

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Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market.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

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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:
20/09/2004	FINLAND	2004.462	Salmonella Tennessee in rape seed meal	BELGIUM
21/09/2004	ITALY	2004.463	parasites in sweet maize	FRANCE
23/09/2004	GERMANY	2004.464	colour Sudan 1 in spaghetti with chilli pepper	ITALY
23/09/2004	ITALY	2004.465	Campylobacter jejuni in frozen Guinea-fowl	FRANCE
23/09/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.466	chloramphenicol in whole milkpowder	LITHUANIA
23/09/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.467	chloramphenicol in milkpowder	SPAIN
24/09/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.468	chloramphenicol in premixture for beef cattle	BELGIUM
24/09/2004	ITALY	2004.469	Salmonella spp in frozen pig meat	FRANCE
24/09/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.470	chloramphenicol in milkpowder	POLAND
24/09/2004	GERMANY	2004.471	BSE tests not conducted on slaughtered bovine aged over thirty months	GERMANY
24/09/2004	FINLAND	2004.472	irradiation of instant noodles with chicken flavour	CHINA VIA SWEDEN
24/09/2004	ITALY	2004.473	aerobic mesophiles in raw milk in container	FRANCE
24/09/2004	FRANCE	2004.474	Pseudomonas aeruginosa in spring water in bottles	FRANCE

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:
20/09/2004	ITALY	2004.CBU	hepatitis A virus in oysters	FRANCE
20/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CBV	Listeria monocytogenes in frozen and deboned bovine meat	BRAZIL
21/09/2004	ITALY	2004.CBW	Vibrio parahaemolyticus in frozen head on shell blanched prawns (Penaeus vannamei)	THAILAND
21/09/2004	ITALY	2004.CBX	sulphites in mushrooms in brine (Volvariella volvacea)	VIETNAM
21/09/2004	ESTONIA	2004.CBY	insufficient labelling of corned beef	SWEDEN
21/09/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CBZ	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA
21/09/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CCA	colour Sudan 4 in palm oil	GHANA
21/09/2004	CYPRUS	2004.CCB	Listeria monocytogenes in halloumi cheese	CYPRUS
22/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CBT	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts in shell	IRAN
22/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CCC	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts in shell	IRAN
22/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CCD	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts in shell	IRAN
22/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CCE	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts in shell	IRAN
22/09/2004	ITALY	2004.CCF	dessicative bags in direct contact with rice crackers	THAILAND

DATE:	NOTIFIED BY:	REF.:	REASON FOR NOTIFYING:	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
22/09/2004	ITALY	2004.CCG	Vibrio parahaemolyticus in frozen black tiger shrimps (Penaeus monodon)	MALAYSIA
23/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CCH	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts in shell	IRAN
23/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CCI	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts in shell	IRAN
23/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CCJ	aflatoxins in pistachio nuts in shell	IRAN
23/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CCK	too high content of sulphites in dehydrated garlic powder and granules	CHINA
23/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CCL	too high content of sulphites in dehydrated garlic powder	CHINA
23/09/2004	ITALY	2004.CCM	3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) in soy bean sauce	VIETNAM
23/09/2004	ITALY	2004.CCN	sulphites in dry garlic granules	CHINA
23/09/2004	POLAND	2004.CCO	worm (foreign body) and insects in shelled walnuts	ROMANIA
23/09/2004	NETHERLANDS	2004.CCP	unauthorised establishment for chilled horse casings	URUGUAY
24/09/2004	SPAIN	2004.CCQ	mercury in shark (Lamna nasus)	SENEGAL
24/09/2004	GERMANY	2004.CCS	aflatoxins in hot paprika spice mixture	INDIA
24/09/2004	ITALY	2004.CCT	zinc in ceramic plates for food	THAILAND
24/09/2004	GERMANY	2004.CCU	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
24/09/2004	GERMANY	2004.CCV	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
24/09/2004	GERMANY	2004.CCW	aflatoxins in pistachios in shell	IRAN
24/09/2004	UNITED KINGDOM	2004.CCX	aflatoxins in pistachios	LEBANON
24/09/2004	POLAND	2004.CCY	Salmonella in shelled sesame seed	INDIA
24/09/2004	POLAND	2004.CCZ	Salmonella in shelled sesame seed	INDIA
24/09/2004	CYPRUS	2004.CDA	bad temperature control of biscuits	SOUTH AFRICA
24/09/2004	CYPRUS	2004.CDB	colour erythrosine (E 127) in biscuits	SOUTH AFRICA
24/09/2004	ITALY	2004.CDC	mercury in frozen mako (Isurus paucus)	SINGAPORE