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Directorate-General for Health & Consumers

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Annual Report 2008

RASFF
Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

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The Health and Consumers Directorate-General of the European Commission manages the Rapid Alert System for food and Feed (RASFF). This report describes the activity of the RASFF in 2008.

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FOREWORD

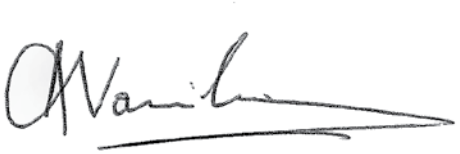
More than ever, health wins forefront attention of the world's public authorities, media, business operators and every citizen. During 2008, many challenges have highlighted the fragility of the world's economy but when a new influenza virus surfaced, it won over the headlines. Likewise in Europe, food safety incidents, due to their possible implications on health, tend to capture the media's attention rapidly.

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed is a tool that has been crucial for ensuring food safety in Europe. It has grown over a period of 30 years into a valued instrument that Member States use to exchange information in real-time about actions they have taken to ensure the safety of food and feed. The know-how that the EU has gathered over time in terms of food safety can be very useful also to countries around the world struggling to ensure the safety of their food production and distribution chains. The Commission has taken many initiatives over the past few years, using its "Better Training for Safer Food" programme, to share its knowledge and experience with developing countries.

At the occasion of the celebration of the 30 years of the RASFF this year, the Commission is organising, on 16 July 2009, a high-level conference with the participation of Member States, representatives of countries from around the world, consumers and businesses. It will be my pleasure to present this annual report there.

This conference will also be a perfect opportunity for me to inform about the newest achievements of the RASFF in 2008, improving its communication with third countries through the online tool "RASFF Window". I will present the new "RASFF portal" site ec.europa.eu/rasff, bringing the RASFF to the doorstep – or should I say computer screen – of every European consumer.

I close with a word of thanks to all those who contributed to this report and the functioning of the RASFF in the past 30 years, in particular all Member States and their RASFF contact points, the Commission Services and its Delegations across the world. I hope that this report will provide an interesting read and inspire you to contribute to maintaining and improving our high level of food safety in the European Union for at least another 30 years.



Androulla Vassiliou
European Commissioner for Health

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Acronyms used in this report

3-MCPD.....3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol
AMOZ.....3-amino-5- morpholinomethyl-2-oxazolidinone (furaltadon)
AOZ.....3-amino-2-oxazolidinone (furazolidone)
AZP toxins.....Azaspiracid Shellfish Poisoning toxins
BBP.....benzyl butyl phthalate
CS.....Commission Services
DBP.....dibutyl phthalate
DEHP.....di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate
DIDP.....diisodecyl phthalate
DINP.....di-isononyl phthalate
EC.....European Commission
EEA.....European Economic Area
EFSA.....European Food Safety Authority
EFTA.....European Free Trade Association
EU.....European Union
FAO.....Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FVO.....Food and Veterinary Office
GM.....Genetically Modified
GMO.....Genetically Modified Organism
INFOSAN.....International Food Safety Authorities Network
OJ.....Official Journal
PAAs.....Primary Aromatic Amines
PCB.....Polychlorinated biphenyls
RASFF.....Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SEM.....Semicarbazide (nitrofurazone)
TDI.....Tolerable Daily Intake
TSEs.....Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies
WHO.....World Health Organisation

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

1

The RASFF was put in place to provide food and feed control authorities with an effective tool to exchange information about measures taken responding to serious risks detected in relation to food or feed. This exchange of information helps Member States to act more rapidly and in a coordinated manner in response to a health threat caused by food or feed. Its effectiveness is ensured by keeping its structure simple: it consists essentially of clearly identified contact points in the Commission, EFSA[1], EEA[2] and at national level in member countries, exchanging information in a clear and structured way by means of templates.

THE LEGAL BASIS

The legal basis of the RASFF is Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002. Article 50 of this Regulation establishes the rapid alert system for food and feed as a network involving the Member States, the Commission as member and manager of the system and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Also the EEA countries: Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland, are longstanding members of the RASFF.

Whenever a member of the network has any information relating to the existence of a serious direct or indirect risk to human health deriving from food or feed, this information is immediately notified to the Commission under the RASFF. The Commission immediately transmits this information to the members of the network.

Article 50.3 of the Regulation lays down additional criteria for when a RASFF notification is required.

Without prejudice to other Community legislation, the Member States shall immediately notify the Commission under the rapid alert system of:

a. any measure they adopt which is aimed at restricting the placing on the market or forcing the withdrawal from the market or the recall of food or feed in order to protect human health and requiring rapid action;

b. any recommendation or agreement with professional operators which is aimed, on a voluntary or obligatory basis, at preventing, limiting or imposing specific conditions on the placing on the market or the eventual use of food or feed on account of a serious risk to human health requiring rapid action;

c. any rejection, related to a direct or indirect risk to human health, of a batch, container or cargo of food or feed by a competent authority at a border post within the European Union.

1. European Food Safety Authority, www.efsa.europa.eu
2. EFTA Surveillance Authority, http://www.eftasurv.int

THE MEMBERS

All members of the system have out-of-hours arrangements (7 days/7, 24 hour/24) to ensure that in case of an urgent notification being made outside of office hours, on-duty officers can be warned, acknowledge the urgent information and take appropriate action. All member organisations of the RASFF are listed and their home pages can be consulted on the Internet from the following RASFF web page: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/food/rapidalert/members_en.htm

EUROPEAN UNION
- European Commission - Health and Consumers Directorate-General
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

EFTA
EFTA Surveillance Authority

AUSTRIA
Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH
und Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit

BELGIUM
- A.F.S.C.A.- Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire
- F.A.V.V. - Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen

BULGARIA
- Министерство на земеделието и горите
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food

CYPRUS
Ministry of Health - Medical and Public Health Services

CZECH REPUBLIC
Státní zemedelská a potravinárská inspekce
(Czech Agriculture And Food Inspection Authority)

DENMARK
- Fødevaredirektorate - Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri
- The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration - Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

ESTONIA
Veterinaar- ja Toiduamet (Veterinary and Food Board)

FINLAND
- Elintarviketurvallisuusvirasto Evira (Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira)

FRANCE
- Direction générale de la concurrence, de la consommation et de la répression des fraudes - Ministère de l'Economie, de l'Industrie et de l'Emploi
- Ministère de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche

GERMANY
Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL)

GREECE
Hellenic Food Authority (EFET)

HUNGARY
- Magyar Élelmiszer-Biztonsági Hivatal
- Hungarian Food Safety Office

ICELAND
UST - Umhverfisstofnun - (Environment and Food Agency of Iceland)

IRELAND
F.S.A.I. - Food Safety Authority of Ireland

ITALY
Ministero del Lavoro, della Salute e delle Politiche Sociali

LATVIA
Partikas un Veterinarais Dienests (Food and Veterinary Service)

LIECHTENSTEIN
Amt für Lebensmittelkontrolle/Landesveterinäramt (Office for Food Inspection and Veterinary Affairs)

LITHUANIA
Valstybine maisto ir Veterinarijos Tarnyba (State Food and Veterinary Service)

LUXEMBOURG
OSQCA: Organisme pour la sécurité et la qualité de la chaîne alimentaire

MALTA
Food Safety Commission

NETHERLANDS
- Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit
- Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority

NORWAY
Statens tilsyn for planter, fisk, dyr, og Næringsmidler - (Norwegian Food Safety Authority)

POLAND
Glówny Inspektorat Sanitarny (Chief Sanitary Inspectorate)

PORTUGAL
Ministério da Agricultura, Desenvolvimento Rural e Pescas (MADRP)

ROMANIA
Autoritatea Nationala Sanitar-Veterinara si pentru Siguranta Alimentelor (National Sanitary Veterinary And Food Safety Authority)

SLOVAKIA
Státna veterinárna a potravinová správa SR (State Veterinary and Food Administration)

SLOVENIA
- Ministrstvo za zdravje (Ministry of Health)
- Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia

SPAIN
- Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo - Ministry of Health and Consumption
- Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs

SWEDEN
- Livsmedelsverket
- National Food Administration

SWITZERLAND
Bundesamt für Gesundheit (BAG)

UNITED KINGDOM
Food Standards Agency

THE SYSTEM

The system differentiates between 'market' notifications and 'border rejections'. Market notifications are about products found on the Community territory for which a health risk was reported. Products that are subject of a border rejection never entered the Community and were sent back to the country of origin, destroyed or give another destination.

market notifications

These notifications report on health risks identified in products that are placed on the market in the notifying country. The notifying country reports on the risks it has identified, the product and its traceability and the measures it has taken. According to the seriousness of the risks identified and the distribution of the product on the market, the market notification is classified after evaluation by the Commission Services as alert notification or information notification before the Commission transmits it to all network members.

alert notifications

An 'alert notification' or 'alert' is sent when a food or a feed presenting a serious risk is on the market or when rapid action is required. Alerts are triggered by the member of the network 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 can take the necessary measures.

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

An 'information notification' concerns a food or a feed on the market of the notifying country for which a risk has been identified that does not require rapid action, e.g. because the food or feed has not reached the market or is no longer on the market (of other member countries than the notifying country).

border rejection notifications

A 'border rejection notification' concerns a food or a feed that was refused entry into the Community for reason of a health risk.

news notifications

A 'news notification' concerns any type of information related to the safety of food or feed which has not been communicated as an alert, information or border rejection notification, but which is judged interesting for the food and feed control authorities in the Member States.

News notifications are often made based on information picked up in the media or forwarded by colleagues in food or feed authorities in Member States, third countries, EC delegations or international organisations, after having been verified with the Member States concerned.

As far as market and border rejection notifications are concerned, two types of notifications are identified:

- an 'original notification' is a notification referring to one or more consignments of a food or a feed that were not previously notified to the RASFF;

- a 'follow-up notification' is a notification, which is transmitted as a follow-up to an original notification.

An original notification sent by a member of the RASFF system can be **rejected** from transmission through the RASFF system, after evaluation by the Commission, if the criteria for notification are not met or if the information transmitted is insufficient. The notifying country is informed of the intention not to transmit the information through the RASFF system and is invited to provide additional information allowing the Commission to reconsider the intended rejection. In the other event the notifying country agrees with the rejection.

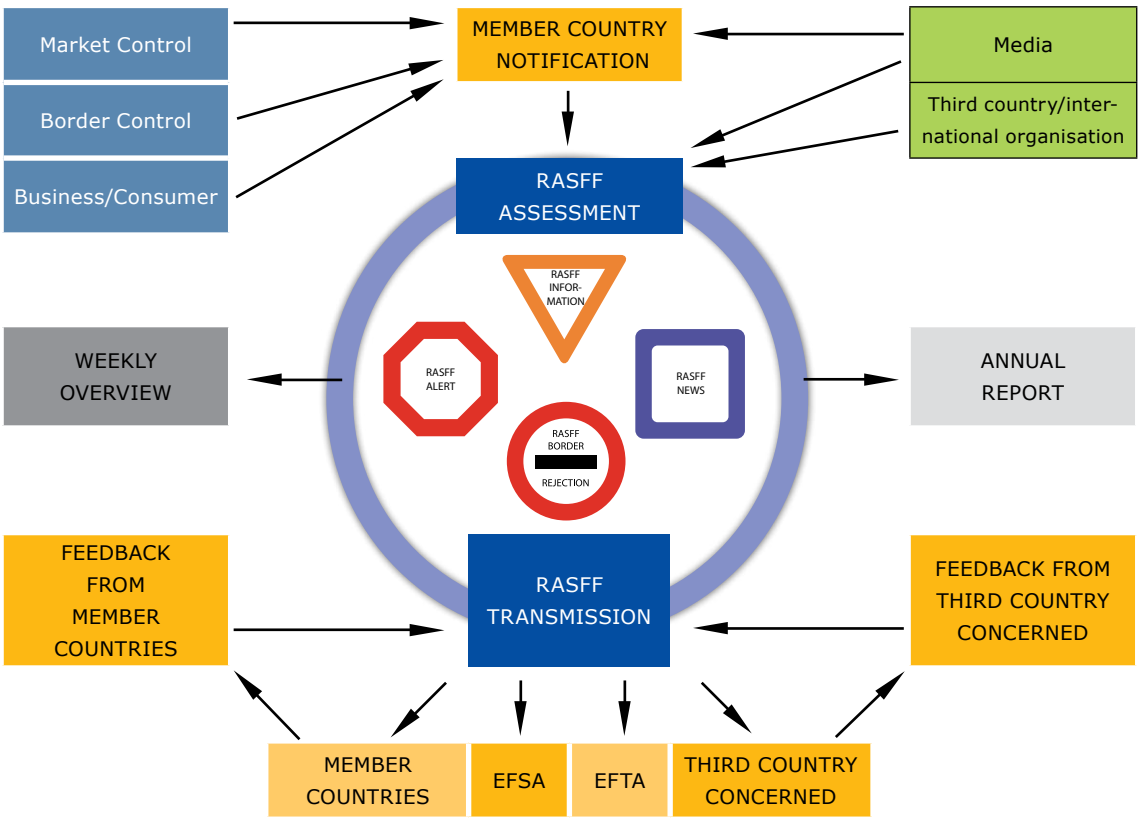
A notification that was transmitted through the RASFF system can be **withdrawn** by the Commission at the request of the notifying country if the information, upon which the measures taken are based, turns out to be unfounded or if the transmission of the notification was made erroneously.

THE REPORT

This report provides information on the functioning of the RASFF in 2008 and, in particular, on the number of notifications, the origin of the notifications, the countries involved, the products and the identified risks. Some caution needs to be exercised when drawing conclusions from these figures. For example, it is not because a Member State has a relatively high number of notifications that the situation regarding food safety would be bad in that country. On the contrary, it could indicate that a greater number of food checks are carried out or that the communication systems in that Member State function well.

The number of notifications concerning third countries cannot be compared with those concerning Member States. For third countries, official controls can only be carried out on the product as it enters the Community. On the other hand, within the EU, official controls are performed throughout the entire food and feed chain, and therefore food or feed hazards are often detected at an early stage of production. For all these hazards detected during production, there is no RASFF notification if the hazard was eliminated before the product was placed on the market.

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE INFORMATION FLOW OF THE RASFF

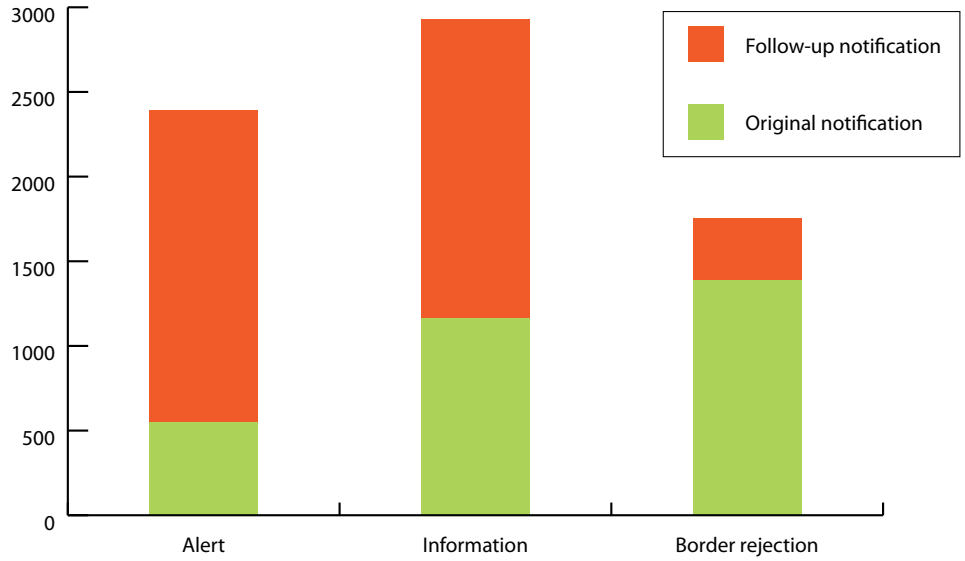


RASFF notifications in 2008

2

In 2008, a total of 3099 original notifications were transmitted through the RASFF, of which 1710 market notifications and 1389 border rejections. 549 market notifications were classified as alert, and 1161 as information notifications. These original notifications gave rise to 3975 follow-up notifications, representing on average about 1.3 follow-ups per original notification.

2008 NOTIFICATIONS CLASSIFICATION



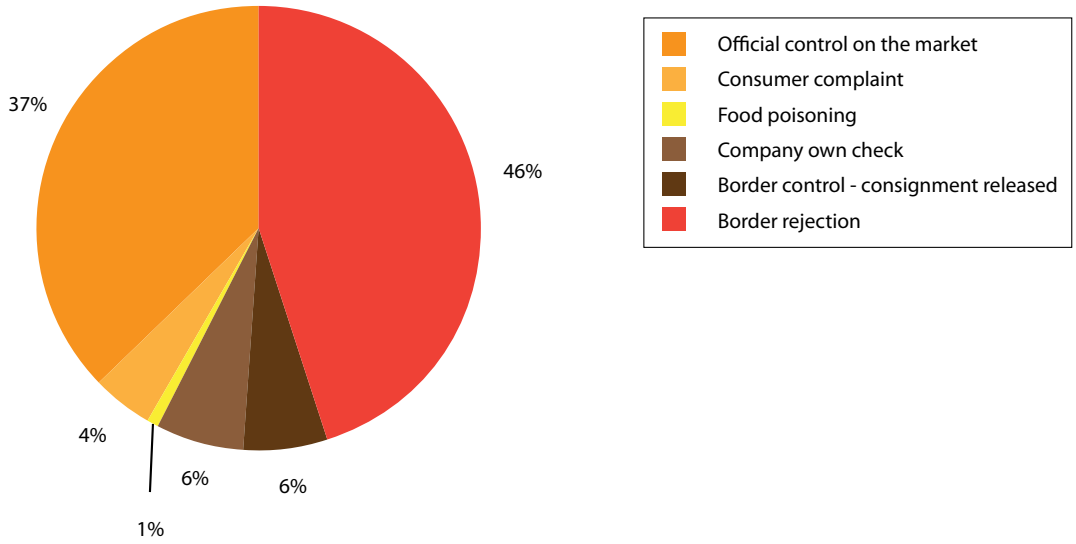
During 2008, the Commission sent 123 news notifications through the system. After receipt of additional information, 21 alert notifications, 23 information notifications and 12 border rejections were withdrawn. Notifications that were withdrawn are further excluded from statistics and charts.

The European Commission decided, after consulting the notifying countries and evaluating the content of the notification, not to upload 74 notifications onto the system because they were found not to satisfy the criteria for a RASFF notification (rejected notifications).

RASFF notifications are triggered by a variety of things. When notifications are classified according to the basis of the notification, the chart below is obtained. Most notifications concern official controls on the internal market[3]. The second largest category of notifications concerns controls at the border posts of the outer EEA borders when the consignment was not accepted for import ("border rejection"). In some cases, a sample was taken for analysis at the border but the consignment was meanwhile released on to the market ("border control - consignment released"). Three special cases are identified: when a consumer complaint, a company notifying the outcome of an own-check, or a food poisoning was at the basis of the notification.

3. Products placed on the market in one of the member countries including the EEA countries Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland

2008: BASIS FOR NOTIFICATION



ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN HAZARDS NOTIFIED THROUGH THE RASFF IN 2008 (SEE NEXT PAGES)

Explanation of the symbols used

↑	small increase of the number of notifications received
↓	small decrease of the number of notifications received
↑ ↑	significant increase in the number of notifications received
↓ ↓	significant decrease in the number of notifications received
→	number of notification follows the same trend as the year before
2003	Year in which a "peak" number of notifications was received
2004	Year in which a very high "peak" number of notifications was received.
2003 ↓↑	Year in which a "peak" number of notifications was received, but the number of notifications is on the rise again
new	new hazard in the RASFF system with a significant number of notifications

Remark: to take any trends into account there needs to have been at least one year with "double figure" numbers of notifications in the period reviewed.

Data from 2001 onwards were taken into account for the analysis of the trends.

2008

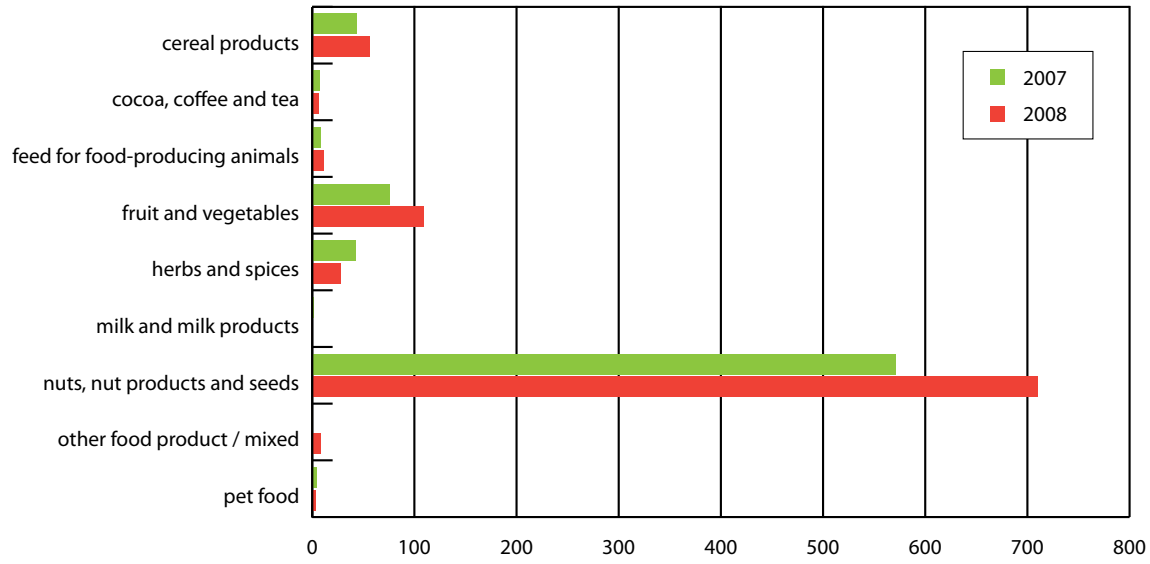
		food of animal origin						food of plant origin		
		fishery products	honey and royal jelly	eggs and egg products	meat and meat products (other than poultry)	milk and milk products	poultry meat and products	cereals	cocoa, coffee and tea	confectionery
veterinary drug residues	(leuco)malachite green	2005								
	chloramphenicol	2002	2002		2003	2002				
	nitrofuran metabolite SEM	↑↑					2003			
	nitrofuran metabolite AOZ	2003		2003	2003		2002			
	nitrofuran metabolite AMOZ						2002			
	sulphonamides		↓							
	streptomycin		2002							
food additives	too high content of sulphites	↓								
	undeclared sulphite	↑↑								
	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid									
	E 452 - polyphosphates	↓↓								
	unauthorised food additives (other)									↑↑
	too high content of colour additives									↓↓
	unauthorised use of colour additives							2005 ↓↑		2005 ↓↑
composition	unauthorised colour Sudan 1							2004		
	unauthorised colour Sudan 4									
	unauthorised colour Para Red									
	carbon monoxide treatment	2005								
	suffocation risk									↑↑
heavy metals	cadmium	2003								
	mercury	↓↓								
mycotoxins	aflatoxins							↑↑		
	fumonisins							2006		
	ochratoxin A							2006	2006	
pesticide residues	pesticide residues in general									
	amitraz									
	carbendazim									
	chlormequat									
	dimethoate + omethoate									
	methamidophos									
	methomyl									
	oxamyl									
	unauthorised isofenphos-methyl									
food contact materials	migration of chromium									
	migration of cadmium									
	migration of lead									
	migration of nickel									
	migration of primary aromatic amines									
	migration of formaldehyde									
	phthalates									
	too high level of total migration									
microbiological hazards	histamine	↓								
	parasites	2004 ↓↑								
	Listeria monocytogenes	↓			↑	↑↑	2004			
	Salmonella spp.	↓			2005 ↓↑		↑		2003	
	Campylobacter spp.						↓			
	Vibrio	2002 ↓↑								
	marine biotoxins	↓								
	moulds									
	too high count of Escherichia coli	↓								
	too high count of Enterobacteriaceae	2002								
	too high count of aerobic mesophiles	2003								
	too high count of faecal coliforms	2004								
foreign bodies	foreign bodies							→	↓	
other	melamine							↑↑		↑↑
	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	↓↓								
	high content of iodine									
	allergens							↓	↓	↑
	irradiation									
	illegal trade / improper documents	↑			↓		2005			
	unauthorised placing on the market									
	unauthorised genetically modified							2006		
	dioxins	↓↓								
	animal constituents									
	3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD)									
	bad or insufficient controls	↑			↑					
	spoilage	2006			↓	↑				

2008		food of plant origin					mixed		other		
		fruit and vegetables	herbs and spices	food supplements	non-alcoholic beverages	nuts and nut products	fats and oils	soups, broths and sauces	feed	pet food	food contact materials
veterinary drug residues	(leuco)malachite green										
	chloramphenicol								2002		
	nitrofuran metabolite SEM										
	nitrofuran metabolite AOZ										
	nitrofuran metabolite AMOZ										
	sulphonamides										
	streptomycin										
food additives	too high content of sulphites	2003 ↓↑									
	undeclared sulphite	2007									
	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid				↓↓						
	E 452 - polyphosphates										
	unauthorised food additives (other)										
	too high content of colour additives										
	unauthorised use of colour additives	2004	2006								
composition	unauthorised colour Sudan 1		↓					2004			
	unauthorised colour Sudan 4		↓				2004				
	unauthorised colour Para Red		2005								
	carbon monoxide treatment										
	suffocation risk										
heavy metals	cadmium	2006									
	mercury										
mycotoxins	aflatoxins	↑↑	↓			↑			↑		
	fumonisins										
	ochratoxin A	2006	↓								
pesticide residues	pesticide residues in general	↓	↑								
	amitraz	↑↑									
	carbendazim	↓									
	chlormequat	2002									
	dimethoate + omethoate	↑									
	methamidophos	2002									
	methomyl	↑									
	oxamyl	↓									
	unauthorised isofenphos-methyl	↓↓									
food contact materials	migration of chromium										↓
	migration of cadmium										↑
	migration of lead										2005 ↓↑
	migration of nickel										↓
	migration of primary aromatic amines										2006
	migration of formaldehyde										↑↑
	phthalates										↑
	too high level of total migration										↓
microbiological hazards	histamine										
	parasites										
	Listeria monocytogenes										
	Salmonella spp.	↓	↓			↑			2006 ↓↑	→	
	Campylobacter spp.										
	Vibrio										
	marine biotoxins										
	moulds	↑↑				↓					
	too high count of Escherichia coli		2005								
	too high count of Enterobacteriaceae		2005							↓	
	too high count of aerobic mesophiles										
	too high count of faecal coliforms										
foreign bodies	foreign bodies	→				→					
other	melamine								↓		
	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons						2002 ↓↑				
	high content of iodine	2005 ↓↑									
	allergens										
	irradiation			→							
	illegal trade / improper documents					↑↑					
	unauthorised placing on the market			↓↓							
	unauthorised genetically modified										
	dioxins								2003		
	animal constituents								2004		
	3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD)							2003			
	bad or insufficient controls										
	spoilage	↑				↑					

A SELECTION OF TOPICS RECURRING IN THE RASFF IN 2008

Mycotoxins

Mycotoxins are naturally occurring metabolites produced by certain species of moulds (e.g. Aspergillus spp, Fusarium spp) which develop at high temperatures and humidity levels and may be present in a large number of foods. This group of toxins includes a number of compounds of varying toxicity and frequency in food. The mould may occur on the growing crop or after harvesting during storage or processing. Whilst the moulds can be considered as plant pathogens, the ingestion of the toxin can result in disease in animals and humans. Mycotoxins like aflatoxins and ochratoxin A are known to be carcinogenic.



Substance	total	cereals products	cocoa, coffee and tea	dietetic foods and food supple-ments	feed for food-producing animals	fruit and vegetables	herbs and spices	nuts, nut products and seeds	other food product / mixed	pet food	wine
Aflatoxins	**902**	46			11	103	26	710	3	3	
Deoxynivalenol (DON)	**4**	4									
Fumonisins	**2**	1							1		
Ochratoxin A	**20**	3	6	2		5	3				1
Patulin	**3**			1		2					
Zearalenone	**2**	2									

in general

As in previous years, also in 2008 mycotoxins are the hazard category with the highest number of notifications. The RASFF received in 2008 a total of 931 notifications on mycotoxins, of which as many as 902 concerned aflatoxins. This means that the decreasing trend of the previous years is inversed with an increase of 28% for aflatoxins and 23% for mycotoxins in general. Proportionally even more notifications are made about aflatoxins, due to the significant increase for nuts, nut products and seeds. The chart

above clearly illustrates this increase and shows that there has equally been an increase in the product categories "fruit and vegetables", and "cereal products". Especially cereal products deserve specific attention, since it concerns a trend started in 2007 and continuing in 2008.

cereal products

In 2008, a significant increase of notifications (46 notifications) on non-compliant levels of aflatoxins in cereals and cereal products in comparison with previous years (in 2007: 17; in 2006: 5 and in 2005: 3 notifications) could be observed.

These notifications relate to rice (28 notifications), mainly from Pakistan (19 notifications) and to a minor extent from India (4 notifications) and to corn meal (18 notifications) predominantly from India (10 notifications) and from Colombia (5 notifications).

No single cause for this increase of notifications could be identified. However for rice, an increased control on the presence of aflatoxins in the EU following the findings by Sweden of significant levels of aflatoxins in rice at the end of 2007 might have contributed to this increased level of notifications in 2008. This might also have been the case for the increased notifications of aflatoxins in corn meal where an increased level of control has taken place in the EU following initial findings of non-compliance.

These findings should be considered for inclusion on the list of feed and food of non-animal origin subject to an increased level of official controls at the point of entry in the EU, in the framework of the forthcoming Commission Regulation implementing article 15.5 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Dioxins

In 2008, there were only 7 notifications on dioxins in food and 10 notifications concerned non-compliances with legal limits for feed.

Three notifications concerning pork represented two cases of wide-scale contamination of pork through feed; one case outside the EU in Chile where, in cooperation with the Chilean authorities and the EU TRACES system, pork products exported to the EU were successfully retraced. Some consignments were stopped and returned before they entered the Community and others were traced back and withdrawn from the market.

The other case (two notifications) triggered a large and impressive trace-and-recall operation in the EU and third countries involving as many as 54 countries among which 27 RASFF member countries. In less than two weeks more than a hundred follow-up messages were received tracing the products from raw meat to processed products containing only a few percentages of Irish pork.

dioxins in pork from Ireland

During routine monitoring by the Irish authorities of the food chain for a range of contaminants, elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found in pig meat originating in Ireland. The first pig farms were immediately blocked on 1 December 2008. As these PCB levels might be an indicator for unacceptable dioxin contamination, further investigations were immediately started to determine the dioxin content and to identify the possible source of contamination. The RASFF was informed of these findings and investigations on 5 December 2008.

On 6 December 2008, analytical results confirmed the presence of very high levels of dioxins in pig meat, about 100 times the EU maximum level of 1 picogram/gram fat for dioxins and 1.5 picogram/gram fat for the sum of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs. Ireland informed the Commission of these results and the information was immediately circulated to the other Member States through the RASFF.

The use of contaminated bread crumbs produced from bakery waste was identified to be the source. The contamination was due to the direct heating process whereby combustion gases come in direct contact with the material to dry. The fuel used was apparently contaminated with PCB transformer oil which after burning results in high levels of dioxins in the combustion gases which were deposited on the material to be dried. All possibly contaminated feed still available had been blocked. The contaminated feed was supplied to about 10 pig and 28 beef farms in Ireland and to 10 cattle farms in Northern Ireland (UK).

The pig farms concerned in Ireland were producing about 6 - 7 % of the total supply of pigs in Ireland. After slaughter, pigs from these farms were processed by meat processing plants which are responsible for about 80 % of the total supply of pig meat and pig meat products from Ireland. Given the high levels of contamination found in pig meat and the fact that, once passed the meat processing plants, it was not possible to trace back the Irish pig meat and pig meat products to the farms affected by the dioxin contamination incident, the Irish authorities decided on 6 December, as a precautionary measure, to recall from the market all pig meat and pig meat products produced from pigs slaughtered after 1 September 2008 in Ireland, even if not more than 6-7 % of the Irish pig meat production was affected by the contamination incident.

On 10 December 2008, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issued a statement on the public health risks related to the possible presence of dioxins in pig meat and pig meat products from Ireland and the presence of possibly contaminated processed pig meat products from Ireland in composite foods after the request for scientific assistance from the European Commission to EFSA on 8 December 2008.

Based on the statement from EFSA and the information provided by the delegation of Ireland and affected Member States, a large majority of the Member States within the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal health agreed on 10 December 2008 on common risk management measures, ensuring a high level of consumer protection in the European Union and third countries.

Indeed for an efficient management of a contamination incident with a significant amount of food products potentially contaminated already on the market, it is important to target any withdrawal/recall actions on products possibly containing high levels of dioxins. The RASFF has demonstrated to be an indispensable tool for the effective management of the incident. Already on 7 December 2008, detailed lists of distribution of possibly contaminated pig meat to Member States and Third Countries were circulated by the RASFF. Also later on the RASFF demonstrated its capacity to manage on a continuous basis a high frequency of information exchanges giving details of the distribution of possibly contaminated pig meat and meat products and other information relevant for the contamination incident.

As regards beef, the cattle on the contaminated farms were culled and did not enter the feed and food chain. Beef originating from the affected farms, with only limited distribution outside Ireland (limited quantities to Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Italy and Poland), was traced and withdrawn from the market.

Food contact materials

primary aromatic amines (PAAs)

RASFF notifications on PAAs relate to the migration from kitchen utensils made of nylon mainly imported from China. The number of notifications (29) has kept constant over the last years.

PAAs are suspected human carcinogens. They can be formed primarily from substances used in glues, adhesives or as colorants. Other sources for formation of PAAs may exist. Directive 2002/72/EC on plastic materials and articles specifies that these materials should not release PAAs into food in detectable quantities.

phthalates and other plasticizers

A mission of the Food and Veterinary Office to China took place in 2007 to assess the Chinese controls in place and to identify training needs in the area of food contact materials production and control. Training has been performed in China for both industry and control authorities in 2008 and China has improved their legal framework. In 2009 a follow-up mission to China will verify in how far the situation has improved.

Since July 2008 strict rules on the use of phthalates in plastic food contact materials exist. Their use is only authorised in a very limited range of applications coupled with strict migration limits. DEHP and DBP are suspected endocrine disruptors. Therefore their use as plasticizer is restricted to repeated use articles which are not in contact with fatty foods,

into which migration is limited. Unfortunately, they are reported most often (26 notifications). BBP, DINP, and DIDP which are not suspected to have endocrine disrupting properties can be used in a wider range of applications but also here strict migration limits apply. Control authorities were trained in 2007 to perform the analysis on phthalates. The high number of RASFF notifications (46) on phthalates reflects the improved control activities.

formaldehyde

Formaldehyde is used mainly in the production of melamine-formaldehyde kitchen wares such as plastic dishes and cups used for children or camping. For formaldehyde a migration limit is established. In low quality products this limit may be exceeded. The number of RASFF notifications increased in 2008 as member states stepped up their control activities. Moderate exceedance of the migration limit is not considered to be of a serious health concern.

lead and cadmium

Too much lead and cadmium (often both) is regularly found to migrate from designer ceramics or drinking glasses mainly originating in China. Strict migration limits are set in legislation for these metals, which are harmful to human health. More notifications were reported in 2008 (19) than the year before (10).

Unauthorised genetically modified food and feed

In order to be authorised in food or feed, a new genetically modified (GM) ingredient needs to pass through very strict and detailed authorisation procedures. Sufficient proof needs to be given that the product does not pose any risk to human health or the environment. Nonetheless, unauthorised GM food or feed is sometimes discovered at import or on the market. Usually it concerns only traces that are present in the non-GM product that is imported into the EU. The GM variety is often authorised in the producing country but not in the EU.

The type of GM food or feed is characterised by the "GM event", a name given to a characteristic strand of "foreign" DNA that was introduced in the genome of the plant. The table below gives an overview of notifications by GM event.

NOTIFICATIONS BY GM EVENT

2008		2007	
BT63 in rice products	19	BT63 in rice products	11
LLRice 601	9	LLRice 601	22
LLRice 62	1	LLRice62	5
Maize MIR604	3	Maize DAS-591227-7	8
Unidentified	2	Papaya	1
		Unidentified	1
Total	**34**	**Total**	**41**

The total number of notifications for GM food or feed has decreased in 2008 (34) compared with the previous year (48), with the majority relating to rice products from China contaminated with the GM event BT63, and to a lesser extent rice products contaminated with LL RICE601 from the USA. There are currently two emergency measure Decisions in place (Commission Decision 2008/289/EC[4] and Commission Decision 2008/162/EC[5]) covering the import conditions for both these GM events.

There are a number of factors which influence the trend in GM food or feed notifications. These include the differing approaches to authorisation of GM events in the EU and elsewhere which has led to asynchronous authorisation for some GM events. This is particularly evident for the maize event DAS-59122-7 for which there were 8 notifications in 2007 and none in 2008 owing to the subsequent authorisation of this GM event in the EU. Similarly the commercialisation of Maize MIR604 in the USA in 2008 has resulted in 3 notifications in 2008 associated with both food and feed, and given the extent of cultivation in the USA further notifications can be anticipated in 2009.

The contamination of rice products with LLRICE601 and BT63 resulted from errors made during the trial phases of cultivation. No application for authorisation in the EU is expected for either of these GM events. The decrease in notifications for LLRice 601 could be attributable to the drop in trade between the USA and the EU for the those products covered by the measure, and to actions which the US authorities have put in place to eliminate this GM event from conventional seed. With regard to the increase in notifications for BT63 rice, the emergency control measure came in force in April 2008 and would have resulted in increased control activity for affected products originating from China during 2008. It is anticipated that the notifications for both these events will decrease as the measures which both authorities have put in place take effect.

The ratio between notifications for food and feed remains constant, with the majority affecting food products (about 5/1). The majority of GM events were found on the market, especially for Bt63, which should change in 2009 in view of the stricter import conditions put in place.

Pesticide residues

With 178 notification, RASFF notifications about pesticide residues remain at a high level. A significant increase in reporting was noted for amitraz in pears (32) from Turkey, dimethoate (19) and methomyl (20) in various fruits and vegetables and the unauthorised substance EPN (9) in vegetables from Thailand. With only one notification, the situation with regard to the unauthorised substance isofenphos-methyl seems to have been resolved. The sharp increase in notifications for amitraz in pears can in part be explained by the inclusion of pears in the pesticide monitoring plans of Germany and Austria.

4. OJ L 96, 9.4.2008, p. 29-34
5. OJ L 52, 27.2.2008, p. 25-27

Food poisoning and foodborne outbreaks

From 2008, the RASFF system can identify those cases when a food poisoning lies at the basis of the RASFF notification. In 2008, there were 26 such cases recorded. Details are given in the table below. The term food poisoning covers a broader spectrum of disease symptoms than the "classical" food poisoning caused by pathogenic bacteria of viruses. As can seen from the table below, also undesirable chemicals, the wrong composition of a food supplement or a deficient labelling not mentioning an allergenic substance can be the cause of a food poisoning. In the table below, a food poisoning incident is called an outbreak when more than one person is involved. It is called a large outbreak if the symptoms reported in different geographical locations can be linked back to the same food. The table does not cover all outbreaks of food poisoning incidents that occurred in the EU in 2008. It does try to cover those incidents that lead to a RASFF notification. It is possible that there were food poisoning incidents that were the basis of a RASFF notification that were not identified as such. It is also possible that an incident was not reported to RASFF because the product and outbreak had a local character and had no consequences for other RASFF members.

	Date of case	Reference	Notifying Country	Subject	persons affected*
1.	23/01/2008	2008.0078	FRANCE	norovirus (genogroup I) in oysters (Crassostrea gigas) from Spain	outbreak
2.	24/01/2008	2008.0086	NETHERLANDS	norovirus in oysters from France	outbreak
3.	30/01/2008	2008.0115	SPAIN	high quantities of cocaine in noni juice from the United States, dispatched from Mexico	2
4.	14/02/2008	2008.0179	SLOVAKIA	Staphylococcal enterotoxin (E) in deep frozen blue whiting fillets (Micromesistius poutassou) from the Slovak Republic, raw material from China	not known
5.	20/03/2008	2008.0324	GERMANY	Listeria monocytogenes (31000 CFU/g) in ricotta sheep's cheese from Italy	1
6.	02/04/2008	2008.0386	PORTUGAL	allergic reaction (hepatotoxicity and anaphylactic shock) caused by a food supplement from Spain	3
7.	14/04/2008	2008.0421	NORWAY	food poisoning outbreak caused by norovirus in oysters from the United Kingdom	6
8.	15/04/2008	2008.0426	FRANCE	Azaspiracid Shellfish Poisoning (AZP) toxins - azaspiracid (>160 µg/kg - ppb) in precooked frozen mussels from Ireland	large outbreak
9.	07/05/2008	2008.0535	ITALY	histamine (5113 mg/kg - ppm) in vacuum packed tuna fillets from Sri Lanka	7
10.	13/05/2008	2008.0553	ITALY	histamine (5024 mg/kg - ppm) in tuna in sunflower oil from Côte d'Ivoire	7
11.	20/05/2008	2008.0584	ESTONIA	Salmonella enteritidis in frozen whole hens from Lithuania	83
12.	10/06/2008	2008.0679	NORWAY	Bacillus pumilus (51000 CFU/g) in frozen ginger processed in Norway, with raw material from Thailand	1
13.	11/06/2008	2008.0685	SWITZERLAND	Salmonella enteritidis in fresh eggs from the Netherlands, via Germany	27
14.	23/06/2008	2008.0740	AUSTRIA	Salmonella spp. (serogroup B, D /10g) in frozen döner meat from Austria, raw material from the Netherlands and Hungary	1
15.	26/06/2008	2008.0762	ITALY	histamine in chilled vacuum packed tuna fillets (Thunnus albacares) from Sri Lanka	1
16.	02/07/2008	2008.0797	SPAIN	incorrect labelling (labelled as white grouper) on frozen escolar (Lepidocybium flavobrunneum) fillets from Spain	20

	Date of case	Reference	Notifying Country	Subject	persons affected*
17.	04/08/2008	2008.0945	IRELAND	food poisoning outbreak (Salmonellosis) suspected to be caused by various meat products (Salmonella agona detected in cooked beef steak strips) from Ireland	large outbreak
18.	14/08/2008	2008.0999	FRANCE	Clostridium botulinum in chicken enchiladas and chicken fajitas from France**	2
19.	27/08/2008	2008.1034	SPAIN	foodborne outbreak (Salmonella enterica kedougou) caused by infant formula from Spain	23
20.	10/09/2008	2008.1079	SPAIN	hepatitis A in tellina clams from Peru	5
21.	16/10/2008	2008.1272	AUSTRIA	high content of organic germanium in food supplement from the United States	1
22	30/10/2008	2008.1361	SWEDEN	histamine in canned tuna chunks in brine from the Philippines	2
23.	25/11/2008	2008.1497	ITALY	foodborne outbreak (suspicion of histamine poisoning) caused by tuna fillets in olive oil in glass jars from Portugal	4
24.	02/12/2008	2008.1555	FRANCE	foodborne outbreak (Salmonella enteriditis) caused by eggs from Spain	6
25.	08/12/2008	2008.1587	DENMARK	Suspicion of Clostridium botulinum in organic fruit based baby food from Germany, via Sweden	1
26.	16/12/2008	2008.1628	ITALY	undeclared milk ingredient in dairy-free cocoa preparation bar from the Netherlands	1

* persons affected, reported at the time of the original notification i.e. the figure does not represent the total number of persons affected

** there was insufficient evidence linking the food with the patients' symptoms

There have been at least two large outbreaks in Europe in 2008 (cases 8 and 17 in the table above), one involved the marine biotoxin azaspiracid traced back to precooked mussels from Ireland. Because the azaspiracid toxin is heat-resistant, it was still active after cooking, able to cause illness. The other wide-scale outbreak was caused by a Salmonella contamination of meat products produced by an Irish plant that supplied these to food processors as e.g. sandwich filling.

Because it sometimes takes a lot of time to trace foodborne outbreaks to a common food source and because of the widespread nature of a contamination occurring at a large food processor, such foodborne outbreaks can reach large dimensions. Similar and perhaps even larger-scale foodborne outbreaks outside Europa, intensively covered in the media, included for example the Salmonellosis outbreak linked with tomatoes and paprikas in the United States and the Listeriosis outbreak linked to a meat producer in Canada.

Feed

The number of notifications on feed continues to increase as it did in the past four years. 181 notifications were received on feed in 2008 as opposed to 163 in 2007. Although the notifications on feed by themselves were not eye-catching in terms of the risks they represented, again a major incident involving dioxins had its origin in a contamination of feed (see the topic on dioxins in pork from Ireland above).

Salmonella

There were even more notifications (90) on Salmonella , 25 of them regarding pet food and the remainder concerning feed materials, mostly of plant origin.

Dioxins

There were 10 notifications on dioxins, usuall small exceedances of the legal limits in feed premixes and feed additives. Three notifications concerned fishmeal.

Mycotoxins

All notifications (14) on mycotoxins reported too high levels of aflatoxins, half of them concerning groundnuts.

Specified risk material (SRM)

Germany reported 8 notifications on a repeated problem with SRM in dog chews from India.

Chloramphenicol

Poland reported three cases where it had found chloramphenicol in casein and milk powder from Ukraine.

Important incidents reported in RASFF in 2008

Other than food poisoning, in which case there are immediate (i.e. acute) symptoms of a hazard in food, the majority of reported hazards in relation to food or feed in the RASFF do not give acute symptoms but could present a significant risk to human health if consumers are repeatedly (i.e. chronically) exposed. Often a hazard can present both an acute and a chronic risk, depending on the dose one is exposed to at one given time. Below two more important incidents that triggered wide spread international recalls are discussed.

mineral oil in sunflower oil

On 23 April 2008, the French contact point notified the RASFF that sunflower oil originating from Ukraine was found contaminated with high levels of mineral oil. This contamination by mineral oil was later confirmed in several consignments of crude sunflower oil originating from Ukraine imported in recent months in the Community. In total 39 countries, of which 19 RASFF member countries were affected by this contamination incident.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issued a scientific statement[6] concluding that, taking into account human exposure estimates and the fact that analysis revealed that the mineral oil is of a high viscosity type, such an exposure, although being undesirable for human consumption, would not be of public health concern. Given that the source of contamination has not yet been identified with certainty, there is the presumption of risk attached to the presence of unacceptable high levels of mineral oil in sunflower oil.

Member States took the appropriate measures to withdraw the contaminated sunflower oil and food products containing contaminated sunflower oil already placed on the market, as recommended by the European Commission via the RASFF.

The Ukrainian authorities were repeatedly urged to provide information on the origin of the contamination and on the measures taken to prevent such a contamination in the future. Assurances were also sought from the Ukrainian authorities as to the establishment of effective measures aimed at guaranteeing the appropriate sampling and analysis for the presence of mineral oil in consignments of sunflower oil leaving Ukraine destined for the European Community.

Despite several requests from the European Commission, the Ukrainian authorities did not guarantee that they would cease exports of sunflower oil to the European Community until such control and certification system was put in place. Therefore in order to protect public health, Commission Decision 2008/433/EC of 10 June 2008 imposing special conditions governing the import of sunflower oil originating in or consigned from Ukraine due to contamination risks by mineral oil[7] provided for a temporary ban on imports of sunflower oil originating in or consigned from Ukraine pending the availability of a reliable control and certification system to be set up by the Ukrainian authorities and to be assessed by the European Commission.

At its meeting of 20 June 2008, the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health concluded that the conditions for acceptance of the control and certification system were fulfilled, enabling the trade of sunflower oil from Ukraine to the EU to resume from 3 July 2008 onwards under the strict conditions of Commission Decision 2008/433/EC, whereby each consignment of sunflower oil has to be controlled and certified by the Ukrainian authorities and a second official control is carried out at import by the competent authority of the importing Member State.

The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) carried out an inspection mission in Ukraine in September 2008 in order to assess the control and certification system in place. The control system was found to be satisfactory but the investigations into the source of contamination were considered as insufficient and inconclusive.

6. Available at: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/cs/BlobServer/Statement/contam_statement_sunflower%20oil_en.pdf?ssbinary=true
7. OJ L 151, 11.6.2008, p. 55

melamine in food products from China

The Commission services issued a news notification on 15 September 2008 on the press-reported deaths of babies in China following poisoning of the infant formulae with melamine. Melamine is a chemical intermediate used in the manufacture of resins and plastics. Because it is high in nitrogen, it was fraudulently added to milk to give the appearance of increased protein levels.

Already in 2007, the RASFF had been alerted of the presence of melamine in feed, which had caused a serious animal health incident involving pet animals in the United States.[8]

The high levels of melamine in infant milk resulted in China in very severe health effects in infants and young children. At least 6 children died from severe kidney failure due to the melamine added to milk powder, and more than 200.000 infants and young children have been affected by kidney problems with more than 50.000 infants and young children hospitalized.

Imports of milk and milk products, including milk powder, originating from China have never been allowed into the Community. However, composite product such as chocolate, bonbons and biscuits containing milk ingredients are imported from China. Certain composite products could have been imported without undergoing systematic border checks. It could furthermore not be excluded that special import channels for such products exist (intended for instance for Chinese food shops).

At the request of the Commission in order to assess the risks related to the presence of melamine in composite products containing milk ingredients, such as chocolate and biscuits, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issued a scientific statement[9] on 24 September. The statement concluded that only in a worst case scenario, according to which children with a high daily consumption of biscuits and chocolates containing high levels of contaminated milk powder from China, the daily tolerable intake (TDI) would be exceeded and a health risk could exist.

Melamine can also be present in foods at low background levels following e.g. migration from food packaging material or as metabolite of the pesticide cyromazin.

A level of 2.5 mg melamine/kg was established as the appropriate level to distinguish between the unavoidable background presence of melamine (from food contact materials, pesticide use, etc.) and unacceptable adulteration. This level provides also a large margin of safety according to the EFSA statement on the risks of melamine in food. Methods of analysis with sufficient sensitivity exist to control the presence of melamine in food at levels of 2.5 mg/kg.

8. See RASFF annual report 2007, p38-39
9. Statement of EFSA on risk for public health due to the presence of melamine in infant milk and other milk products in China. Available at: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/cs/BlobServer/Statement/contam_ej_807_melamine.pdf?ssbinary=true

In order to protect public health, Commission Decision 2008/798/EC of 14 October 2008 imposing special conditions governing the import of products containing milk and milk products originating in or consigned from China and repealing Commission Decision 2008/757/EC[10] was adopted.

This Decision established protective measures for food and feed originating in or consigned from China such as:

- a prohibition of import into the Community of composite products containing milk ingredients intended for infants and young children.
- a physical control (sampling and analysis) on the presence of melamine of all consignments of composite products containing milk products, to be imported via specifically designated control points.
- an increased control on the presence of melamine in other feed and food products with a high protein content
- destruction of non-compliant feed and food

Several notifications through the RASFF confirmed the presence of melamine in composite products containing milk ingredients and the illegal import of milk and milk products from China.

From the end of October 2008 onwards there were several notifications on the presence of high levels of melamine in soybean meal and also in ammonium bicarbonate from China, used as raising agent in food industry. Therefore by Commission Decision 2008/921/EC of 9 December 2008 amending Decision 2008/798/EC[11], the existing safeguard measures were extended to ammonium bicarbonate and to feed and food containing milk, milk products, soya and soya products.

Also in this contamination incident, the RASFF has demonstrated to be an indispensable tool for the management of the incident and to ensure that proportionate measures are taken to protect public health. Since the first news notification, 39 news notifications were issued on the topic of melamine in food from China. Member states have reported 40 market notifications and 5 border rejections on such products as

- illegally imported milk products;
- creamy candies, biscuits, crackers, snacks, chocolates containing a milk ingredient;
- potato crisps
- leavening agent
- food supplements

Of all these findings, the Commission has informed the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture

10. OJ L 273, 15.10.2008, p. 18
11. OJ L 331, 10.12.2008, p. 19

Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), which compiled a list of findings received from competent authorities from around the world. The Commission transmitted these compiled data from INFOSAN to all Member States as RASFF news notifications. The melamine case is a clear example of the useful role INFOSAN can play in the event of food safety incidents with global impact.

3

Charts and figures

EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS SINCE 2004

In 2008, the number of notifications slightly decreased on the whole. When looking at the different classifications of notifications, there are significant differences:

- there are almost half the number of alerts as the year before due to a stricter classification of alerts, depending on the seriousness of the risk
- for the same reason, the number of information notifications has increased by 50%, but there was also an increase of the number of border rejections

YEAR	ALERT	INFORMATION	BORDER REJECTION	FOLLOW-UP TO ALERT	FOLLOW-UP TO INFORMATION	FOLLOW-UP TO BORDER REJECTION	TOTAL
2004	690	553	1338	1449	504	825	5359
2005	955	747	1453	2218	679	842	6894
2006	910	687	1274	2157	640	923	6591
2007	952	761	1211	2440	796	978	7138
2008	**528**	**1138**	**1377**	**1789**	**1329**	**743**	**6904**
% in/decrease	-45	+50	+14	-27	+67	-24	-3

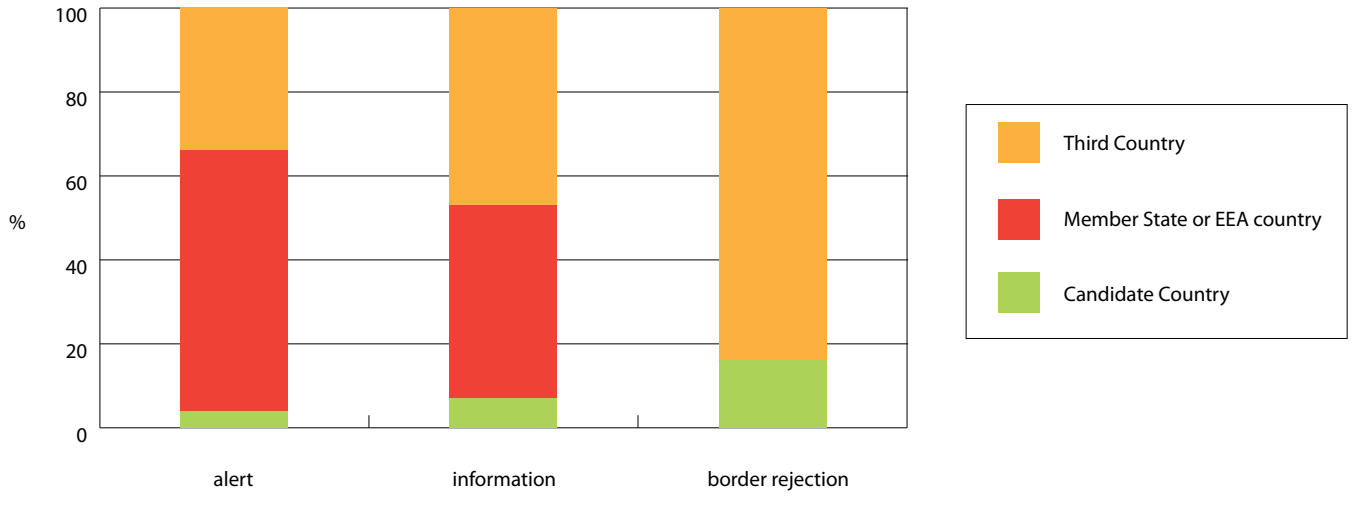
REJECTED NOTIFICATIONS IN 2008

The most frequent reason for non-transmission of a notification is when the identified problem does not fall within the scope of RASFF. It can concern a purely documentary issue or a quality problem or a problem with the labelling not inducing any health risk to the consumer. If a notification does not or not sufficiently identify the risk involved for either human or animal health, then it will not be transmitted.

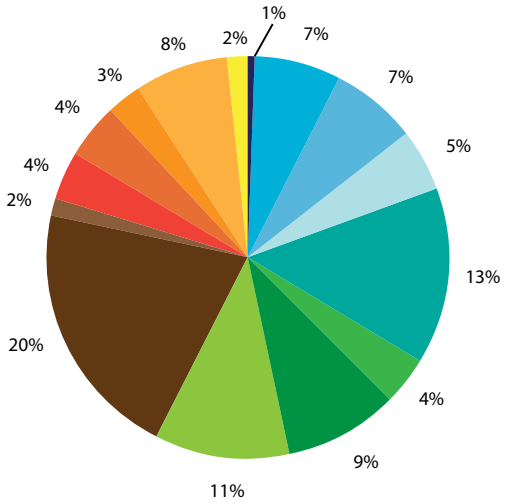
NOTIFICATIONS REJECTED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

The notification contains inaccurate information	1
The notification contains insufficient evidence of a direct or indirect risk to consumer health	29
Levels found are below the legal limits	5
Levels found do not pose a risk to public health	1
The notification contains insufficient information to perform a proper evaluation	9
The notification is outdated	2
The notification does not fall within the scope of the rasff system	22
There is insufficient evidence to deem the food to be unsafe as according to art. 14 Of regulation (ec) n° 178/2002	1
The legal limit(s) mentioned do(es) not apply to the level(s) found	1
The analytical results obtained are invalid	3
Total	**74**

ORIGIN OF THE PRODUCT

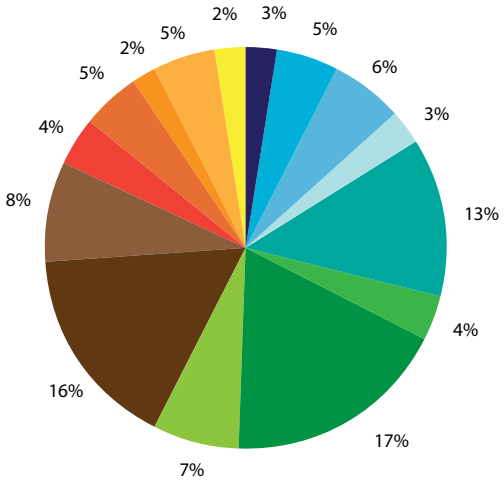


2008 – ALERT NOTIFICATIONS BY PRODUCT CATEGORY



- Beverages and bottled water
- Cereals and bakery products
- Cocoa preparations, coffee and tea
- Confectionery, honey and royal jelly
- Dietetic foods and food supplements
- Feed for food producing animals
- Fish, crustaceans and molluscs
- Food contact materials
- Fruit and vegetables
- Herbs and spices
- Meat and meat products
- Milk and milk products
- Nuts, nut products and seeds
- Other food product / mixed
- Pet food

2008 – INFORMATION NOTIFICATIONS BY PRODUCT CATEGORY



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- Confectionery, honey and royal jelly
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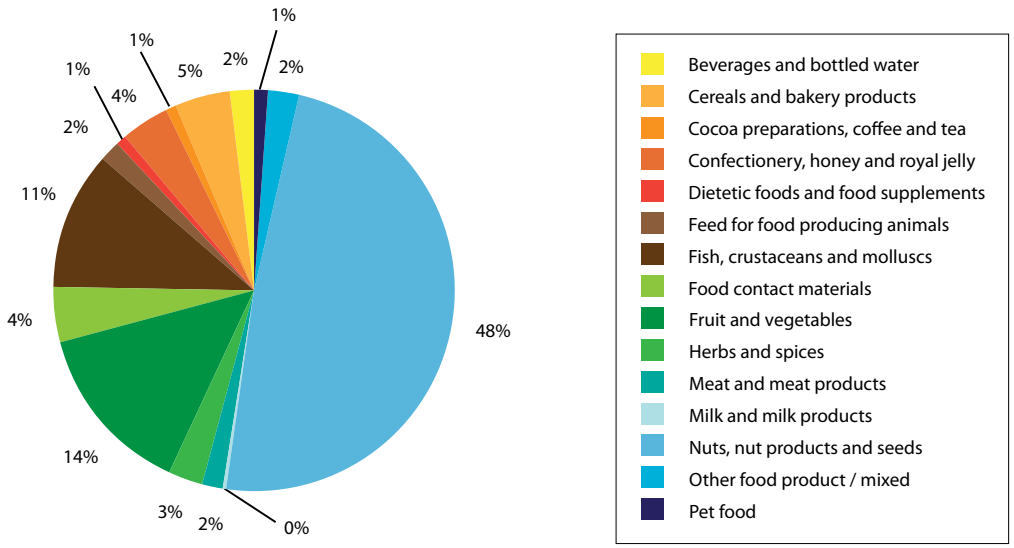
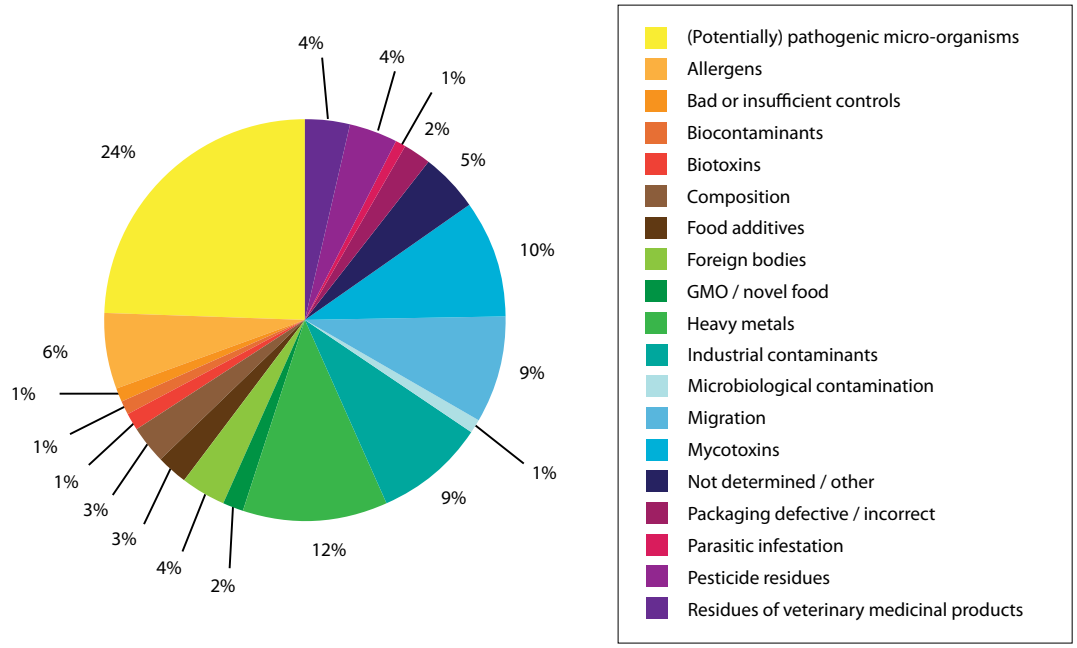
- Feed for food producing animals
- Fish, crustaceans and molluscs
- Food contact materials
- Fruit and vegetables
- Herbs and spices
- Meat and meat products
- Milk and milk products
- Nuts, nut products and seeds
- Other food product / mixed
- Pet food

2008 – BORDER REJECTIONS BY PRODUCT CATEGORY

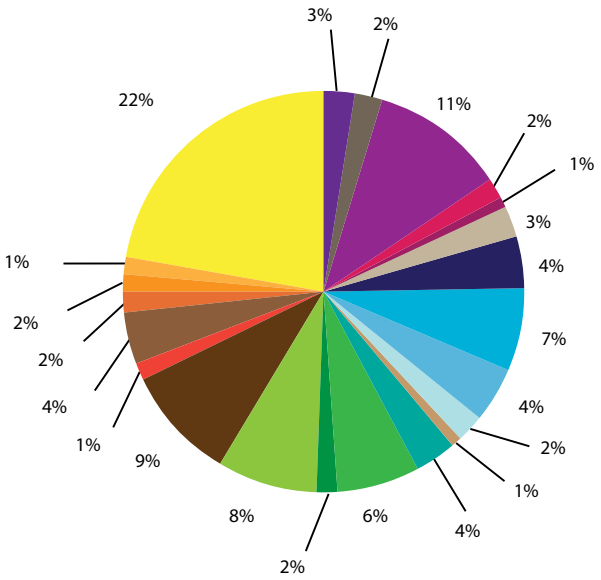


Unlike for market notifications (alert and information), border rejections are predominantly related to foods of non-animal origin. This is to a large degree due to checks for mycotoxins being carried out at the border but there are also many notifications on microbiological contamination or notifications that are the result of visual inspection finding the product improper for human consumption. The largest category of food of animal origin rejected at the border is "fish, crustaceans and molluscs".

2008 – ALERT NOTIFICATIONS BY IDENTIFIED RISK

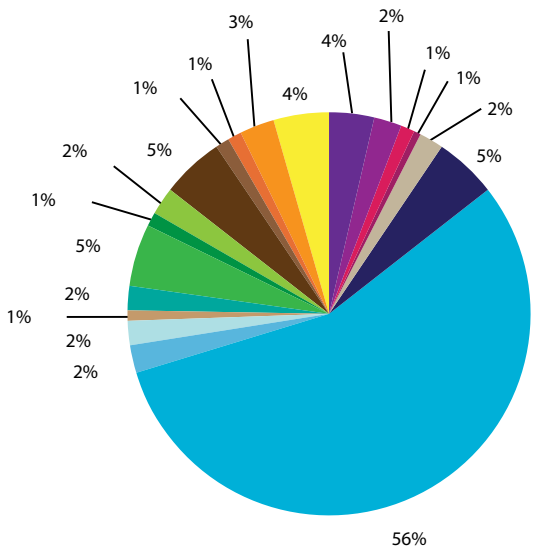


2008 – INFORMATION NOTIFICATIONS BY IDENTIFIED RISK



- (Potentially) pathogenic micro-organisms
- Allergens
- Bad or insufficient controls
- Biocontaminants
- Composition
- Feed additives
- Food additives
- Foreign bodies
- GMO / novel food
- Heavy metals
- Industrial contaminants
- Labelling absent/incomplete/incorrect
- Microbiological contamination
- Migration
- Mycotoxins
- Not determined / other
- Organoleptic aspects
- Packaging defective / incorrect
- Parasitic infestation
- Pesticide residues
- Radiation
- Residues of veterinary medicinal products

2008 – BORDER REJECTIONS BY IDENTIFIED RISK

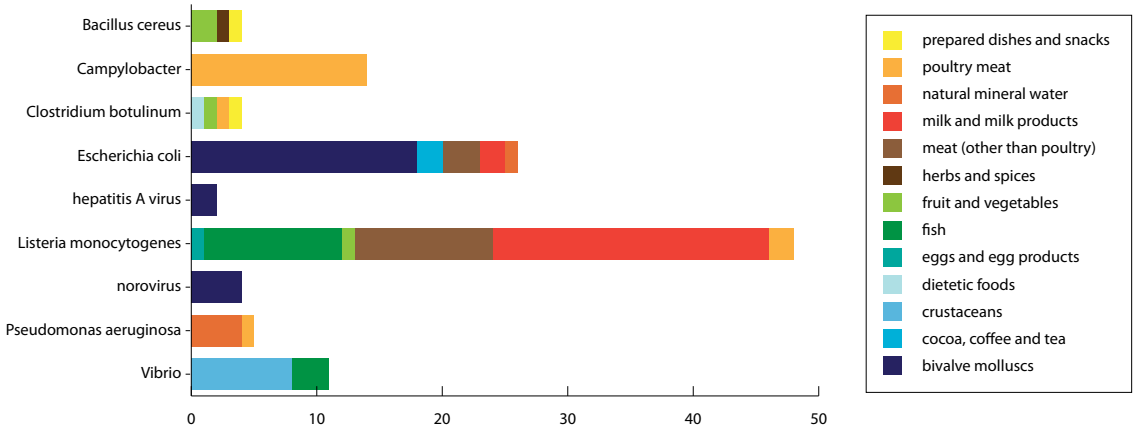


- (Potentially) pathogenic micro-organisms
- Bad or insufficient controls
- Biocontaminants
- Composition
- Food additives
- Foreign bodies
- GMO / novel food
- Heavy metals
- Industrial contaminants
- Labelling absent/incomplete/incorrect
- Microbiological contamination
- Migration
- Mycotoxins
- Not determined / other
- Organoleptic aspects
- Packaging defective / incorrect
- Parasitic infestation
- Pesticide residues
- Residues of veterinary medicinal products

hazard category	total	alcoholic beverages (other than wine)	bivalve molluscs	cephalopods	cereals and bakery products	cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	confectionery	crustaceans	dietetic foods and food supplements	eggs and egg products	fats and oils	feed additives	feed for food-producing animals	fish	food additives	food contact materials	fruit and vegetables	gastropods	herbs and spices	honey and royal jelly	ices and desserts	meat other than poultry	milk and milk products	natural mineral water	non-alcoholic beverages	nuts, nut products and seeds	other food product / mixed	pet food	poultry meat	prepared dishes and snacks	soups, broths and sauces	water for human consumption (other than natural mineral water)	wine
(potentially) pathogenic micro-organisms	**452**		32	1	1	3		9	2	5			65	22	1	1	16	3	33			70	27	5		27	3	25	98	3			
allergens	**48**				8	8	4		3					1			1		1			5	2		2	1	1			6	5		
bad or insufficient controls	**64**			1				4						13		1	7	1		6		13	1			6	2		8	1			
biocontaminants	**38**													37																1			
biotoxins (other)	**12**		6											3			1									1					1		
chemical contamination (other)	**10**				5				1							2															2		
composition	**88**				1				16		6	2	5	2	1	1	23		18	1		1	1	4		1	1				2	2	
feed additives	**18**											1	12															3	2				
food additives	**195**	1		2	9		38	37	7					5	1		42		4		4	3	2		26	4	2		1	1	6		
foreign bodies	**145**	1			14	10	9		3				3	7		13	42		2	1	1	4	2		4	18	1	1	2	5	2		
GMO / novel food	**43**				25	1	1		6				1		1		1								2			5					
heavy metals	**211**		2	11	1	9		16	5			1	3	90		51	16					1		3	1	1							
industrial contaminants	**116**			1	23		20	2	4	1	13	3	12	7	3	1	2					4	5		1		1	2		2	8	1	
labelling absent/incomplete/ incorrect	**23**				1		2		2				1	6			3					3				3			2				
microbiological contamination	**61**		2		3		1	2	1	1			3	4			21		1			2	3	1		7	1	5	1			2	
migration	**121**															121																	
mycotoxins	**931**				60	6	7		3				11				108		28		1					699	2	3		1	1		1
not determined / other	**99**		3	1		4	21	2	5	1	4			14	1	3	3		1	1		8	8		1	4	6	2	2	3	1		
organoleptic aspects	**63**				9									4		4	13		2			5	11			10				1	1	3	
packaging defective / incorrect	**31**					1								4		4	8			2		7	3						1				1
parasitic infestation	**39**													37								2											
pesticide residues	**178**				1	5			3				4		1		153		8						1	2							
radiation	**30**				1				17								3		3							1			2	3			
residues of veterinary medicinal products	**105**							58	1	1			3	4						31		5	1						1				
TSEs	**11**																					2					1	8					
total	**3132**	**2**	**45**	**17**	**162**	**47**	**103**	**130**	**79**	**9**	**23**	**7**	**123**	**260**	**9**	**202**	**463**	**4**	**101**	**42**	**6**	**135**	**66**	**13**	**38**	**785**	**21**	**54**	**120**	**26**	**28**	**10**	**2**

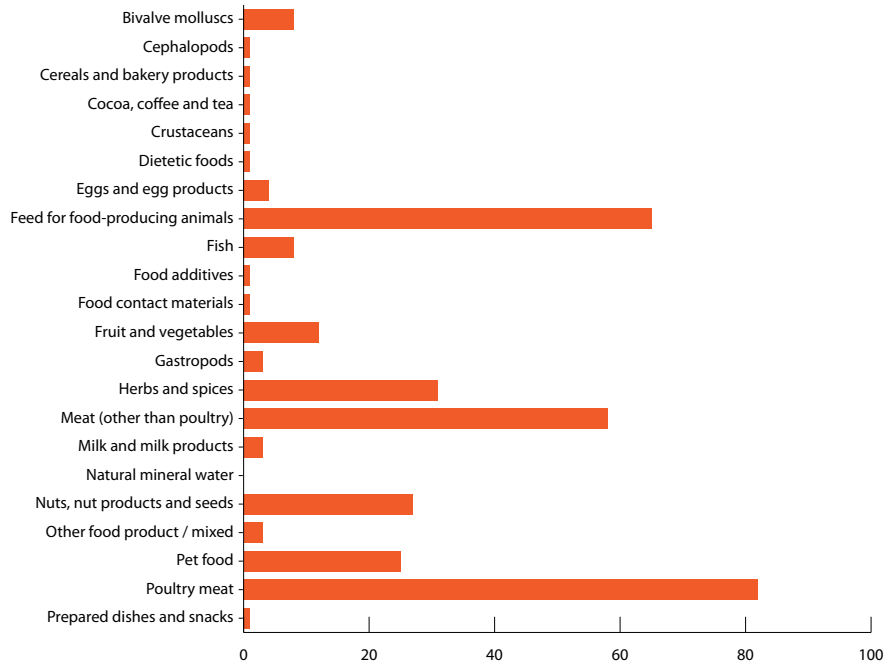
Please note that notifications that reported on more than one hazard category are counted more than once.

(POTENTIALLY) PATHOGENIC MICRO-ORGANISMS

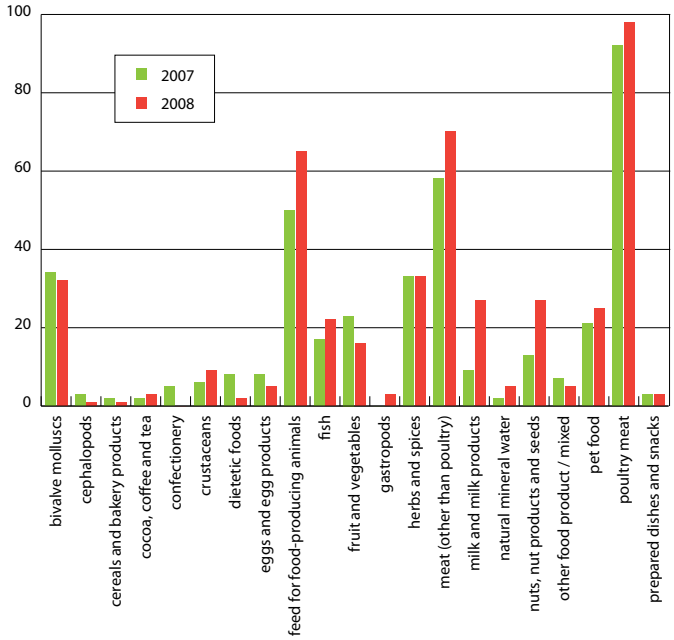


The chart above shows numbers of notifications in 2008 for pathogenic micro-organisms in food with the exception of Salmonella. Since notifications for Salmonella are of a different scale, a separate chart is shown (below), giving details for the reporting in RASFF on Salmonella for the different product categories. Salmonella is the only pathogenic micro-organism reported in feed.

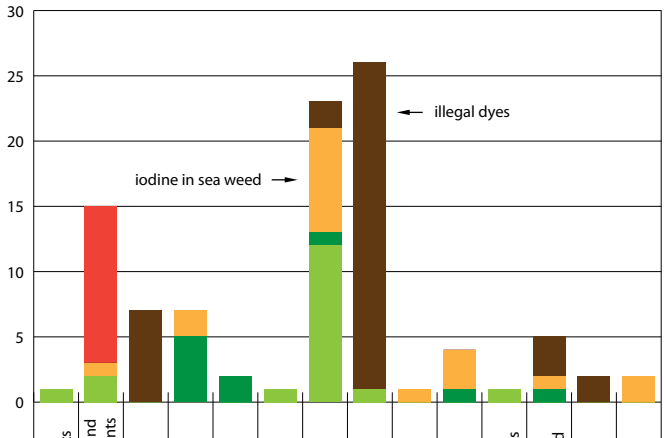
SALMONELLA



PATHOGENS 2008



COMPOSITION



	cereals and bakery products	dietetic foods and food supplements	fats and oils	feed	fish	food contact materials	fruit and vegetables	herbs and spices	meat (other than poultry)	natural mineral water	nuts, nut products and seeds	other food product / mixed	soups, broths and sauces	bottled water
high content of	1	2	0	0	0	1	12	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
other	0	0	0	5	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
too high content of	0	1	0	2	0	0	8	0	1	3	0	1	0	2
unauthorised colour	0	0	7	0	0	0	2	25	0	0	0	3	2	0
unauthorised ingredient	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

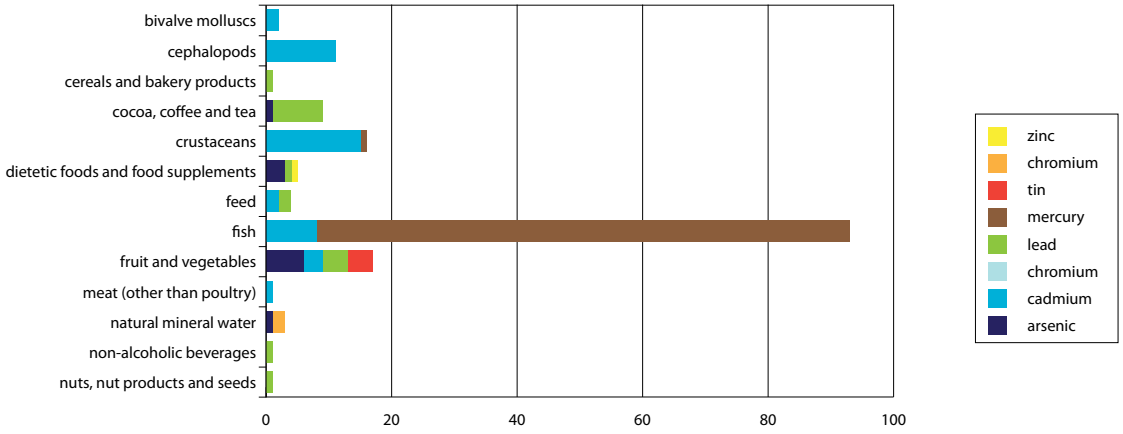
Note: the "too high content" category refers to chemical substances, other than food additives, for which thresholds existing in food law, as to the quantity present in a specific foodstuff, were exceeded, e.g. nitrates in leafy vegetables, spore elements in drinking water etc.

A recurring hazard reported in relation to the composition of vegetables is iodine in sea weed. Sea weed naturally contains high concentrations of iodine. Consumers must be informed through labelling of what quantity is safe to consume so that they can adapt their dosage. Sensitivity of consumers to iodine can vary between countries.

FOOD ADDITIVES

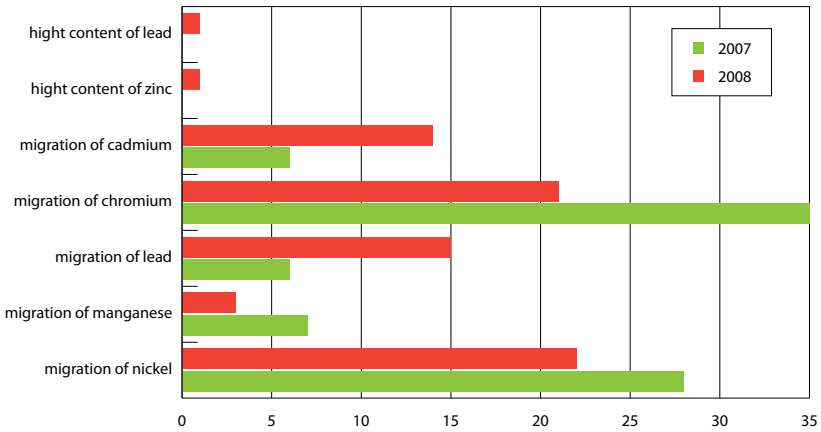
	alcoholic beverages	cereals and bakery products	confectionery	crustaceans	dietetic foods and food supplements	fish	fruit and vegetables	herbs and spices	non-alcoholic beverages	soups, broths and sauces	TOTAL
too high content of colour		1	7			2	1		5		**16**
too high content (other)	1		1			2	1		8	6	**19**
too high content of sweetener									4		**4**
too high content of sulphite			1	18			28				**47**
unauthorised use of colour		6	13		6		3	4	3		**35**
unauthorised use (other)	1	2	15	1	2	1	4		7	1	**34**
unauthorised use of sulphite											**0**
unauthorised sweetener							1				**1**
undeclared colour											**0**
undeclared sulphite			3	20			6			2	**31**
undeclared (other)											**0**
unidentified colour			2								**2**
total	**2**	**9**	**42**	**39**	**8**	**5**	**44**	**4**	**27**	**9**	**189**

HEAVY METALS



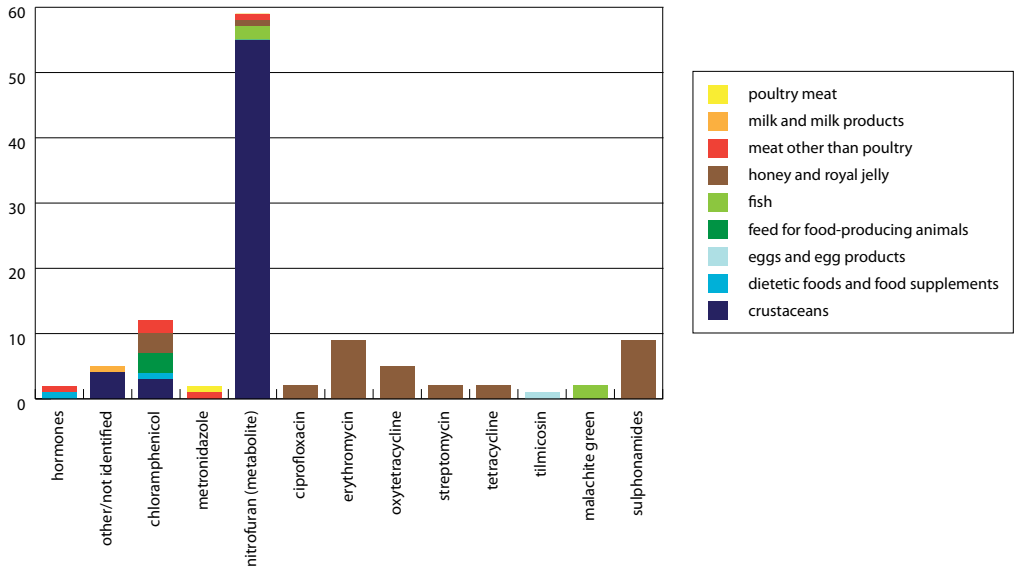
The chart above represents the findings of heavy metals in food and feed. The chart shows clearly that mercury in fish is still the most reported hazard in relation to heavy metals, and then cadmium in fishery products (fish, crustaceans and cephalopods). A separate chart is shown below for migration of heavy metals from food contact materials.

FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

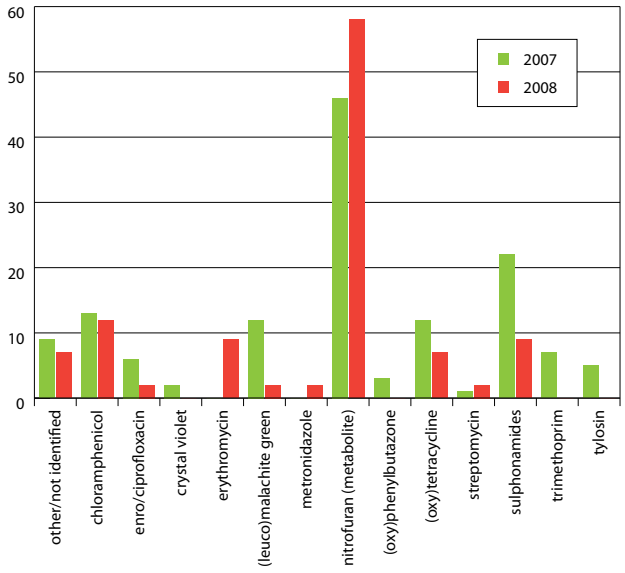


For the migration of lead and cadmium from ceramics, EU legal limits are in force. There have been significantly more notifications about migration of cadmium and lead from food contact materials in 2008, compared to 2007.

RESIDUES OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS



From the chart above it is obvious that nitrofuran metabolites are still the most-notified hazard in the RASFF in 2008, the large majority of findings made in crustaceans, predominantly shrimps from India (30) and Bangladesh (14). There is hardly any problem reported for residues in meat or fish but the notifications on honey remain (31 in 2008 compared to 27 in 2007). These substances are found due to treatment of bees against infectious diseases. Less sulphonamides were found but other substances such as erythromycin emerged (see also the chart below).



NOTIFICATIONS BY PRODUCT CATEGORY

	TOTAL 2008	Alert 2008	Information 2008	Border Rejection 2008	TOTAL 2007	Alert 2007	Information 2007	Border Rejection 2007
Beverages and bottled water	57	8	26	23	67	19	15	33
Alcoholic beverages (other than wine)	2		2		3		1	2
Non-alcoholic beverages	37	6	13	18	49	12	9	28
Water	15	1	9	5	11	4	4	3
Wine	3	1	2		4	3	1	
Feed	175	12	121	41	158	66	49	43
Feed for food-producing animals	123	8	92	22	112	48	36	28
Pet food	52	4	29	19	46	18	13	15
Fish, crustaceans and molluscs	451	109	188	153	560	208	177	175
Bivalve molluscs	49	29	14	5	69	29	25	15
Cephalopods	17	3	4	10	15	2	2	11
Crustaceans	128	16	63	49	125	38	31	56
Fish	257	61	107	89	351	139	119	93
Meat, game and poultry	244	75	144	25	222	125	75	22
Meat other than poultry	126	46	67	13	121	73	32	16
Poultry meat	118	29	77	12	101	52	43	6
Other products								
Cereals and bakery products	161	40	58	60	128	62	27	39
Cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	47	15	22	10	46	28	12	6
Confectionery	92	21	38	33	76	33	15	28
Honey and royal jelly	38	2	15	21	30	5	13	12
Dietetic foods and food supplements	77	20	44	13	123	60	33	30
Eggs and egg products	9	3	6		14	7	7	
Fats and oils	24	6	6	12	29	10	8	11
Feed additives	7	2	5		5	3	1	1
Food additives	9	2	5	2	7	4	2	1
Fruit and vegetables	446	49	205	192	415	113	162	140
Gastropods				1				
Herbs and spices	98	20	41	37	126	29	46	51
Ices and desserts	6	1	4	1	1		1	
Milk and milk products	62	26	33	3	21	18	2	1
Nuts, nut products and seeds	770	36	65	673	653	59	59	535
Prepared dishes and snacks	26	10	13	3	22	18		4
Soups, broths and sauces	27	8	13	6	37	19	8	10
Other food products / mixed	20	5	7	8	13	5		8
Food contact materials	197	58	79	60	171	61	49	61
TOTAL	**3043**	**528**	**1138**	**1377**	**2924**	**952**	**761**	**1211**

Remark: From 2008, market notifications receive a risk evaluation. Alert classification is only made when a serious risk is identified.

NOTIFICATIONS BY HAZARD CATEGORY

	control	market		border		market			
hazard category	**total**	**alert**	**information**	**border rejection**	**border control - consign-ment released**	**market control**	**food poisoning**	**company's own check**	**consumer complaint**
(potentially) pathogenic micro-organisms	452	132	257	63	36	250	8	90	5
allergens	48	33	15		2	29	2	7	8
bad or insufficient controls	63	5	18	40		9		12	2
biocontaminants (other)	38	6	18	14	7	12	4		1
biotoxins (other)	12	8	4			8	1	2	1
chemical contamination (other)	10	1	3	6	1	2			1
composition	87	17	49	21	1	60	1	2	2
feed additives	18	1	16	1	1	11		5	
food additives	196	14	109	73	26	94		2	1
foreign bodies	145	20	93	32	3	39		8	63
GMO / novel food	43	9	20	14	1	27		1	
heavy metals	211	63	75	73	25	107		5	1
industrial contaminants (other)	118	48	41	29	4	62		18	4
labelling absent/incomplete/incorrect	23	3	8	12	1	6	1		3
microbiological contamination	62	6	28	28	5	11	4	6	8
migration	124	46	50	28	1	91			4
mycotoxins	932	52	78	802	10	108		12	
not determined / other	99	13	39	47	4	43	1		4
organoleptic aspects	63	3	31	29	1	11		3	19
packaging defective / incorrect	31	12	9	10		8		8	5
parasitic infestation	38	5	18	15	1	16		1	5
pesticide residues	178	20	127	31	24	107		12	4
radiation	30	1	25	4	9	16		1	
residues of veterinary medicinal products	107	21	32	54	20	31		2	
TSE's	11	2	2	7	1	2		1	
Total:	3139	541	1165	1433	184	1160	22	198	141

Please note that notifications that reported on more than one hazard category are counted more than once.

NOTIFICATIONS BY NOTIFYING COUNTRY

COUNTRY	2008	2007	Alert	2007	Information	2007	Border rejection	2007
AUSTRIA	87	62	23	36	50	13	14	13
BELGIUM	107	98	41	57	46	17	20	24
BULGARIA	22	10		4	2	1	20	5
CYPRUS	65	52	9	19	31	19	25	14
CZECH REPUBLIC	55	73	16	57	36	14	4	2
DENMARK	128	130	24	68	99	55	5	7
ESTONIA	11	17	3	10	3	4	5	3
FINLAND	93	82	9	25	39	15	45	42
FRANCE	138	124	42	43	43	40	52	41
GERMANY	437	376	102	142	141	106	194	128
GREECE	106	168	4	26	20	41	82	101
HUNGARY	17	29	2	19	13	10	2	
ICELAND	1	4		2		1	1	1
IRELAND	27	24	9	20	17	3	1	1
ITALY	470	499	70	147	143	104	257	248
LATVIA	32	13	4	6	27	6	1	1
LIECHTENSTEIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LITHUANIA	50	40	4	11	17	8	29	21
LUXEMBOURG	11	10	5	3	4	3	2	4
MALTA	30	38	2	2	26	8	2	28
NETHERLANDS	246	156	40	32	38	26	168	98
NORWAY	50	68	3	18	36	45	11	5
POLAND	156	122	6	16	44	32	106	74
PORTUGAL	14	24	1	6	9	2	4	16
ROMANIA	13	7	4	5	3	2	6	
SLOVAKIA	56	61	17	51	25	4	14	6
SLOVENIA	76	47	20	19	46	18	10	10
SPAIN	143	169	12	15	39	35	92	119
SWEDEN	50	55	4	24	41	17	5	14
UNITED KINGDOM	346	360	49	63	97	112	200	185
COMMISSION SERVICES	6	6	3	6	3	0		
Total	3043	2924	528	952	1138	761	1377	1211

NOTIFICATIONS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE PRODUCT

COUNTRY	2008	2007	trend	COUNTRY	2008	2007	trend	COUNTRY	2008	2007	trend	COUNTRY	Number	2007	trend
CHINA	500	355	↑↑↑	ISRAEL	14	5	↑↑	CYPRUS	4	12	↓↓	JAMAICA	1	2	↓
TURKEY	308	294	↑↑	LITHUANIA	13	6	↑↑	IVORY COAST	4	10	↓↓	KAZAKHSTAN	1	5	↓
IRAN	174	133	↑↑↑	AUSTRALIA	12	14	↓	MALTA	4	3	↑	KYRGYZSTAN	1	0	↑*
INDIA	159	86	↑↑↑	SWEDEN	12	10	↑	MYANMAR	4	2	↑	MALAWI	1	2	↓
THE UNITED STATES	153	191	↓↓↓	UNKNOWN ORIGIN	11	23	↓↓	NAMIBIA	4	7	↓	OMAN	1	2	↓
GERMANY	137	122	↑↑	CZECH REPUBLIC	11	31	↓↓	NORWAY	4	5	↓	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1	0	↑*
SPAIN	115	178	↓↓↓	IRELAND	11	11	=	PANAMA	4	11	↓↓	SURINAME	1	6	↓
THAILAND	106	93	↑↑	MOROCCO	11	22	↓↓	THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	4	4	=	TANZANIA	1	5	↓
ITALY	104	74	↑↑	SENEGAL	11	15	↓	BELARUS	3	0	↑*	THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1	0	↑*
FRANCE	94	109	↓↓	SWITZERLAND	11	10	↑	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	3	1	↑	THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	1	0	↑*
POLAND	73	77	↓	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	11	15	↓	COSTA RICA	3	6	↓	THE FALKLAND ISLANDS	1		↑*
THE NETHERLANDS	63	52	↑↑	CANADA	10	12	↓	ESTONIA	3	1	↑	THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1	0	↑*
BRAZIL	62	58	↑	LATVIA	10	14	↓	ETHIOPIA	3	2	↑	UGANDA	1	2	↓
ARGENTINA	58	48	↑↑	SLOVAKIA	10	17	↓↓	GEORGIA	3	3	=	YEMEN	1	0	↑*
VIETNAM	56	45	↑↑	COLOMBIA	9	6	↑	LUXEMBOURG	3	0	↑*				
UNITED KINGDOM	51	52	↓	PARAGUAY	9	2	↑↑	NEW ZEALAND	3	2	↑				
EGYPT	49	35	↑↑	SERBIA	9	5	↑	PUERTO RICO	3	0	↑*				
DENMARK	39	34	↑	CHILE	8	18	↓↓	ALGERIA	2	2	=				
BELGIUM	38	40	↓	ECUADOR	8	7	↑	ARUBA	2	0	↑*				
UKRAINE	37	40	↓	MALAYSIA	8	22	↓↓	BOLIVIA	2	2	=				
TUNISIA	34	16	↑↑	NICARAGUA	8	10	↓	CUBA	2	1	↑				
CHINA (HONG KONG)	26	47	↓↓	SOUTH AFRICA	8	8	=	FINLAND	2	1	↑				
AUSTRIA	29	10	↑↑	PERU	7	21	↓↓	GUADELOUPE	2	0	↑*				
PAKISTAN	28	28	=	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	7	3	↑	HONDURAS	2	0	↑*	ANGOLA			
NIGERIA	25	49	↓↓	BULGARIA	6	6	=	JORDAN	2	1	↑	CAMEROON			
GHANA	23	31	↓↓	KENYA	6	3	↑	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	2	3	↓	CAPE VERDE			
SRI LANKA	23	24	↓	MEXICO	6	4	↑	RWANDA	2	0	↑*	GABON			
THE PHILIPPINES	23	13	↑↑	PORTUGAL	6	9	↓	THE MALDIVES	2	0	↑*	HAITI			
BANGLADESH	22	15	↑↑	ROMANIA	6	3	↑	ZIMBABWE	2	1	↑	MACAO			
GREECE	20	32	↓↓	SINGAPORE	6	10	↓	ARMENIA	1	1	=	MAURITIUS			
CROATIA	18	5	↑↑	URUGUAY	6	6	=	AZERBAIJAN	1	0	↑*	MONACO			
HUNGARY	17	16	↑	ALBANIA	5	1	↑	BURKINO FASO	1	0	↑*	MOZAMBIQUE			
LEBANON	17	19	↓	FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	5	4	↑	FIJI	1	2	↓	SAN MARINO			
SLOVENIA	16	3	↑↑	GAMBIA	5	4	↑	GREENLAND	1	1	=	SIERRA LEONE			
TAIWAN	16	5	↑↑	JAPAN	5	9	↓	GUERNSEY	1	0	↑*	SUDAN			
INDONESIA	15	26	↓↓	SAUDI ARABIA	5	4	↑	GUINEA	1	1	=	THE SEYCHELLES			
SYRIA	15	10	↑	TOGO	5	0	↑*	ICELAND	1	1	=	UZBEKISTAN			

↑* : country not previously listed in 2007
↑ : increase by 5 or less than 5
↓ : decrease by 5 or less than 5
= : status quo
↓↓ : decrease by more than 5 and less than 31
↑↑ : increase by more than 5 and less than 31
↓↓↓ : decrease by more than 31
↑↑↑ : increase by more than 31
: no longer listed in 2008

NOTIFICATIONS BY NOTIFYING COUNTRY AND HAZARD CATEGORY

Hazard category	AT	BE	BG	CS*	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	ES	FI	FR	GB	GR	HU	IE	IS	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	NO	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
(potentially) pathogenic micro-organisms	11	20	2	1	3	2	39	87	6	8	18	32	25	6	3	3	1	62	9	1	4	4	28	14	21	4		31	6	1
allergens	1	2			9	3	1	1		2	1		11	3				2		1	1		1			1			6	2
bad or insufficient controls						1	3	1	1	2		3	10					15	1			9	3		14					
biocontaminants (other)							4			2		4	11	2		1		12					1					1		
biotoxins (other)						1	1					4	3					1						1						1
chemical contamination (other)	1	5		1	2	2	16	3			1	8	12	4	2			6				1	8		5				2	7
composition	5	2			4	5	16	2		4	7	3	7	4		2		7			2	1	4		5	1				
feed additives		3		1	1		7			1		1								1	2		1							
food additives	1	1			18	9	8	5	1	16	15		34	14	3	1		34	6		5	2		4	2			3	3	11
foreign bodies	17	4			1	3	9	3			5	1	21	2		7		16	3	1	2	4	1	3	22		2		14	4
GMO / novel food		1					14	1		2	1	1	9	1								1	4	1				3	3	1
heavy metals	2	7	1		3		16			34	5	14	4	4		1		101			1			1	4	2	1		7	3
industrial contaminants (other)	2	2		1	3	3	4			3	8	3	2	1	1				1				3		2				1	2
labelling absent/incomplete/ incorrect	1	1	1			1	1	1		1			1	2		1		4				3			4			1		
microbiological contamination		4				6	3	5		2	1	3	2	6		2		6			1	2	1	2	11		1		2	2
migration	15	7			5	5	24			1	5		8	10		2		16					1		13				8	4
mycotoxins	16	4	13	2	7	6	201	8	1	36	12	51	141	40		3		133	14	4			164	5	33	6	3	5	9	15
not determined / other	1	2			7	2	13	2	1	7	1	1	9	2				14	2				2	11	14		3	3	7	1
organoleptic aspects					3	4	4	6			1	2	1	9				8	3		2		1		13		1		4	1
packaging defective / incorrect							2	2			2	2	10					6					1		3		1		2	
parasitic infestation			5				1		1									24	2				1				1			3
pesticide residues	15	10			5	6	40	1		6	10	4	7	1	8	1		11	6	3	1		20	8	1			5	7	2
radiation						1					2	1	5			4		1	3		10	2		1						
residues of veterinary medicinal products		32				2	13	1		17		1	20					10			2	2	1	2	3				1	
TSEs							9						1															1		
total	**88**	**107**	**22**	**6**	**71**	**62**	**449**	**129**	**11**	**144**	**95**	**139**	**354**	**111**	**17**	**28**	**1**	**489**	**50**	**11**	**33**	**31**	**246**	**53**	**170**	**14**	**13**	**53**	**82**	**60**

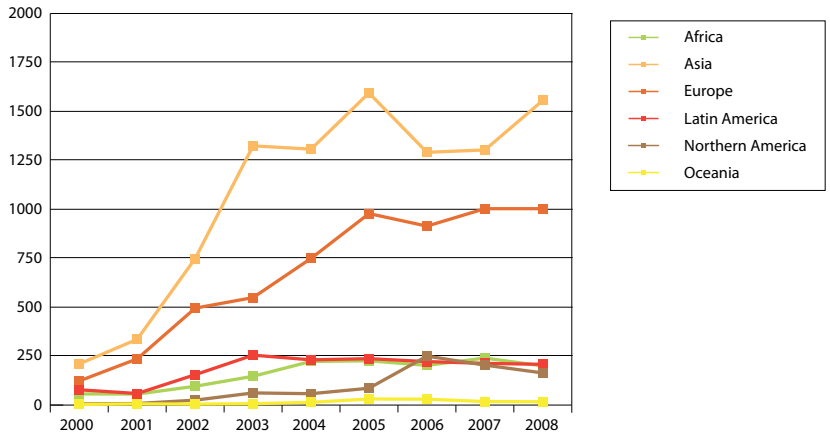
* CS: Commission Services (RASFF team)

Please note that notifications that reported on more than one hazard category are counted more than once.

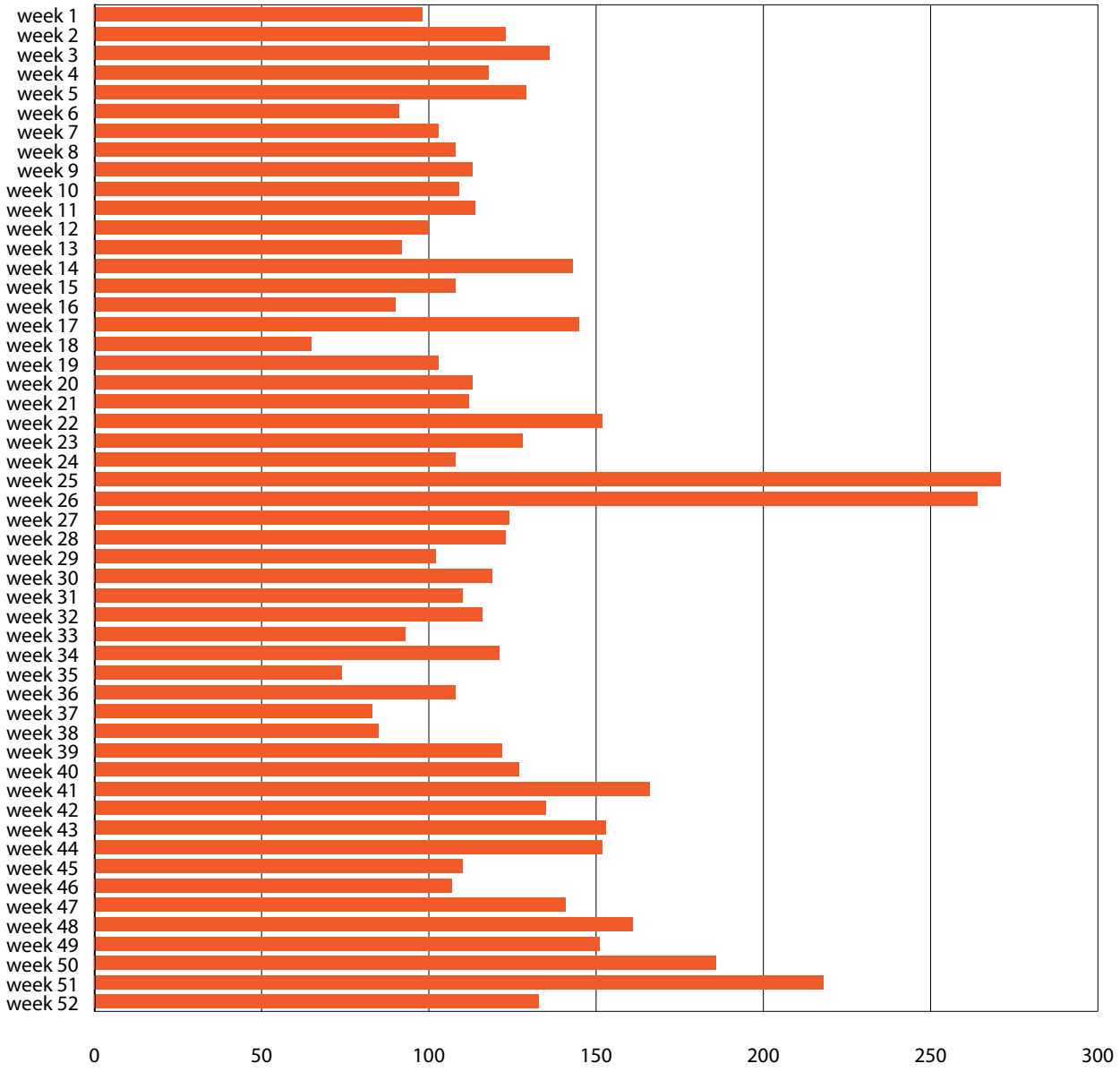
NOTIFICATIONS BY ORIGIN OF THE PRODUCT, CLASSIFIED BY WORLD REGION

World region	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	total
Eastern Africa	8	4	8	15	6	21	22	25	16	**125**
Middle Africa	2		4	1	1	10	3	10	1	**32**
Northern Africa	18	28	32	73	67	61	71	77	96	**523**
Southern Africa	6	7	32	25	33	25	10	15	12	**165**
Western Africa	23	17	20	33	116	109	97	113	75	**603**
Eastern Asia	49	82	163	180	203	316	317	420	555	**2285**
South-central Asia	73	100	150	649	655	676	412	320	410	**3445**
South-eastern Asia	53	100	280	270	224	325	261	211	218	**1942**
Western Asia	35	54	155	225	225	277	301	352	373	**1997**
Eastern Europe	11	11	42	57	91	155	173	208	176	**924**
Northern Europe	25	38	85	109	157	156	157	135	146	**1008**
Southern Europe	28	108	145	162	221	330	265	316	305	**1880**
Western Europe	59	79	223	221	280	337	319	344	376	**2238**
Caribbean	2			4	2	2	7	8	14	**39**
Central America	8	3	10	10	19	17	10	31	23	**131**
South America	68	56	145	241	210	218	205	174	171	**1488**
Northern America	6	8	25	62	58	86	250	204	164	**863**
Australia and New Zealand	3	6	4	7	13	31	25	16	16	**121**
Melanesia			1		1		4	2	1	**9**
Polynesia							1			**1**

NOTIFICATIONS BY WORLD REGIONS 2000 - 2008



OVERVIEW OF TOTAL EXCHANGES IN 2008



THE COMMISSION'S RASFF TEAM MEMBERS ARE:

From left to right:
Anna Mlynarczyk, Nathalie De Broyer, Jan Baele, José Luis De Felipe, Magdalena Havlíková, Albena Ilieva, Paola Ferraro, Adrianus ten Velden.

European Commission

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