

Issue | April 2024



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

In April, 521 new notifications were registered on Safefood-Online. This is a slight increase of 16 notifications compared to March. See point 1 for the monthly evaluation.

"News on pesticides and contaminants" (point 2) provides information about 3 regulations on new maximum levels for pesticide residues and presents the EU report 2022 on pesticide residues. We also inform on the regulations published in April on amended or new maximum levels for deoxynivalenol and T-2/HT-2 toxin.

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has published a statement on bisphenol F in mustard and the Chemical and Veterinary Investigation Office Freiburg has presented the test results on dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

News on the topics about food safety and food fraud can be found under points 3 and 4.

In Germany, "Stiftung Warentest" tested 58 canned foods for bisphenol A, 51 samples showing evidence of bisphenol A.

In the Safefood-Online Newsletter April 2023, we reported on a [BfR statement on bisphenol A](#) and pointed out that the BfR does not share EFSA's assessment and proposes a limit value that is 1,000 times higher (0.2 micrograms instead of 0.2 nanograms). Stiftung Warentest has assessed the bisphenol A results on the basis of the proposed guideline values by BfR and EFSA. According to the EFSA guideline values, all 51 samples are highly contaminated; according to the BfR guideline values, 14 samples are significantly to highly contaminated.

In this context, we also refer to the [EFSA and BfR report](#) on the differing views of the updated bisphenol A assessments.



Report on diverging views between EFSA and BfR on EFSA updated bisphenol A assessment

We hope that also this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter is interesting for you and we are of course looking forward to your opinion.

Your Safefood-Online Team

1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: April 2024

In April, the number of new notifications in Safefood-Online increased significantly compared to the previous months:

- **April 2024:** 521
- March 2024: 505
- February 2024: 440

The notifications from April 2024 are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 124
- Border rejections: 165
- Information messages: 232

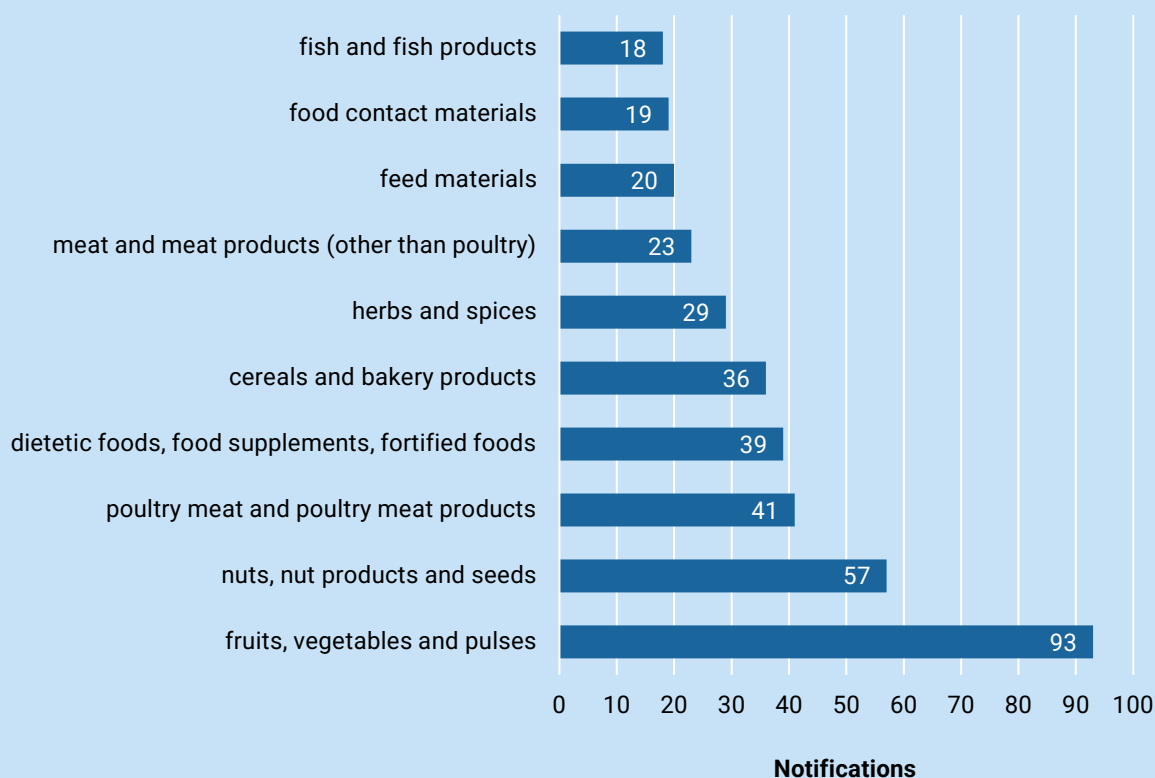


Note:

Only the RASFF notifications are included in the comparison, as the notifications from the EU Monthly Food Fraud Summary Report are not published until the middle of the following month.

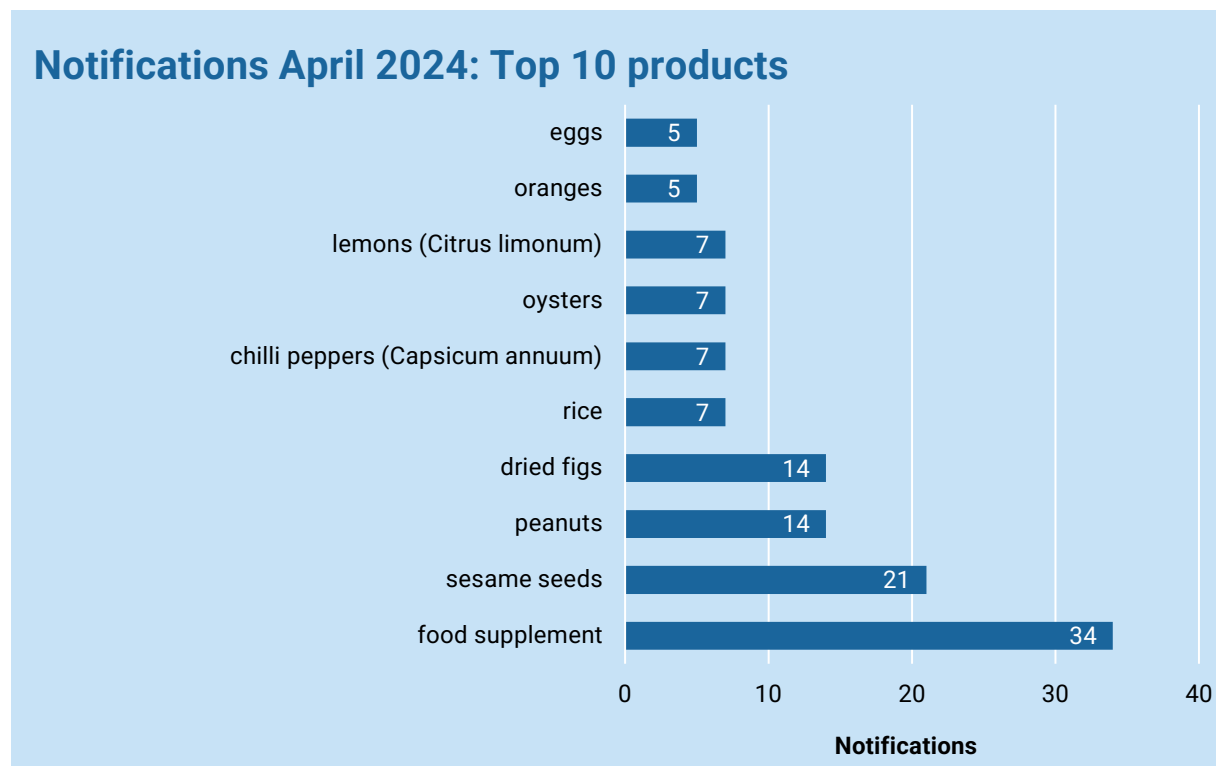
The product category fruit, vegetables and pulses is in first place in the evaluation by product category with 93 notifications. 55 notifications concerned findings of pesticides. Notifications concerning chlorpyrifos have decreased: 13 compared to 30 in March. The product category nuts, nut products and seeds followed in second place with 57 notifications, including 22 notifications concerning aflatoxins and 18 notifications due to missing or insufficient certificates for sesame seeds (17) and peanuts (1). The countries of origin were Sudan and Nigeria. The product category poultry meat and poultry meat products followed in third place with 41 notifications:

Notifications April 2024: TOP 10 product categories

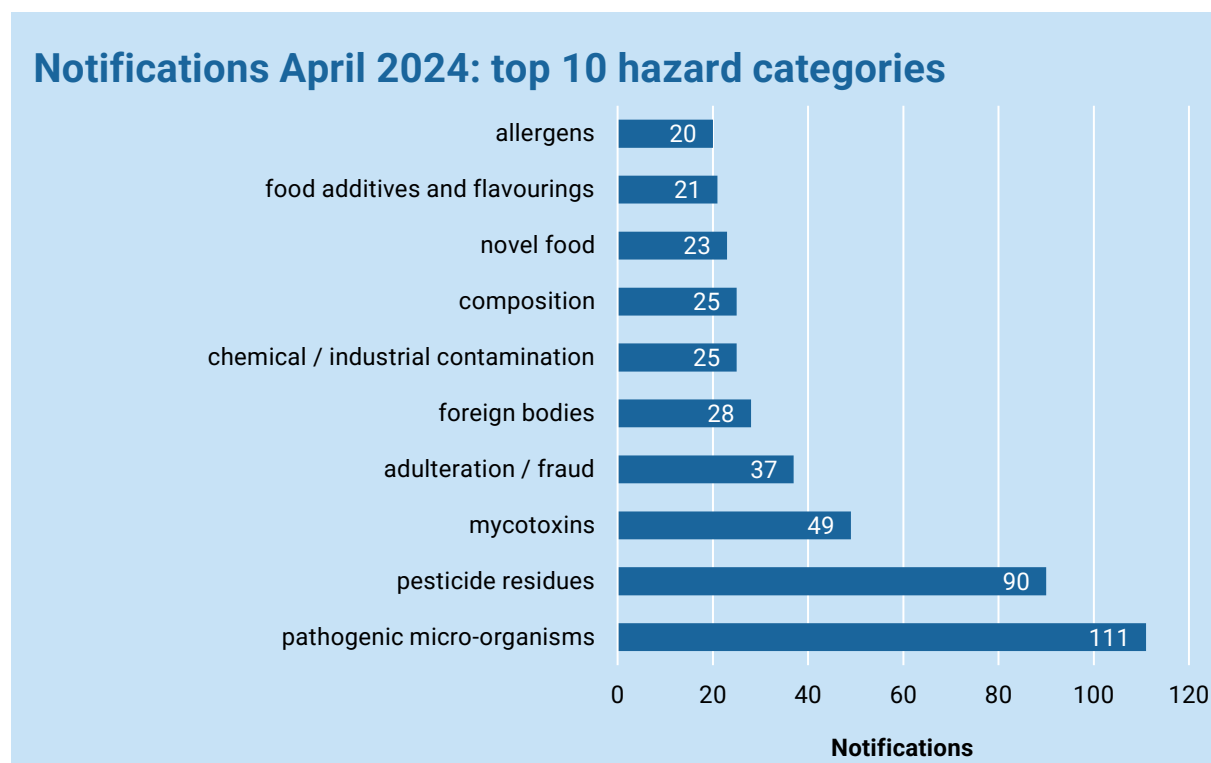


1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: April 2024

In April, food supplements once again topped the list in the evaluation by product with 34 notifications. Sesame seeds and peanuts follow in second and third place with 21 and 14 notifications:

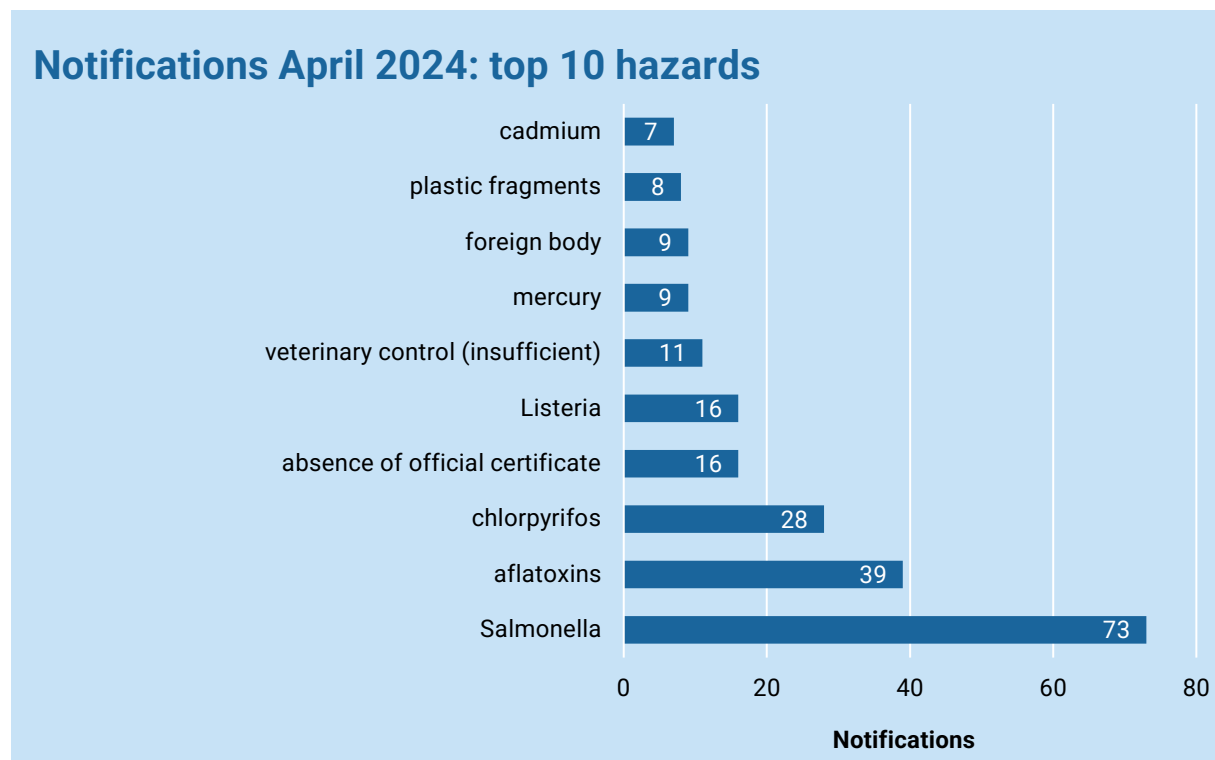


In the evaluation of notifications by hazard category, there was no change in the ranking compared to March. In April, pathogenic micro-organisms are on place 1 with 111 notifications, followed by pesticides with 90 notifications and mycotoxins with 49 notifications:

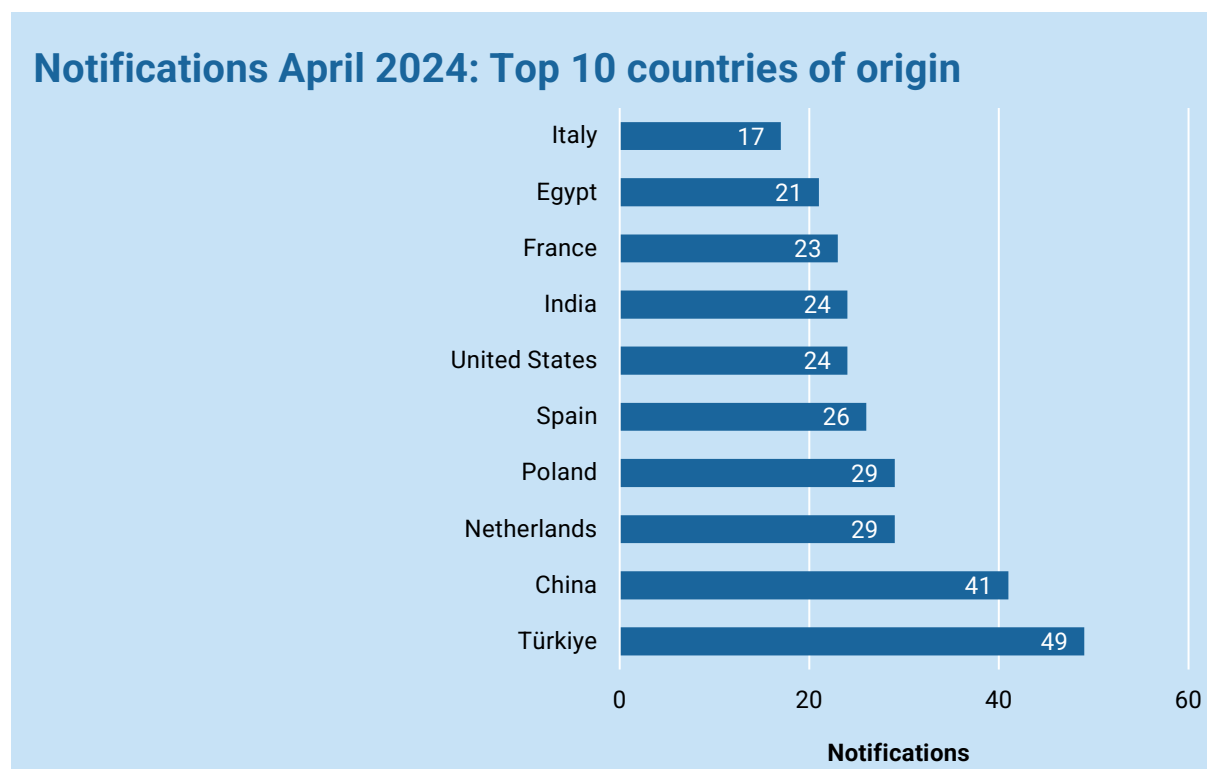


1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: April 2024

In terms of hazards, salmonella ranks first with 73 notifications, followed by aflatoxins and chlorpyrifos with 39 and 28 notifications:



Finally, the evaluation of the notifications according to the country of origin of the products:



Türkiye ranks first according to the origin of the products with 49 notifications, followed by China and Poland with 41 and 29 notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



Regulation (EU) 2024/1077

[Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1077](#) of April 16, 2024, amended Annex II to Regulation (EC) 396/2005 on maximum residue levels for:

- 2,4-DB
- Iodosulfuron-methyl
- Mesotrione
- Pyraflufen-ethyl

in or on certain products. The new maximum levels apply from November 6, 2024.

For further information, please refer to the linked regulation text.

Regulation (EU) 2024/1076

With [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1076](#) of April 15, 2024, Annexes II and V of Regulation (EC) 396/2005 were amended with regard to the maximum residue levels of:

- Bispyribac
- Metosulam
- Oryzalin
- Oxasulfuron
- Triazoxide

modified in or on certain products. The Regulation was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on April 16, 2024, enters into force on the 20th day following its publication and is directly applicable in all Member States.

For further information, please refer to the linked regulation text.

Regulation (EU) 2024/1078

On April 16, 2024, [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1078](#) amending Annexes II and IV to Regulation (EC) 296/2005 as regards the maximum levels of:

- Azoxystrobin
- Flonicamid
- Isofetamide
- Menefentrifluconazole
- Metazachlor
- Pyrimethanil
- Quartz sand

in or on certain products was published. The regulation enters into force on the 20th day after publication and is directly applicable in each member state

For further information, please refer to the linked text of the regulation.

EU-report on pesticide residues in food for 2022

The [annual report 2022 on pesticide residues in food](#) was published in the EFSA Journal in April 2024. In 2022, 96.3% of the 110,829 samples analysed were below the maximum residue limit (MRL), 3.7% were above the MRL. 2.2% were non-compliant, i.e. the results exceeded the MRL even after taking measurement uncertainty into account.

Bisphenol A in mustard

On April 19, 2024, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) published a [statement on bisphenol F](#) in mustard: adverse health effects still unlikely despite data gaps.

New maximum levels for Deoxynivalenol (DON) und T-2/HT-2 Toxin

In the Safefood-Online Newsletter February 2024, we presented the draft regulations on the new maximum levels for deoxynivalenol and T-2/HT-2 toxin. The corresponding regulations were published in the Official Journal of the European Union on April 9, 2024.

- Deoxynivalenol:
Regulation (EU) 2024/1022

In addition to the reduction for some product categories, there are now also maximum levels for the following product categories:

- maize for popping and popcorn
- Pre-cooked polenta, ready-to-eat
- Food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children

- T-2/HT-2 toxin
Regulation (EU) 2024/1038

Previously, there was only an **EU Commission Recommendation 2023/165/EU** for T-2/HT-2 toxin with indicative levels for cereals and cereal products.

With Regulation (EU) 2024/1038 there are now maximum levels for the following product groups:

- Unprocessed cereals
- Cereals for the final consumer
- Milling products
- bakery products, pasta, cereal snacks and breakfast cereals
- Baby food and processed cereal-based food for infants and young children
- Food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children

The new maximum levels for both mycotoxins will apply from July 1, 2024. The foods named in both regulations and legally placed on the market before July 1, 2024 may remain on the market until the expiry of the best-before or use-by date.



Food Safety

- 🕒 Case reports of tropane alkaloid contamination in spinach from Italy and its potential implications for consumer health
- 🕒 Disease burden of food-related pathogens in the Netherlands, 2022
- 🕒 Salmonella infections in Denmark from 2013–2022 with focus on serotype distribution, invasiveness, age, sex, and travel exposition
- 🕒 Campylobacteriosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2019 Surveillance report
- 🕒 Factors that contribute to persistent Listeria in food processing facilities and relevant interventions: A rapid review
- 🕒 The number of Campylobacter cases reported in 2023 in Austria remained stable compared to the year before, according to recently released statistics.
- 🕒 Microbiological quality of raw beef imported into the European Union from third countries
- 🕒 Risk assessment of grilled and barbecued food
- 🕒 Danish Salmonella outbreak grows; linked to ground meat
- 🕒 Many of the most commonly farmed and consumed fish in the EU/EFTA show no evidence of parasites that can infect humans. However, parasites were found in some farmed species and more data is needed to determine how prevalent certain parasites are in farmed fish.
- 🕒 Prosciutto produced in Germany and distributed in the U.S. recalled over lack of inspection
- 🕒 ECDC/EFSA: Prolonged multi-country outbreak of Listeria monocytogenes ST1607 linked to smoked salmon products



Food Fraud

- 🕒 Food fraud is a growing economic and health issue – but AI and blockchain technology can help combat it
- 🕒 Raw juice from unlicensed firm recalled in New Zealand
- 🕒 Determination of tartrazine in fake saffron
- 🕒 Understanding and mitigating fraud risks in the retail, leisure, and food & beverage industries
- 🕒 US: FDA-Report on Economically Motivated Adulteration in Honey
- 🕒 Discrimination of food adulteration by means of PCR and FTIR
- 🕒 Laut einer Untersuchung der Initiative for Community Development and Forest Conservation (IDEF) sollen Kakaobohnen, die in die EU exportiert wurden nicht aus der Elfenbeinküste stammen. Die Kakaobohnen sollen auf abgeholzten Landflächen in Liberia angebaut worden sein
- 🕒 The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is issuing a public health alert for imported frozen catfish products that were illegally imported from the People's Republic of China and are ineligible for entry into the United States.
- 🕒 Risk management and risk communication of an illegal use of sulphites in meat preparations

Agri-Food Report February/ March 2024

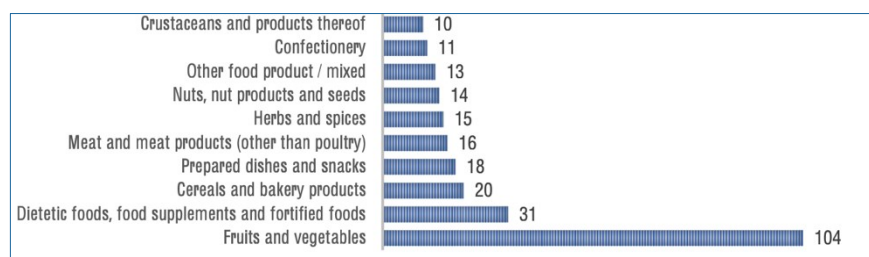


In the last Safefood Online Newsletter, we presented the [first edition of the EU Agri-Food Fraud Report](#). Currently, the reports for February and March are available. The reports contain notifications from the iRASSF that have been classified as "suspicious" (official controls, rejections at the border, complaints from whistleblowers and media reports). Not included are "suspected cases" that were not reported outside the country of origin. The monthly reports contain notifications on food, feed and food contact materials, animal welfare issues in farm animals, plant protection products, veterinary medicinal products and other substances that can lead to residues and contamination in food and feed (see also for further information the [Safefood Online Newsletter March 2024](#)).

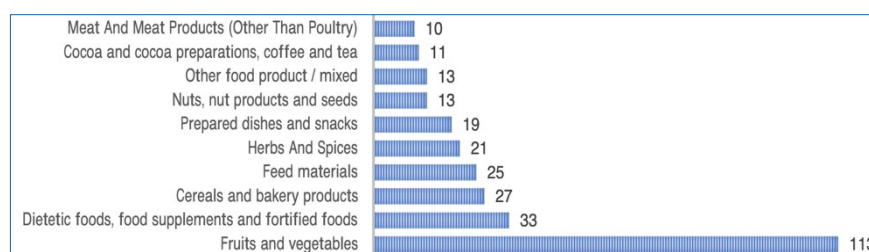
Compared to January and February 2024, the number of suspected cases increased also in March:

- **March 2024: 345 suspected cases**
- February 2024: 317 suspected cases
- January 2024: 277 suspected cases

Below are the product categories with ≥ 10 suspected cases for February 2024:



and for March 2024:



Feedback

Please forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:
info@safefood-online.de

For further information, please refer to the [pages of the European Commission](#).



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