

Issue | May 2024

NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

After 521 new notifications in April on Safefood-Online, the number of new notifications in May dropped by 70 to 451. The evaluations can be found under point 1.

In May, 5 regulations with new or amended maximum residue levels for pesticides were published (see point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants").

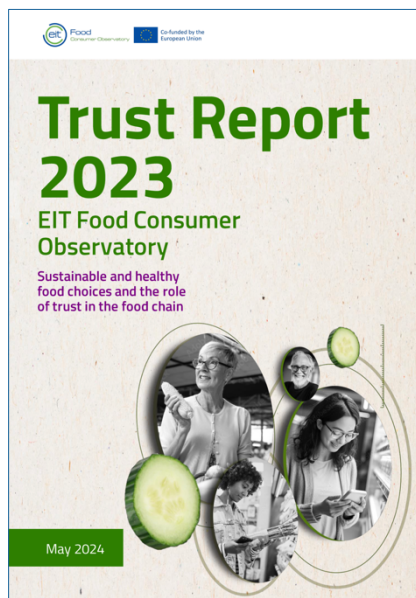
We also provide information on the new statement of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) regarding methylmercury in fish and seafood and aquatic toxins.

News around food safety and food fraud can be found under points 3 and 4.

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has published the "[Trust Report 2023](#)".

According to the report, fewer European consumers are making healthy and sustainable food choices than in the past. Consumer trust in the food

sector as a whole is also declining regarding its competency, openness and care of actors, such as farmers, manufacturers, authorities, restaurants and retailers.



Only a third (36%) of the 19.642 consumers surveyed believe that the food they eat is sustainable and less than half (44%) think it is healthy. However, more than half of respondents are confident about food safety.

The [EIT](#), based in Budapest (Hungary), is an institution of the European Union for strengthening innovation.

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: May 2024

Compared to April, the number of new notifications in Safefood-Online decreased in May:

- **May 2024:** 451
- April 2024: 521
- March 2024: 505

The notifications from May 2024 are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 86
- Border rejections: 184
- Information messages: 181

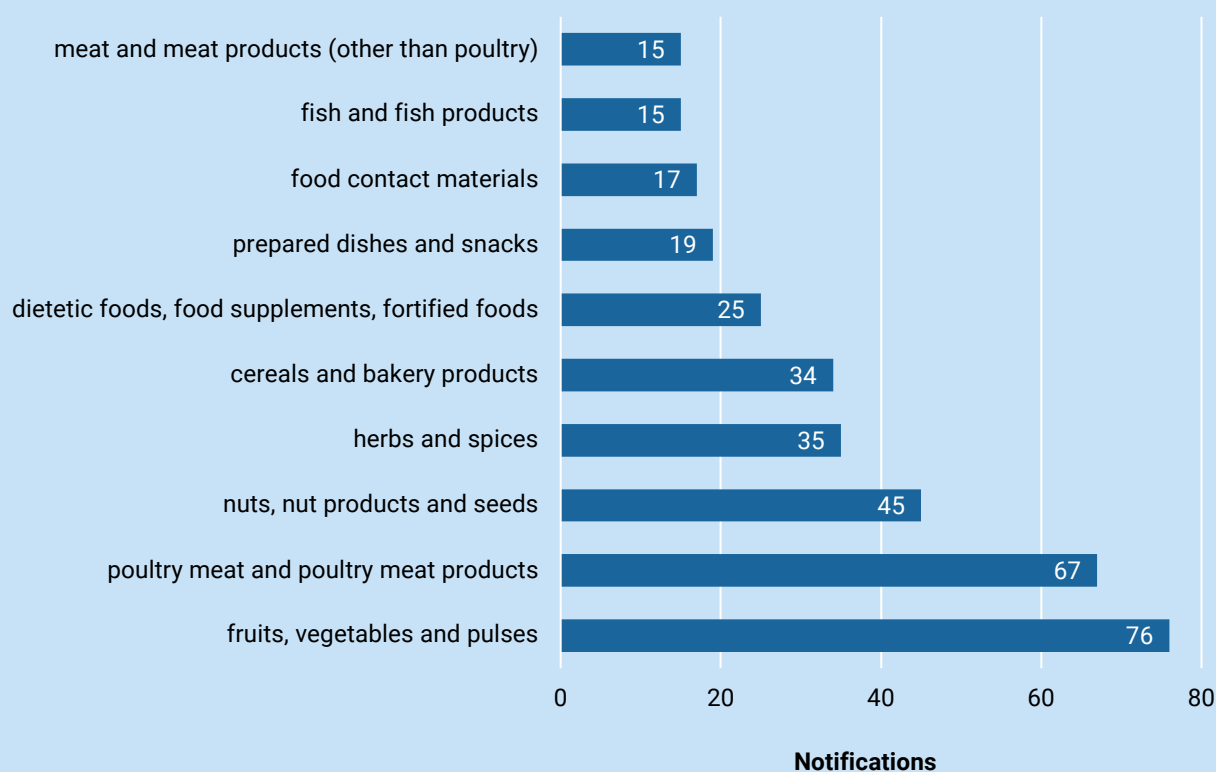


Note:

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 with 76 notifications. 47 notifications were due to pesticide residues. 13 of the 47 notifications concerned chlorpyrifos. The product category poultry meat and poultry meat products followed in second place with 67 notifications, 64 were due to salmonella. In 41 notifications the products came from Brazil. Nuts, nut products and seeds followed in third place with 45 notifications with 32 notifications due to mycotoxins. In 18 cases, the products (peanuts and almonds) came from the United States:

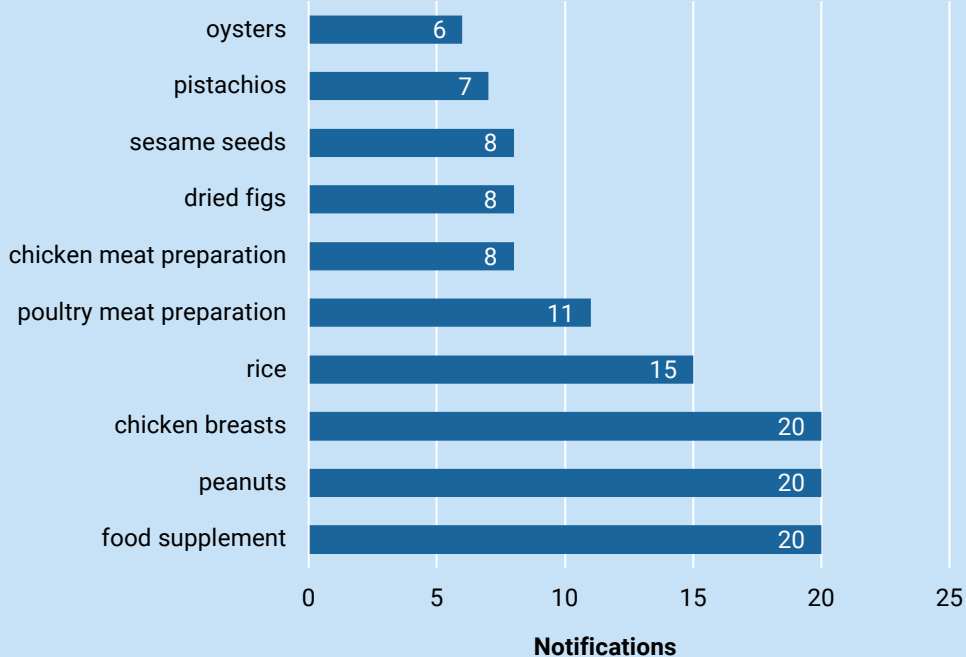
Notifications May 2024: Top 10 product categories



1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: May 2024

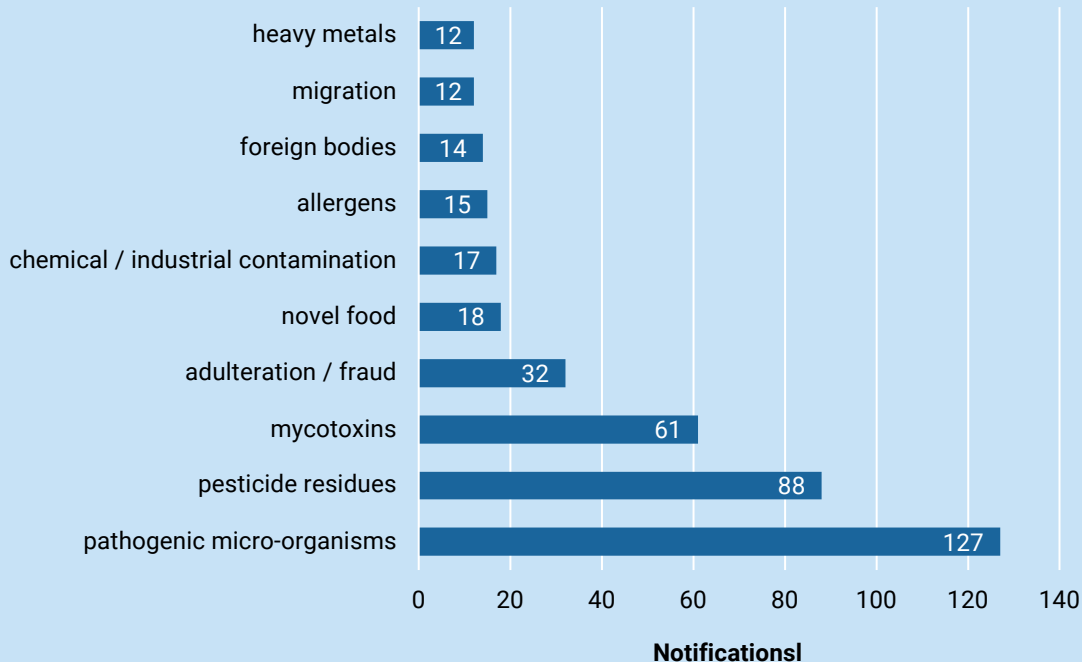
In May, dietary supplements, peanuts and chicken breast ranked first to third in the evaluation by product (each with 20 notifications):

Notifications May 2024: Top 10 products



Also in May 2024, we had the highest number of notifications in the hazard categories of pathogenic microorganism, pesticides and mycotoxins with 127, 88 and 61 notifications. Of the 127 notifications relating to pathogenic microorganisms, 87 were for salmonella, 15 for listeria and 5 for E. coli STEC/VTEC:

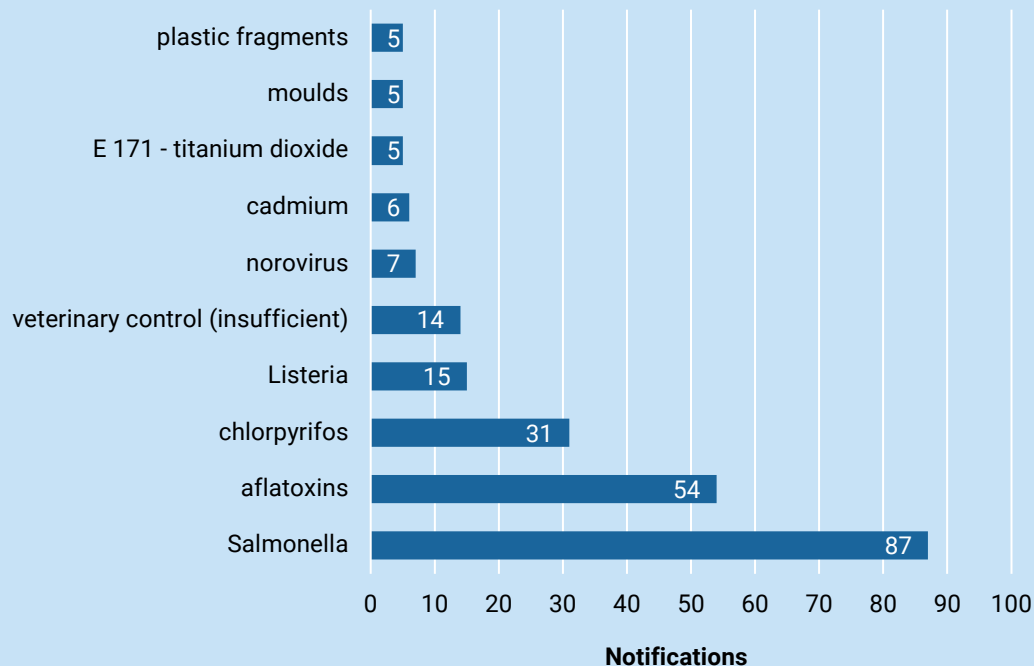
Notifications May 2024: Top 10: hazard categories



1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: May 2024

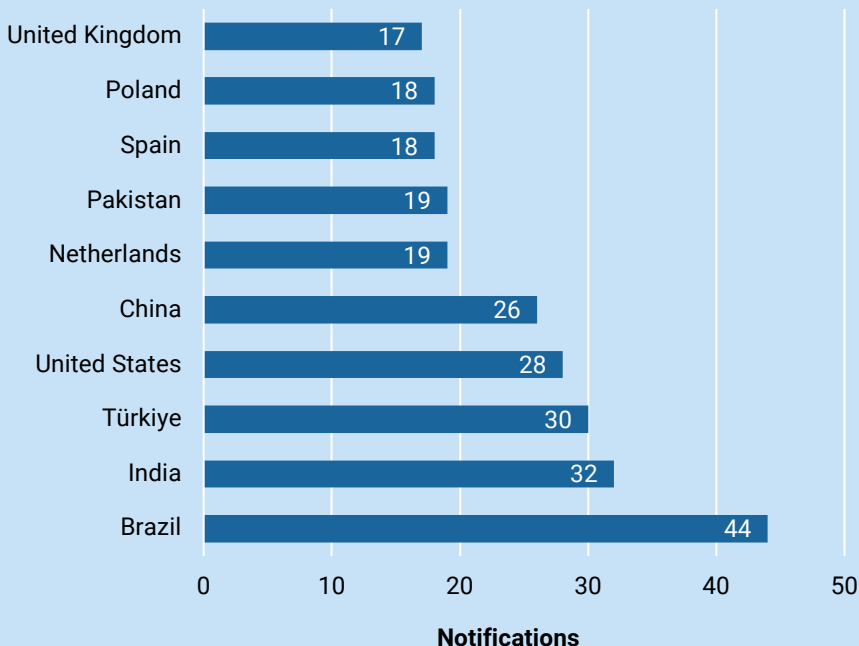
In terms of hazards, salmonella is in first place with 87 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 54 notifications and chlorpyrifos with 31 notifications. In 11 cases, the products came from India. Four products each from Türkiye and Egypt were affected:

Notifications May 2024: Top 10 hazards



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

Notifications May 2024: Top 10 countries of origin



Brazil ranks first according to the origin of the products with 49 notifications. It is followed by India and Türkiye with 32 and 30 notifications..

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



- Benzovindiflupyr
- Chlorantraniliprole
- Emamectin
- Quinclorac
- Spiromesifen
- Triflumuron

in or on certain products.

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

Regulation (EU) 2024/1318

Regulation (EU) 2024/1318 of May 15, 2024 amended Annex II to Regulation (EC) 396/2005 on maximum residue levels for:

- Prothioconazole

in or on certain products has been amended.

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

Regulation (EU) 2024/1314

Regulation (EU) 2024/1314 of May 15, 2024 amended Annex III to Regulation (EC) 396/2005 with regard to the maximum residue levels of:

- Dithianon

In or on certain products was amended.

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

Regulation (EU) 2024/1355

Regulation (EU) 2024/1355 of May 21, 2024 amended Annexes II, III and IV of Regulation (EC) 296/2005 with regard to the maximum levels of:

Regulation (EU) 2024/1342

Regulation 2024/1342 of May 21, 2024 amended Annex II of Regulation (EC) 396/2005 with regard to the maximum residue levels of:

- Deltamethrin
- Metalax
- Thiabendazole
- Trifloxystrobin

in or on certain products.

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

Regulation (EU) 2024/1439

Regulation 2024/1439 of May 27, 2024 introduces new or amended maximum residue levels in Annexes II and III of Regulation 396/2005 of:

- Fenazaquin
- Mepiquat
- Propamocarb

In or on certain products. For further information, please refer to the linked regulation text.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants

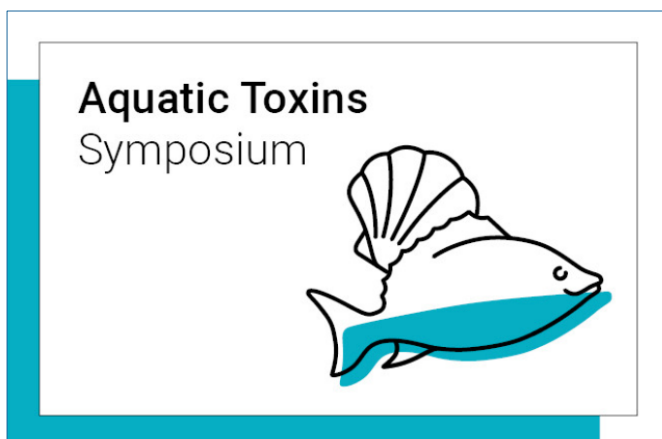
Statement on methylmercury in fish and seafood from the German Federal Institute for Risk assessment (BfR)

On May 28, 2024, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) published a health statement regarding methylmercury in fish and seafood based on new data from the BfR **MEAL study** (meals for exposure assessment and analysis of foods). According to this, the BfR sees no health risks for most consumers in Germany with an average consumption of fish and seafood. This assessment is based on the tolerable weekly intake (TDI) of 1,3 micrograms of methylmercury per kg body weight, which was determined by the EFSA.

Further details on the results and conclusions can be found in the **BfR statement**.

Aquatic toxins

Aquatic biotoxins are toxic substances that can be produced by algae, among other things. In a statement, the German BfR has explained how they can affect human health. A **symposium** on this topic entitled 'Aquatic Toxins' will be held in Berlin from 10-11 June 2024.



2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



Food Safety

- 🕒 Global wine production decrease 9,6% due to extreme climatic conditions
- 🕒 France: Buckwheat flour recalled after link to dozens of illnesses due to contamination with *Datura stramonium*
- 🕒 Raw meat-based diet for pets: a neglected source of human exposure to *Salmonella* and pathogenic *Escherichia coli*
- 🕒 Rapid detection of the source of a *Listeria monocytogenes* outbreak in Switzerland through routine interviewing of patients and whole-genome sequencing
- 🕒 Danish *Salmonella* outbreak traced to English beef
- 🕒 Saudi Arabia: Mayonnaise revealed as source of botulism outbreak
- 🕒 EU countries fail again to find agreement on gene edited plants patents
- 🕒 Switzerland. The owner of a dairy company that was behind a fatal *Listeria* outbreak has received a suspended prison sentence



- 🕒 Tackling mislabelling and food fraud with Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology
- 🕒 Thirteen organizations sign agreement to fight illegal seed practices
- 🕒 Food adulteration: Causes, risks, and detection techniques—review

Food Fraud

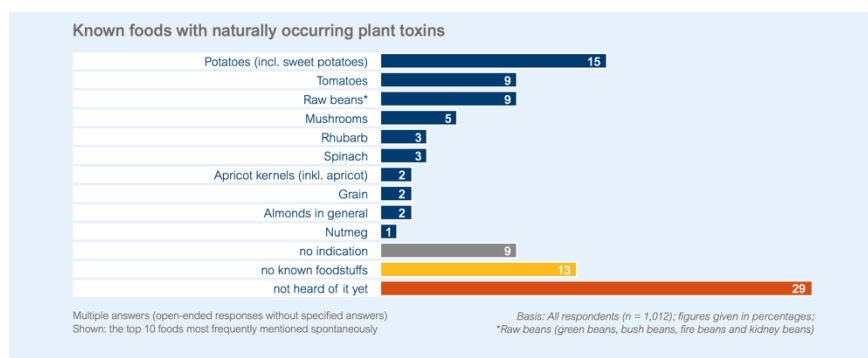
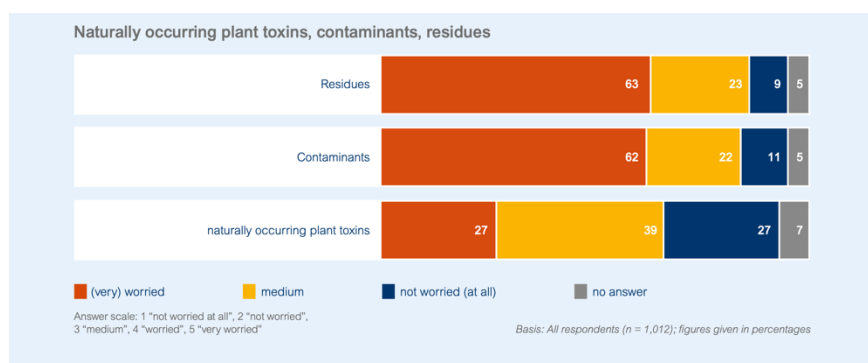
- 🕒 Protecting brand identity with “chemical fingerprints” of alcohol to tackle fraud
- 🕒 Portugal: A series of operations have revealed olive oil fraud, illegal slaughter activities, and water added to seafood
- 🕒 USA: Using case studies to inform risk assessment methodology
- 🕒 Food fraud threats in UK post-harvest seafood supply chains; an assessment of current vulnerabilities
- 🕒 Honey authenticity testing by LC-Orbitrap-HRMS
- 🕒 WTO-Guide: Illicit trade in food and food fraud

BfR Consumer Monitor 2024 Special: Naturally occurring, plant-based toxins



The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has published a special edition of the Consumer Monitor on the subject of natural toxins in food.

The conclusion of the survey is that almost half of the respondents are unaware of naturally occurring toxins in food and also consider the health risk posed by them to be significantly lower than residues of e.g. plant treatment products or contaminants.



Source: BfR Consumer Monitor 2024 | Special naturally occurring, plant toxins

Here is the [LINK](#) with all results of the Special Consumer Monitor 'Natural Toxins'.



Feedback

Please forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:
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