

## **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**Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.** The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if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.

The Commission informs the authorities of third countries of notifications concerning products manufactured in, distributed to or dispatched from these countries. However, the fact that a country is mentioned as the origin of a product does not necessarily imply that the identified hazard(s) originated in the country concerned.

## Week 2006/15

**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:
10/04/2006	Germany	2006.0239	unauthorised colours Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in chilli powder	BELGIUM
10/04/2006	Denmark	2006.0240	Salmonella typhimurium DT 104 in frozen turkey breast	POLAND VIA GERMANY
10/04/2006	Germany	2006.0241	benzo(a)pyrene and heavy polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in smoked sprats in oil	LATVIA
11/04/2006	Belgium	2006.0242	dioxins in choline chloride premixture	CHINA
11/04/2006	Slovenia	2006.0243	migration of formaldehyde from chopping board	ITALY
11/04/2006	Germany	2006.0244	unauthorised colours Sudan 1 and Sudan 4 in spice mixtures	TURKEY
11/04/2006	The Netherlands	2006.0245	illegal trade of frozen white bovine rumen	THE NETHERLANDS
11/04/2006	Belgium	2006.0246	arsenic in food supplement	BELGIUM
11/04/2006	Finland	2006.0247	Salmonella infantis in salami plate selection	GERMANY
11/04/2006	Latvia	2006.0248	unauthorised feed additive salinomycin in raw poultry eggs	POLAND
11/04/2006	Italy	2006.0249	Salmonella in frozen cured pork loin	SPAIN
12/04/2006	The Slovak Republic	2006.0250	ochratoxin A in instant coffee	THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC CZECH REPUBLIC
12/04/2006	Czech Republic	2006.0251	ochratoxin A in dried raisins	UZBEKISTAN
12/04/2006	The Slovak Republic	2006.0252	too high content of sulphites in dried pears	CZECH REPUBLIC
12/04/2006	Ireland	2006.0253	benzene in diet lemonade	IRELAND
12/04/2006	Denmark	2006.0254	cypermethrin and iprodione in pitaya - dragon fruit	VIETNAM VIA THE NETHERLANDS
13/04/2006	The Slovak Republic	2006.0255	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of luminous lollipop with key tag	CHINA VIA POLAND
13/04/2006	Denmark	2006.0256	Salmonella typhimurium DT 104 in fresh pig fore ends	DENMARK
13/04/2006	The Slovak Republic	2006.0257	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of fruit lollipops with toy - laser pistol	CHINA VIA POLAND
13/04/2006	Italy	2006.0258	carbon monoxide treatment of frozen vacuum packed slices of tuna (Thunnus albacares)	VIETNAM VIA THE NETHERLANDS
13/04/2006	Italy	2006.0260	lithium unauthorised in food supplement	MALTA
14/04/2006	Hungary	2006.0261	unauthorised feed additive colistin in prestarter piglet mixed feed	ITALY
14/04/2006	France	2006.0262	fumonisin in maize flour	FRANCE
14/04/2006	Czech Republic	2006.0263	too high content of sulphites in snack crackers	SPAIN
14/04/2006	Czech Republic	2006.0264	too high content of sulphites in snack crackers	SPAIN

**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:
10/04/2006	Germany	2006.AXV	oxamyl in green beans	MOROCCO
10/04/2006	Latvia	2006.AXW	unauthorised substance sulphathiazole in natural bee honey	UKRAINE
10/04/2006	Austria	2006.AXX	Salmonella Havana in rape seed extracted	CZECH REPUBLIC
11/04/2006	Denmark	2006.AXY	chlorothalonil in tomatoes	SPAIN
11/04/2006	Italy	2006.AXZ	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of pineapple juice	AUSTRIA
11/04/2006	Italy	2006.AYA	lead in fresh pig meat	SPAIN
11/04/2006	Lithuania	2006.AYB	use-by date exceeded of frozen mechanically separated chicken	THE UNITED STATES
11/04/2006	Lithuania	2006.AYC	use-by date exceeded of and absence of health certificate(s) for pig fat	THE UNITED STATES
11/04/2006	Germany	2006.AYD	Bacillus cereus and Salmonella Stanley in dried Mu-Err mushrooms	VIETNAM
11/04/2006	Slovenia	2006.AYE	unsuitable organoleptic characteristics of shelled walnuts	MOLDOVA
12/04/2006	Spain	2006.AYF	unauthorised use of colour E 171 - titanium dioxide in roasted chickpeas	TURKEY
12/04/2006	Spain	2006.AYG	aflatoxins in almonds	THE UNITED STATES
12/04/2006	Italy	2006.AYH	mercury in tuna slices	SPAIN
12/04/2006	Cyprus	2006.AYI	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts	IRAN
12/04/2006	Italy	2006.AYJ	sulphites unauthorised in smoked salmon	DENMARK
12/04/2006	The Netherlands	2006.AYK	aflatoxins in groundnuts	ARGENTINA
12/04/2006	Spain	2006.AYL	too high content of sulphites in shrimps (Penaeus antennatus, Penaeus longirostris and Plestonica edwardsii)	ALGERIA
12/04/2006	Italy	2006.AYM	sulphites unauthorised in fish fingers	DENMARK
12/04/2006	Italy	2006.AYN	moulds on and insects in sweet almond kernels	THE UNITED STATES
12/04/2006	United Kingdom	2006.AYO	unauthorised colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	NIGERIA
12/04/2006	Poland	2006.AYP	moulds on dried ginger	CHINA
12/04/2006	Poland	2006.AYQ	moulds on dried ginger	CHINA
13/04/2006	Poland	2006.AYR	moulds on dried ginger	CHINA
13/04/2006	Poland	2006.AYS	moulds on dried ginger in slices	CHINA
13/04/2006	Sweden	2006.AYU	Salmonella Derby in minced meat from chilled beef trimmings	LATVIA
13/04/2006	Italy	2006.AYV	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of nutridrink	THE NETHERLANDS
13/04/2006	Finland	2006.AYW	Salmonella Mbandaka in toasted extracted soya bean meal	THE NETHERLANDS
13/04/2006	Italy	2006.AYX	too high count of Escherichia coli in raw mussels (Mytilus galloprovincialis)	SPAIN
13/04/2006	United Kingdom	2006.AYY	unauthorised establishment for cooked kebab meat	UNITED KINGDOM
13/04/2006	Italy	2006.AYZ	aflatoxins in peanuts in shell	ISRAEL
14/04/2006	Cyprus	2006.AZA	Salmonella in halawa vanilla	SYRIA
14/04/2006	Czech Republic	2006.AZB	aflatoxins in roasted peanuts with coconut juice	VIETNAM

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>NOTIFIED BY:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>REASON FOR NOTIFYING:</b>	<b>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:</b>
14/04/2006	Czech Republic	2006.AZC	ochratoxin A in dried raisins	UZBEKISTAN
14/04/2006	Italy	2006.AZD	migration of isopropyl thioxanthone from packaging of yoghurt	AUSTRIA
14/04/2006	Czech Republic	2006.AZE	ochratoxin A in dried raisins	UZBEKISTAN

**TABLE 4: WITHDRAWALS OF PREVIOUS NOTIFICATIONS**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>REF.:</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION:</b>	<b>OF WEEK</b>	<b>REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL:</b>
12/04/2006	add01	2006.AQK	10	The products were illegally disposed of. This places the incident outside the scope of the food and feed safety legislation.