



RASFF
NEWS

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.

Legal basis for the RASFF

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down the procedures in matters of food safety

Article 50

1. A rapid alert system for the notification of a direct or indirect risk to human health deriving from food or feed is hereby established as a network. It shall involve the Member States, the Commission and the Authority. The Member States, the Commission and the Authority shall each designate a contact point, which shall be a member of the network. The Commission shall be responsible for managing the network.

2. Where 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 shall be immediately notified to the Commission under the rapid alert system. The Commission shall transmit this information immediately to the members of the network.

The Authority may supplement the notification with any scientific or technical information, which will facilitate rapid, appropriate risk management action by the Member States.

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

- 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;
- 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;
- 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.

The notification shall be accompanied by a detailed explanation of the reasons for the action taken by the competent authorities of the Member State in which the notification was issued. It shall be followed, in good time, by supplementary information, in particular where the measures on which the notification is based are modified or withdrawn.

The Commission shall immediately transmit to members of the network the notification and supplementary information received under the first and second subparagraphs.

Where a batch, container or cargo is rejected by a competent authority at a border post within the European Union, the Commission shall immediately notify all the border posts within the European Union, as well as the third country of origin.

4. Where a food or feed which has been the subject of a notification under the rapid alert system has been dispatched to a third country, the Commission shall provide the latter with the appropriate information.

5. The Member States shall immediately inform the Commission of the action implemented or measures taken following receipt of the notifications and supplementary information transmitted under the rapid alert system. The Commission shall immediately transmit this information to the members of the network.

6. Participation in the rapid alert system may be opened up to applicant countries, third countries or international organisations, on the basis of agreements between the Community and those countries or international organisations, 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.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Health and Consumer Protection
Directorate-General

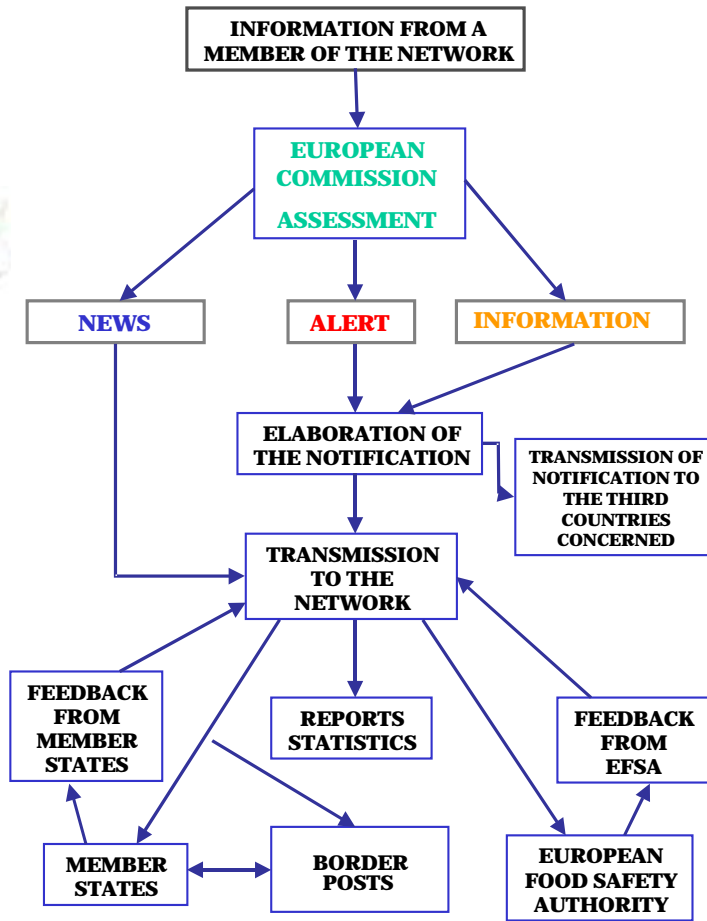
RAPID ALERT SYSTEM
RASFF
FOR FOOD AND FEED



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



FLOW-CHART FOR TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION



VERY URGENT
ALERT NOTIFICATION : year/number code
ORIGINAL NOTIFICATION
 SUBJECT :

INFORMATION EXCHANGE
INFORMATION NOTIFICATION : year/letter code
ORIGINAL NOTIFICATION
 SUBJECT :

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.

Information notifications

Information notifications concern a food and 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. They prevent attempts to import them through another point of entry, thus avoiding the placing on the market of a food or feed which presents a risk to the consumer.