The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

Paris 3 October 2008

José Luis De Felipe
RASFF Head of Sector
European Commission
What is RASFF?

- Legal basis: Articles 50-52 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (food law)
- Information on food and feed which present a risk to the health of consumers.
Members of the RASFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Poland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Iceland
Norway
Liechtenstein

European Food Safety Authority
European Commission
EFTA Surveillance Authority
Alert Notifications

- Food or feed for which a serious risk has been identified
- Product is on the market
- Immediate action is required by members of the network
Informations Notifications

- Food or feed for which **a serious risk has been identified** but no rapid action required on the product

Or

- **Not a serious risk** but useful for food/feed control in other member countries
Border Rejections Notifications

Any rejection, related to a direct or indirect risk, of a batch, container or cargo of food or feed at a border post
News Notifications

- Information related to the safety of food/feed
- Not communicated as an ‘alert’ or an ‘information’
- But judged interesting for the control authorities
Criteria for notification

- Food and feed for which exists a direct or indirect risk to human health
- Since 2006 also animal health and environmental threat for feed: this includes pet food!
- Basis is EU legislation or if not harmonised: national legislation
Criteria for notification

- Prohibited substances or ingredients
- Unauthorised substances or ingredients
- Exceeding of legal limits
- Unauthorised establishment for food of animal origin
- Unauthorised novel food / GM food
- Physical risk (foreign bodies)
- Incorrect labelling implying health risk
- Other risk based on risk assessment
SANCO RASFF

MEMBER STATES
- monitoring plans

FVO
- Emergency missions
- Priority missions

DG SANCO
- Pistachios Iran
- Peanuts Egypt
- Animal products from China

OTHER DG’S
- DG TREN
- Radioactivity mushrooms

THIRD COUNTRIES

Decisions

Regulation
More notifications than ever before, due to an increased follow-up to original notifications. On average 1.5 follow-up notifications per original notification.
Worldwide RASFF
(in cooperation with WHO-Infosan)
RASFF trainings

**Activities:**
- workshops (3 days, 60 participants on average)
- support assistance (as from next year)

**Aim:**
- Explaining the principles of the RASFF with a view to
  - Better cooperate in exchange of information with TC
  - Discuss the desirability of and requirements for setting up similar systems in other world regions
Programme 2007

3 workshops

- **Argentina** for Central and South American countries
- **Thailand** for Asean Countries (ARASFF project)
- **China**
Programme 2008

3 workshops

- **Morocco** for African countries
- **Indonesia** for Asean countries (Arasff project)
- **Turkey** for candidate and neighbouring countries
Programme 2009-2010

- **3 workshops**
  - Africa
  - Middle East
  - Asean Countries

- **support assistance** in 3-4 Third Countries
For more information

- [http://ec.europa.eu/food/training/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/training/index_en.htm)
- [http://www.foodinfo-europe.com/](http://www.foodinfo-europe.com/)
### Week 2008/6

**TABLE 1: ALERT NOTIFICATIONS**

Notifications in blue typeface concern feed, all other notifications concern food.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NOTIFIED BY</th>
<th>REF.</th>
<th>REASON FOR NOTIFYING</th>
<th>NOTIFICATION BASIS</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/02/2008</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>2008.01</td>
<td>Salmonella (3 out of 5 samples; 3 out of 5 samples /25g) and Salmonella poona in ground black pepper from Hungary</td>
<td>company's own check</td>
<td>distribution on the market (possible) / public warning - press release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/02/2008</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2008.01</td>
<td>migration of DINP - di-isononyl phthalate (695; 240 mg/kg - ppm) from lid of jars containing curry paste from Thailand, via the Netherlands</td>
<td>official control on the market</td>
<td>distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/02/2008</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2008.01</td>
<td>bacterial contamination and bulging packaging of canned black olives in brine from Spain</td>
<td>official control on the market</td>
<td>distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) withdrawn from sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/02/2008</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>2008.01</td>
<td>undeclared sulphite (63; 61 mg/l) in vinegar from France</td>
<td>official control on the market</td>
<td>distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) relabelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/02/2008</td>
<td>the United Kingdom</td>
<td>2008.01</td>
<td>foreign body (yellow rubber pieces - up to 30 x 45 mm) in crisps from the United Kingdom</td>
<td>company's own check</td>
<td>distribution on the market (possible) / public warning - press release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/02/2008</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>2008.01</td>
<td>migration of 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane (1.09; 0.39; 0.48 mg/dm²) from nylon kitchen tongs from China, via the Netherlands</td>
<td>official control on the market</td>
<td>distribution on the market (possible) / product (to be) recalled from consumer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Annual Report 2007
Publications and details on the RASFF can be found at the website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/rapid alert/index_en.htm