Any information related to the safety of food and feed products which has not been communicated as an ‘alert’ or a ‘information’ notification, but which is judged interesting for the control authorities, is made available by the Commission to the members of the network as a ‘news’ notification.

***RASFF WEEKLY ON LINE***

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm

The Commission is now publishing a weekly overview of alert and information notifications. In doing so, it is necessary to strike the balance between openness and protection of commercial information. Therefore trade names and the identity of individual companies are not published. This way of proceeding 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 give more information than what is published here. However, in circumstances where the protection of human health requires greater transparency, the Commission takes the necessary actions through its usual communication channels.
**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 can take the necessary measures.

The Commission must inform a third country in the following circumstances:

- if it is known that a product subject to an alert notification has been exported to that country
- or
- when a product originating from that country has been the subject of a notification, so as to allow it to take corrective measures and thus avoid repetition of the problem.

Participation in the rapid alert system may be opened to European Union applicant countries, third countries or international organisations, on the basis of agreements, in accordance with the procedures defined in those agreements. The latter shall be based on reciprocity and shall include confidentiality measures equivalent to those applicable in the Community.