

5 June 2024

URN: IMPEN24017

Letter category: Imported Food

Classification: Official

Priority type: Digest

Notification: Hygiene / Standards / Imports / Feed

Keywords: EWS, RASFF, Early Warning, Feed, Food

For feed and food law enforcement, port health authorities in England, industry, and any other interested parties

Early Warning System (EWS) for Imported Food & Feed, April 2024 and Recurring Warning System (RWS) May 2023 to April 2024

Summary: Recent results based on the analysis of EU RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) notifications for imports of food and feed both from outside and inside the EU; other international intelligence gathered via the FSA's Signal Prioritisation dashboard; and since January 2021 UK Border Notifications (BNs) issued when unsatisfactory imports are rejected at UK ports or found inland. Awareness of these findings can assist enforcement officers and others' sampling programmes.

Dear colleagues,

Please bring this letter to the attention of all relevant officers in your authority and/or other interested parties if appropriate. The EWS priority ranking (high/medium/lower) is based on the level of health risk in the product, the extent of risk to the population as a whole based on consumption, and extent of benefits of sampling.

Early warning system for imported food & feed
RASFFs non-EU food & feed not of animal origin (FNAO)
& products of animal origin (POAO)
Period covered: May 2023 to April 2024

Product	Country of origin	Hazard	RASFFs in last year	RASFFs in last 6 months	RASFFs in last month	Issued by/ EU risk (S)=serious (UD)=undecided (NS)=not serious	Priority (High/ Medium /Lower)
Almonds	USA	Aflatoxin B1	10	4	4	Poland [3] Spain All (S)	High

Groundnuts	Paraguay	Aflatoxin B1	17	16	3	Netherlands (S)	High
Walnut kernels	USA	<i>Salmonella</i>	5	3	1	Germany via The Netherlands (S)	Medium
Shrimp/prawns (frozen)	Ecuador	<i>Vibrio vulnificus</i>	33	3	1	Italy (S)	Medium
Shrimp/prawns	India	Veterinary residues	5	2	2	Belgium & Germany (S)	Medium
Shrimp/prawns	Vietnam	Veterinary residues	8	3	1	Belgium (S)	Medium
Raisins	Uzbekistan	Ochratoxin A	8	2	1	Latvia (S)	Medium
Dried figs	Türkiye	Ochratoxin A	14	12	1	Italy (S)	Medium
Peppers (sweet)	Morocco	Pesticide residues	4	4	2	Spain (S)	Lower
Strawberries (frozen)	Egypt	Pesticide residues	8	8	2	Belgium (S) Germany (potentially serious)	Lower
Shrimp/prawns (cooked)	Venezuela	Sulphite	7	5	2	Italy (S) Portugal (NS)	Lower
Chicken meat preparations, salted	Brazil	<i>Salmonella</i>	13	5	2	Netherlands (S) Germany (potentially serious)	Lower
Chicken (frozen)	Ukraine via Slovakia	<i>Salmonella</i>	15	6	1	Czech Rep (NS)	Lower

RASFFs for non-EU commodities not controlled by UK/GB but now being controlled by EU legislation:

Product	Country of origin	Hazard	RASFFs in last year	RASFFs in last 6 months	RASFFs in last month	Issued by / EU risk (S)=serious (UD)=undecided (NS)=not serious	Priority (High/Medium/Lower)
Pistachios	USA via Türkiye	Aflatoxin B1	16	7	1	Italy (S)	High
Sesame seeds	Türkiye	<i>Salmonella</i>	6	3	2	Greece & Spain (S)	Medium

Cumin	Türkiye	Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs)	13	5	2	Bulgaria & France (S)	Medium
Oregano	Türkiye	Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs)	15	9	1	France (S)	Medium
Grapefruit (fresh)	Türkiye	Pesticide residues	11	9	2	Bulgaria & Romania (S)	Lower

**RASFFs non-EU banned FNAO
Period covered: April 2024**

Product	Country of origin	Hazard	Comments
Jelly balls for bubble tea	China	Unauthorised additive konjac (choking hazard)	RASFF 2024.3300 from Ireland (S)
Noodles	China	Illegal imports: undeclared allergen egg (= 0 > 1 mg/kg - ppm) and bovine DNA	RASFF 2024.2645 from Italy (S)
Noodles	China	Illegal imports: presence of swine, bovine and chicken DNA	RASFF 2024.2614 from Italy (potential risk)
Noodles (artificial pork bone soup flavour)	China	Illegal imports: presence of swine DNA	RASFF 2024.2643 from Italy (NS)
Noodles	China	Undeclared swine, bovine and chicken DNA	RASFF 2024.2764 from Italy (NS)
Condiment	China via Hong Kong	Illegal imports: presence of chicken DNA	RASFF 2024.2660 from Italy (potential risk)
Savoury soy-based snacks	China	Illegal imports: presence of DNA from poultry, bovine, porcine and chicken species	RASFF 2024.3201 from Italy (potential risk)

**RASFFs food & feed from the EU,
food & feed not of animal origin (FNAO) & products of animal origin (POAO)
Period covered: November 2023 to April 2024**

Product	Country of origin	Hazard	RASFFs in last 6 months	RASFFs in last month	Issued by/ EU risk (S)=serious (UD)=undecided (NS)=not serious	RT*	Priority (High/Medium/Lower)
Chicken (fresh) (chilled) (frozen)	Poland	<i>Salmonella</i>	33	12	[2] France [2] Latvia [1] Czech Rep, [1] Italy, [1] Poland All (S);	N	High

					Lithuania (potentially serious); Czech Rep & Poland (potential risk); Bulgaria & Poland (NS)		
Poultry meat (fresh)	Poland	<i>Salmonella</i>	14	4	[3] Poland [1](S), [2] (potential risk); [1] Bulgaria (potential risk)	N	High
Turkey	Poland	<i>Salmonella</i>	5	2	Poland (S)	N	High
Cheese: (raw milk) Comte (goat)	France	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	15	3	France (S)	Y	High
Cheese: Gorgonzola	Italy	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	6	2	France Germany (S)	Y	High
Cheese: (goat, raw milk), Brie de Meaux	France	<i>E. coli</i> STEC	9	3	Italy, France & Germany All (S)	Y	Medium
Eggs	The Netherlands	<i>Salmonella</i>	5	3	Netherlands [2] (S) [1] (NS)	?	Lower
Oysters (chilled)	France	Norovirus	25	1	Belgium (potentially serious)	Y	Lower
Oysters	The Netherlands	Norovirus	12	6	[1] Italy (S); [2] Belgium & [2] Italy (potentially serious); [1] Italy (potential risk)	Y	Lower
Chicken (fillet meat) (day old broiler flocks)	The Netherlands	<i>Samonella</i>	14	2	France (S); Romania (potential risk)	N	Lower
Duck (frozen)	Hungary	<i>Salmonella</i>	8	1	Italy (potentially serious)	N	Lower

Swordfish (defrosted)	Spain	Mercury	14	2	Italy & Spain (S)	n / a	Lower
Tuna (loins) (bluefin) (fillets) (frozen)	Spain	Mercury	9	4	Italy (S)	n / a	Lower

*RTE = ready to eat (Yes / No)

**UK Border Notifications (BNs), non-EU
food & feed not of animal origin (FNAO) & products of animal origin (POAO)
Period covered: May 2023 to April 2024**

Product	Country of origin	Hazard / Risk decision (S)=serious (UD)=undecided (NS)=not serious	BNs last year	BNs last 6 months	BNs last month	Priority High/Medium/Lower
Donkwa (snack)	Nigeria	(UD) Aflatoxin B1	2	2	2	High
Kuli Kuli (snack)	Nigeria	(UD) Aflatoxin B1	3	3	2	High
Suya spice	Nigeria	(UD) Aflatoxin B1	2	1	1	High
Drinks w/ gel granules: Original crystal balls	China	(S) Food additives: konjac flour	4	1	1	Medium
Tapioca pearls	Taiwan	(UD) Food additives: konjac (E425)	14	7	1	Medium
Taro powder	Taiwan	(UD) Food additives: erythrosine (E127)	2	2	1	Lower
Custard Lady B	Nigeria	(UD) Food additives: sunset yellow	2	2	1	Lower
Soft drinks: Miranda orange	India	(UD) Food additives: calcium disodium (EDTA)	2	1	1	Lower
Pan masala / Heera moti (spice)	India	(NS) Food additives not permitted on spices	1	1	1	Lower
Tea	China (via Morocco & Sri Lanka)	(UD) Pesticide residues (failed documentary checks)	8	7	2	Lower

Everyday sweet dreams dog treats (pet food)	South Africa	(S) Aflatoxin B1	1	1	1	Lower
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Other alerts on commodity/country/hazard combinations to watch out for:

Product	Country of origin	Hazard	Comment
Eggs	Poland	<i>Salmonella</i>	No notifications issued but various alerts & outbreaks
Raisins (dried grapes)	Türkiye	STEC	No notifications issued but various alerts & outbreaks
Melons (including cantaloupe)	Brazil Mexico	<i>Salmonella</i>	No notifications issued but various alerts & outbreaks
Enoki mushrooms	Taiwan Thailand Vietnam	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	No notifications issued but various alerts received
Biscuits & chickpea snacks	India Pakistan Bangladesh	Undeclared allergens: milk, nuts	No notifications issued but various alerts received

Seasonal food imports to watch out for pesticides

Product	Country of origin	Comments
Kai Lan	China	July is the peak month for pesticide failures
Cherries	Turkey	July is the peak month for pesticide failures
Carrots	Egypt	July is the peak month for pesticide failures
Papayas	Brazil	August is the peak month for pesticide failures
Oranges	Argentina	August is the peak month for pesticide failures
Mangoes	Bangladesh	July & August are the peak months for pesticide failures.

UK Health Security Agency

Imported food & feed issues – April 2024

263 samples tested from 22 countries (12 EU and 10 non-EU countries) of which the following gave cause for concern:

Product	Country of origin	No. of samples	Organism	Result
Chicken (frozen raw)	Ukraine	29 (from 11 consignments)	<i>Salmonella</i>	Detected in 25g
Enoki mushrooms	China	5 (from 1 consignment)	<i>Listeria</i> species	1.4x10 ³ cfu/g 8.6x10 ³ cfu/g

				2.1x10 ³ cfu/g 2x Detected in 25g
Romaine lettuce	South Africa	1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	1.2x10 ² cfu/g
Parsley	South Africa	1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	3.7x10 ³ cfu/g
Baby frisee (whole)	South Africa	1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	7.0x10 ² cfu/g
Curly endive	South Africa	1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	1.8x10 ² cfu/g
Celery	South Africa	1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	7.2x10 ² cfu/g
Iceberg lettuce	South Africa	1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	20 cfu/g
Sheep's cheese, pasteurised	Romania	1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	>1.1x10 ³ mpn/g
Cow's cheese, pasteurised	Romania	1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	>1.1x10 ³ mpn/g
Goat's cheese, pasteurised	Spain	1	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	1.9x10 ² mpn/g

FSA Signal prioritisation dashboard / Prevention-Signals team

Date: May 15, 2024

Issue: Food Poisoning Bulletin article on the June 2024 report by US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Emerging Infectious Diseases arguing that one-third of food outbreaks in the US are linked to non-irradiated foods.

[One-Third of Food Outbreaks Linked to Non-Irradiated Food \(foodpoisoningbulletin.com\)](https://www.foodpoisoningbulletin.com)

Date: May 14, 2024

Issue: Food Safety News article reporting that scientists have traced the source of a multi-year Listeria outbreak in Finland to ready-to-eat, plant-based food products, including fava beans.

[Fava beans linked to Listeria outbreak in Finland | Food Safety News](#)

Date: May 14, 2024

Issue: The Food Fact online article reporting that swine fever is advancing among the wild boars' population in Italy, just a few kilometres from pig farms, to include the provinces of Parma, Pavia and Novara and Milan.

[Swine fever: failure of institutions \(says EU\) \(ilfattoalimentare.it\)](https://www.ilfattoalimentare.it)

Date: May 13, 2024

Issue: Food Safety News article reporting that consultation feedback shows lack of support for planned EU Listeria rules changes concerning ready-to-eat (RTE) food.

[Feedback shows lack of support for planned EU Listeria changes | Food Safety News](#)

Date: May 10, 2024

Issue: Food Safety News article reporting about the latest Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food work on lead levels, ciguatera, and tropane alkaloids, and future

sampling plans for methylmercury in fish and aflatoxin and ochratoxin in certain spices.

[Codex meeting covers heavy metal levels and Ciguatera | Food Safety News](#)

Recurring Warning System

The Recurring Warning System (RWS) is a periodic list of country / commodity / hazard combinations that have been repeatedly listed on the monthly FSA imports Early Warning System (EWS) and are therefore no longer considered an “early” warning. This is when issues have generated 10 or more RASFFs in the last year or 6 or more in the last six months. **From January 2024 RWS also includes GB BNs (Border Notifications) typically when 4/5 or more have been issued in the last year or 3 or more in the last six months.** Some commodities which meet these conditions may also be kept on EWS if it is felt that this will encourage traders to comply. The RWS priority ranking is based on the level of health risk of the product, the extent of risk to the population based on amount of consumption, and the extent of benefits of sampling.

May 2024 issue

RWS – RASFFs non-EU food & feed not of animal origin (FNAO) & products of animal origin (POAO) Period covered: May 2023 to April 2024

Product	Country of origin	Hazard	RAS FFs in the last year	RASF Fs in the last 6 months	EU risk (S)=Serious (UD)=Undecided (NS)=Not serious	Priority High/Medium/Lower
Almonds	USA	Aflatoxin B1	10	4	All (S)	High
Groundnuts	Paraguay	Aflatoxin B1	17	16	All (S)	High
Pistachios	USA	Aflatoxin B1	8	4	All (S)	High
Shrimp/prawns	Ecuador	<i>Vibrio cholerae/vulnificus</i>	33	3	[13] (S), [4] (potentially serious), [14] (potential risk), [2] (NS)	Medium
Dried figs	Türkiye	Ochratoxin A	14	12	[12] (S), [2] (potentially serious)	Medium
Chicken	China	Unauthorised substance chlorate	25	25	[19] (S), [6] (potentially serious)	Lower
Chicken	Thailand	Unauthorised substance chlorate	19	1	[18] (S) [1] (NS)	Lower
Strawberries	Egypt	Pesticide residues	8	8	[7] (S)	Lower

					[1] (potentially serious)	
Chicken	Brazil	<i>Salmonella</i>	13	5	[6] (S), [3] (potentially serious) [1] (potential risk), [3] (NS)	Lower
Chicken	Ukraine	<i>Salmonella</i>	15	6	[3] (S), [1] (potentially serious), [11] (NS)	Lower
Sunflower cake/meal (feed)	Ukraine	<i>Salmonella</i>	7	7	[2] (potentially serious), [2] (potential risk), [3] (NS)	Lower

RASFFs for non-EU commodities not controlled by UK/GB but now being controlled by EU legislation:

Product	Country of origin	Hazard	RASFFs in the last year	RASFFs in the last 6 months	EU risk (S)=Serious (UD)=Undecided (NS)=Not serious	Priority High/Medium/Lower
Pistachios	USA (via Türkiye)	Aflatoxin B1	16	7	All (S)	High
Cumin	Türkiye	Pyrrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs)	13	5	[11] (S) [1] (potentially serious), [1] NS	Medium
Oregano	Türkiye	Pyrrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs)	15	9	[12] (S), [2] (potentially serious), [1] (potential risk)	Medium
Beans (black-eyed)	Madagascar	Pesticide residues	12	2	[5] (S), [5] (potentially serious), [2] (potential risk)	Lower
Grape/vine leaves	Egypt	Pesticide residues	14	3	[12] (S), [2] (potential risk) [1] (UD)	Lower
Grapefruit	Türkiye	Pesticide residues	11	9	[7] (S), [2] (potentially serious), [1] (NS), [1] (no risk)	Lower

**RWS – RASFFs food & feed from the EU,
food & feed not of animal origin (FNAO) & products of animal origin (POAO)
Period covered: May 2023 to April 2024**

Product	Country of origin	Hazard	RAS FFs in last year	RASF Fs in last 6 months	EU risk (S)=Serious (UD)=Undecided (NS)=Not serious	Priority High/Medium/Lower
Chicken	Poland	<i>Salmonella</i>	99	33	[55] (S), [8] (potentially serious), [9] (potential risk), [27] (NS)	High
Poultry meat	Poland	<i>Salmonella</i>	29	14	[19] (S) [1] (potentially serious) [3] (potential risk), [6] (NS)	High
Turkey	Poland	<i>Salmonella</i>	10	5	[6] (S) [2] (potential risk), [2] (NS)	High
Cheese (various)	France	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	25	15	[25] (S)	High
Cheese (various)	France	<i>E. coli</i>	16	9	[14] (S) [2] (potentially serious)	Medium
Oysters	France	Norovirus	29	25	[10] (S), [17] (potentially serious) [1] (potential risk), [1] (NS)	Lower
Oysters	The Netherlands	Norovirus	12	12	[4] (S), [7] (potentially serious) [1] (potential risk)	Lower
Swordfish	Spain	Mercury	21	14	[18] (S), [3] (potentially serious)	Lower
Tuna	Spain	Mercury	14	9	[14] (S)	Lower
Chicken	The Netherlands	<i>Salmonella</i>	30	14	[24] (S) [4] (potential risk), [2] (NS)	Lower

**UK Border Notifications (BNs) & other alerts, non-EU food & feed not of animal origin (FNAO) & products of animal origin (POAO)
Period covered: May 2023 to April 2024**

Product	Country of origin	Hazard	BNs in the last year	BNs in the last 6 months	GB risk (S)=Serious(UD)=Undecided(NS)=Not serious	Priority High/Medium/Lower
Peanuts	Paraguay	Aflatoxin B1	4	4	UD (3) S (1)	High
Kuli kuli	Nigeria	Aflatoxin B1	3	3	UD (3)	High
Banku mix powder	Ghana	Aflatoxin B1	3	1	UD (2) S (1)	High
Calabash chalk	Nigeria	Heavy metals: arsenic, lead	2	2	S (2)	High
Dried beans (also in powder)	Nigeria	Banned commodity for pesticides	5	3	UD (1) S (4)	High
Jelly confectionery (various types)	Taiwan	Food additives: mostly konjac; acesulfame (E950)	8	5	UD (7) NS (1)	Medium
Bubble drinks (various types)	Taiwan	Food additives: konjac, sodium stearoyl lactate (E481);	5	1	UD (4) NS (1)	Medium
Bubble tea products (various types)	China	Food additives: mostly konjac & sodium erythorbate (E316)	4	2	UD (1) NS (1) S (2)	Medium
Long/green beans	India	Pesticide residues	4	2	UD (4)	Lower
Soft drinks (Fanta)	Nigeria	Food additives: sunset yellow; benzoic acid	14	8	UD (8) NS (3) S (3)	Lower
Soft drinks (various)	UAE	Food additives: calcium disodium (EDTA); benzoic acid	5	3	NS	Lower

Please contact Imported Food team by email: Imported.Food@food.gov.uk if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

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