA VIA THE NETHERLANDS
11/03/2005	NORWAY	2005.149	Salmonella Indiana in frozen duck breast	FRANCE
11/03/2005	NORWAY	2005.150	Salmonella Indiana in duck foie gras in slices	FRANCE
11/03/2005	SWEDEN	2005.151	Salmonella in frozen chicken fillets	ESTONIA VIA FINLAND
11/03/2005	CYPRUS	2005.152	1,4-dichlorobenzene in honey	GREECE
11/03/2005	CYPRUS	2005.153	1,4-dichlorobenzene in honey	GREECE
11/03/2005	ITALY	2005.154	parasites - Anisakis in monkfish (Lophius piscatorius)	THE NETHERLANDS
11/03/2005	ESTONIA	2005.155	unauthorised feed additive - organic selenium in feed supplement	GERMANY
11/03/2005	SWEDEN	2005.156	dithiocarbamates in rucola lettuce	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:
07/03/2005	SPAIN	2005.AOR	particles in skimmed milk	SPAIN
07/03/2005	GREECE	2005.AOS	aflatoxins in groundnut kernels	CHINA
07/03/2005	UNITED KINGDOM	2005.AOT	unauthorised colour Sudan 1 in frozen cooked mexican chicken meat	UNITED KINGDOM
07/03/2005	SLOVENIA	2005.AOU	unauthorised colour amaranth (E 123) and unauthorised colour erythrosine (E 127) in sweets	BRAZIL
07/03/2005	GERMANY	2005.AOV	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts	IRAN
08/03/2005	ITALY	2005.AOW	too high count of Enterobacteriaceae in sesame seeds	INDIA
08/03/2005	FRANCE	2005.AOX	aflatoxins in groundnut kernels	CHINA
08/03/2005	ITALY	2005.AOY	histamine in fresh tuna fillets	PANAMA VIA THE NETHERLANDS
09/03/2005	BELGIUM	2005.AOZ	leucomalachite green in frozen Pangasius bocourti	VIETNAM
09/03/2005	UNITED KINGDOM	2005.APA	mercury and cadmium in chilled swordfish loins (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	SRI LANKA
09/03/2005	ITALY	2005.APB	unauthorised sulphites in grapes	SPAIN
09/03/2005	SLOVENIA	2005.APC	migration of aniline from nylon kitchen tools	CHINA (HONG KONG)
09/03/2005	ITALY	2005.APD	desiccative bags in direct contact with rice crackers	CHINA
10/03/2005	ITALY	2005.APE	parasites in dates	TUNISIA
10/03/2005	UNITED KINGDOM	2005.APF	aflatoxins in groundnut kernels	MALAWI
10/03/2005	UNITED KINGDOM	2005.APG	aflatoxins in hazelnut kernels	TURKEY
10/03/2005	FINLAND	2005.APH	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> in soy bean meal	BRAZIL VIA FRANCE
10/03/2005	FINLAND	2005.API	aflatoxins in chopped and roasted hazelnut kernels	TURKEY VIA UNITED KINGDOM
10/03/2005	UNITED KINGDOM	2005.APJ	aflatoxins in melon seeds	NIGERIA
10/03/2005	SLOVENIA	2005.APK	migration of formaldehyde from melamine plates	CHINA
10/03/2005	ITALY	2005.APL	ochratoxin A in raw coffee beans	INDIA
10/03/2005	GERMANY	2005.APM	unauthorised colour Rhodamine B in sumak	TURKEY
10/03/2005	LITHUANIA	2005.APN	moulds in raisins	UZBEKISTAN
11/03/2005	FINLAND	2005.APP	Salmonella Montevideo in sesame paste	LEBANON
11/03/2005	SWEDEN	2005.APQ	Salmonella in beef cuts	POLAND
11/03/2005	CYPRUS	2005.APR	histamine in canned skipjack in oil	THAILAND
11/03/2005	ITALY	2005.APS	fruit juice of noni with agave and noni with papaya unauthorised as novel food	COSTA RICA
11/03/2005	CYPRUS	2005.APT	aflatoxins in peanuts	SYRIA
11/03/2005	ITALY	2005.APU	Vibrio cholerae in clams (<i>Tapes decussatus</i>)	TURKEY

TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS

DATE:	REF.:	NOTIFICATION:	OF WEEK	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:
09/03/2005	inf01	2005.AMF	9	Notification 2005.AMF is identical to notification 2005.AGR