



Issue | June 2024



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

In June, we had 429 new notifications in Safefood Online. You can find the evaluation under point 1.

Under point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants") we present the final report of the Max Rubner Institute "Initial characterization of selected plant-based drinks with regard to their quality and microbiological and chemical safety" and inform about a statement with the conclusions of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) based on the data from the final report.

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

On June 7, 2024, the World Food Safety Day took place under the motto "Be prepared for the unexpected".

The World Health Organization (WHO) provides [further information](#) on its website.



In connection with the World Food Safety Day, an international conference on the topic of "Global commodity chains in risk assessment" was held at the German BfR from May 27 to 29, 2024.

The program of the event as well as abstracts of the presentations can be found [here](#). The presentations of the meeting are available on the [website](#) of the BfR.



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: June 2024

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

- **June 2024:** 429
- **May 2024:** 451
- **April 2024:** 521

The notifications from June 2024 are divided as follows:

- **Alert notifications:** 118
- **Border rejections:** 143
- **Information messages:** 168

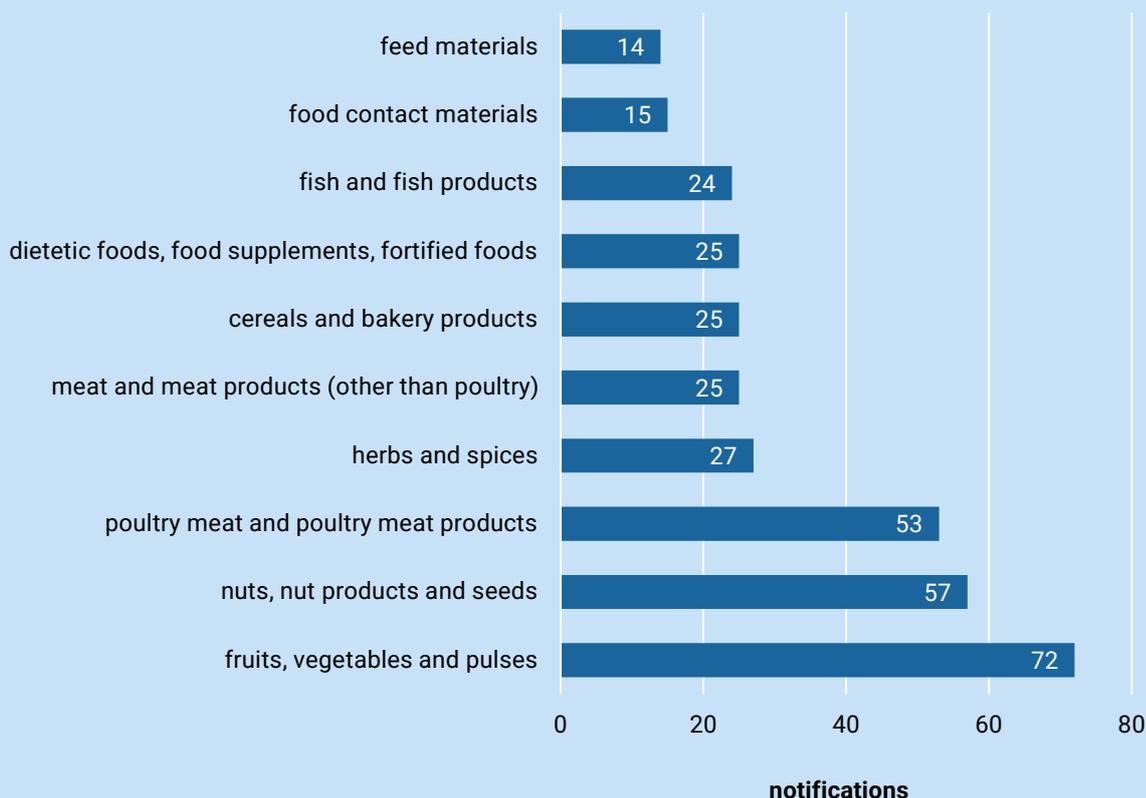


Note:

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.

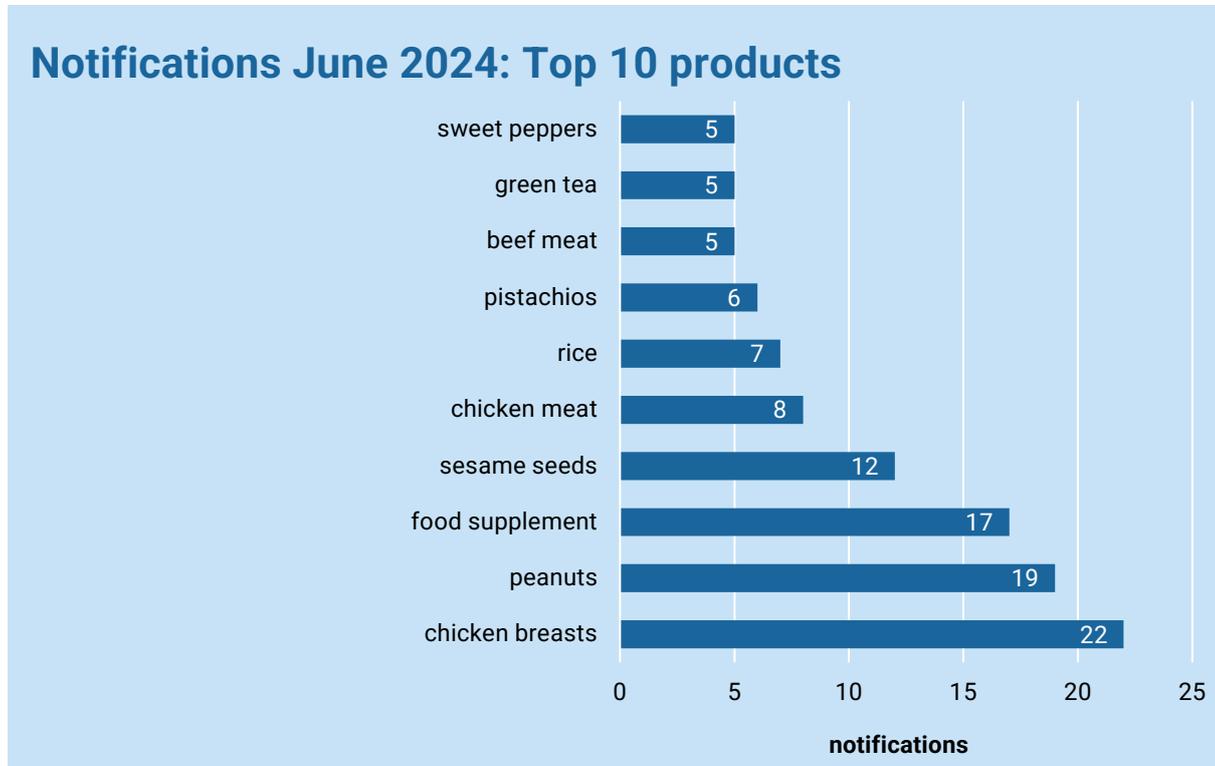
In June, the product category fruit, vegetables and pulses was again in first place with 72 notifications. 49 notifications concerned pesticide residues (with 11 notifications relating to chlorpyrifos). The product category nuts, nut products and seeds followed in second place with 57 notifications. 35 notifications were due to mycotoxin contamination. The product category poultry meat and poultry meat products was in third place with 53 notifications (49 notifications due to salmonella):

Notifications June 2024: Top 10 product categories

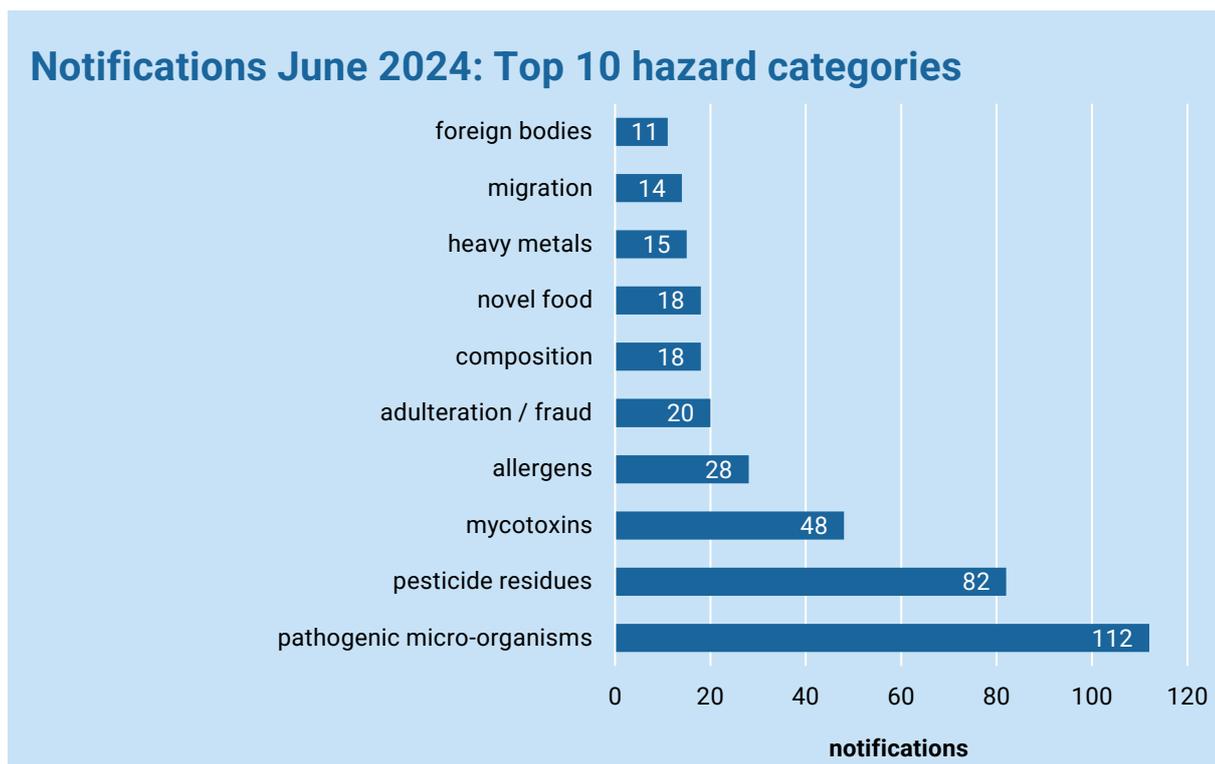


1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: June 2024

In June, chicken breasts are at the top of the evaluation by product. All notifications were due to salmonella findings and in 20 cases the products came from Brazil. Peanuts and food supplement are ranking second and third with 19 and 17 notifications:

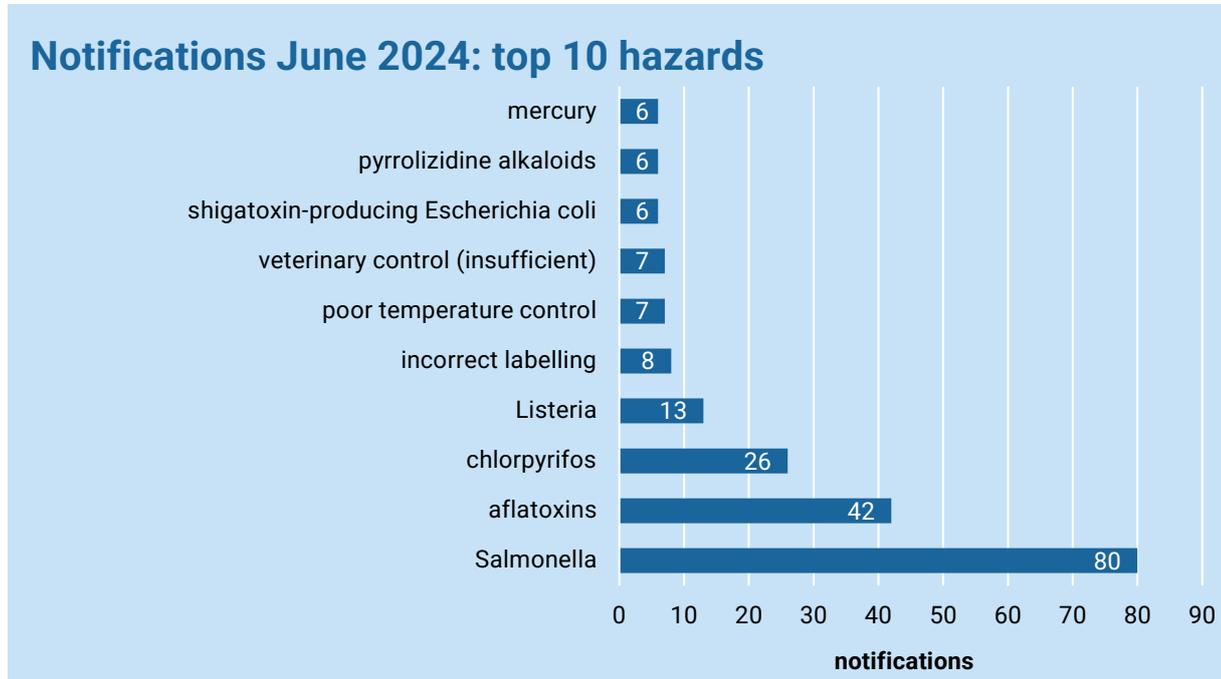


In the evaluation by hazard category, the pathogenic micro-organisms are again in first place with 112 notifications. Pesticides and mycotoxins are following with 82 and 48 notifications:

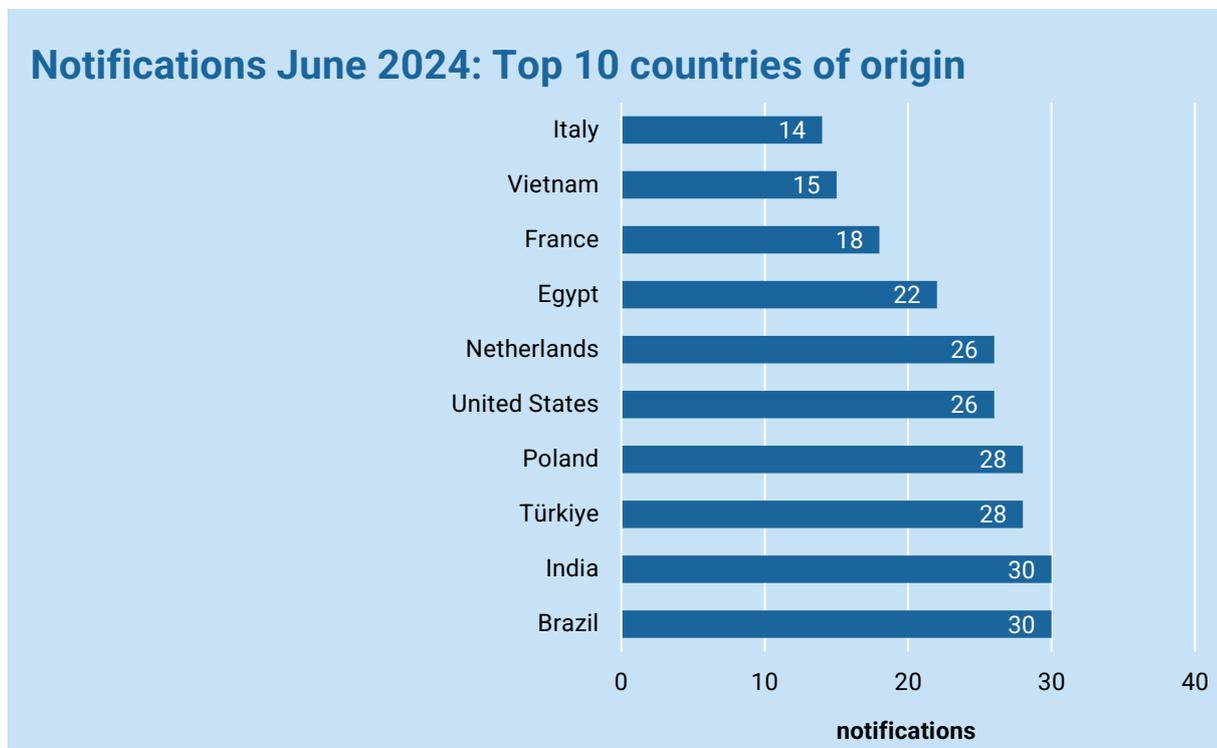


1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: June 2024

In the evaluation by hazards, salmonella are again in first place with 80 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 42 notifications and chlorpyrifos with 26 notifications:



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



Brazil and India are in first and second place each with 30 notifications, followed by Türkiye in third place with 28 notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



Mycotoxins in vegetable drinks

The German „Max Rubner Institute“ (Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food) tested a total of 36 oat, soy and almond drinks among other things for pesticide residues, mycotoxins and heavy metals (cadmium, nickel and lead) and published a final report entitled **"Initial characterization of selected plant drinks with regard to their quality and microbiological and chemical safety"**.



On the basis of the mycotoxin levels determined, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) assessed these findings from a health perspective in a statement **"Mycotoxins in plant-based drinks: more data required"**. For almond drinks, the BfR comes to the conclusion that "regular consumption with the aflatoxin levels found may cause health impairments with a medium probability of occurrence in children in the age group ½ to < 6 years". However, further representative data on mycotoxins in plant drinks is needed to better assess the health risks.



- 🕒 EU updates import controls for food of non-animal origin
- 🕒 Italy: GM rice in a field trial
- 🕒 Food security at forefront of Hungary's Council presidency priorities
- 🕒 Yellowfin Tuna recalled in California over high histamine levels

Food Safety

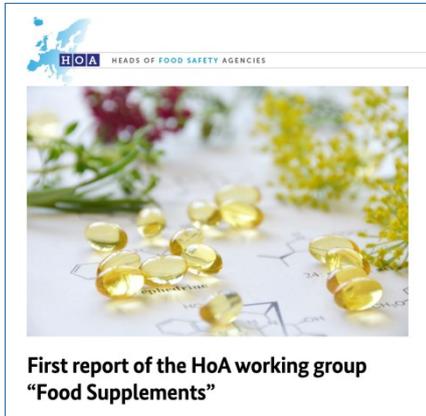
- 🕒 US: Recalled cucumbers may be source of ongoing Salmonella outbreak
- 🕒 Swiss Salt Study 2, second survey on salt consumption in Switzerland: Main results
- 🕒 CVUA Baden-Wurttemberg: Allergens in food - results 2023
- 🕒 German BfR: High capsaicin levels can present health risks
- 🕒 German BfR: R BfR: Do microplastic particles increase the risk of stroke?
- 🕒 BfR2GO-01/2024: children - at risk from an early age?
- 🕒 German BfR: Facts and figures 2023
- 🕒 EFSA: Scientific opinion on the tolerable upper intake level for iron



Food Fraud

- 🕒 [Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions: Report April 2024](#)
- 🕒 [EU: The European Commission has opened a call for applications for the setting up of a Honey Platform, which aims to harness best knowledge and expertise on honey quality and authenticity.](#)
- 🕒 [Irish Investigation Uncovers Horse Traceability Issues](#)
- 🕒 [Fish adulteration a growing food crime and public health concern](#)
- 🕒 [Repackaging and Recapping: The Threats and Risks of Beverage Corruption](#)
- 🕒 [Eu warns Norway poor organic salmon control opens door to Food Fraud](#)
- 🕒 [Ireland: Food safety authority took eight days to issue "rapid" EU alert on horse meat fraud](#)

Heads of Food Safety Agencies (HoA): first report of the HoA working group on food supplements



In 2019, the heads of the European Food Safety Agencies (HoA) decided to develop a concept for the handling and classification of "other substances with a nutritional or physiological effect" that are used in or as food supplements.

The background for this project was the fact that the use of substances other than vitamins and minerals with a nutritional or physiological effect is only partially harmonized within the EU. At EU level, regulations can only be found in Annex III of Regulation (EC) 1925/2006 on fortified foods and in Regulation (EC) 2017/2470 on authorized novel foods. In Germany, for example, there are also the non-legally binding **substance lists of the federal government and the federal states**.

The working group began its work in 2020. 24 EU member states as well as Norway and Switzerland are represented in the working group. **The first report of the HoA working group on food supplements** was presented at the meeting of the working group on June 6, 2024 in Brussels.

The report covers a total of 117 substances. According to the report, it can be assumed that 13 substances may pose a health risk, especially in the case of increased intake through food supplements. In the opinion of the HoA working group, many of the 117 substances are likely to be considered novel on the basis of the information available and should be forwarded to the EU working group on novel foods.



Feedback

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