

Issue | July 2024



# NEWS LETTER

## Dear Safefood-Online users,

In July, Safefood-Online recorded 449 new notifications. You can find the evaluations under point 1.

Point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants" informs about the EFSA report: "Risk assessment of small organic arsenic species in food". COCEROL (European association of trade in cereals, oilseeds, rice, pulses, olive oil, oils and fats, animal feed and agrosupply) published the COCEROL report 2023 on mycotoxins. The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) updated the questions and answers on ergot alkaloids in cereal products.

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

For the [second edition of the Consumer Monitor](#) in 2024, the German BfR collected data on perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFAS). According to the survey, the majority of the German population (61%) is unaware of these compounds in connection with potential health risks.



Source: "BfR Consumer Monitor 02|2024"

When asked about awareness of consumer health issues, microplastics (95%), e-cigarettes (95%) and genetically modified food (93%) were in the top 3 places.

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: July 2024

Compared to June, the number of new reports on Safefood-Online increased slightly again

- **July 2024:** 449
- June 2024: 429
- May 2024: 451

The notifications from July 2024 are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 105
- Border rejections: 131
- Information messages: 213

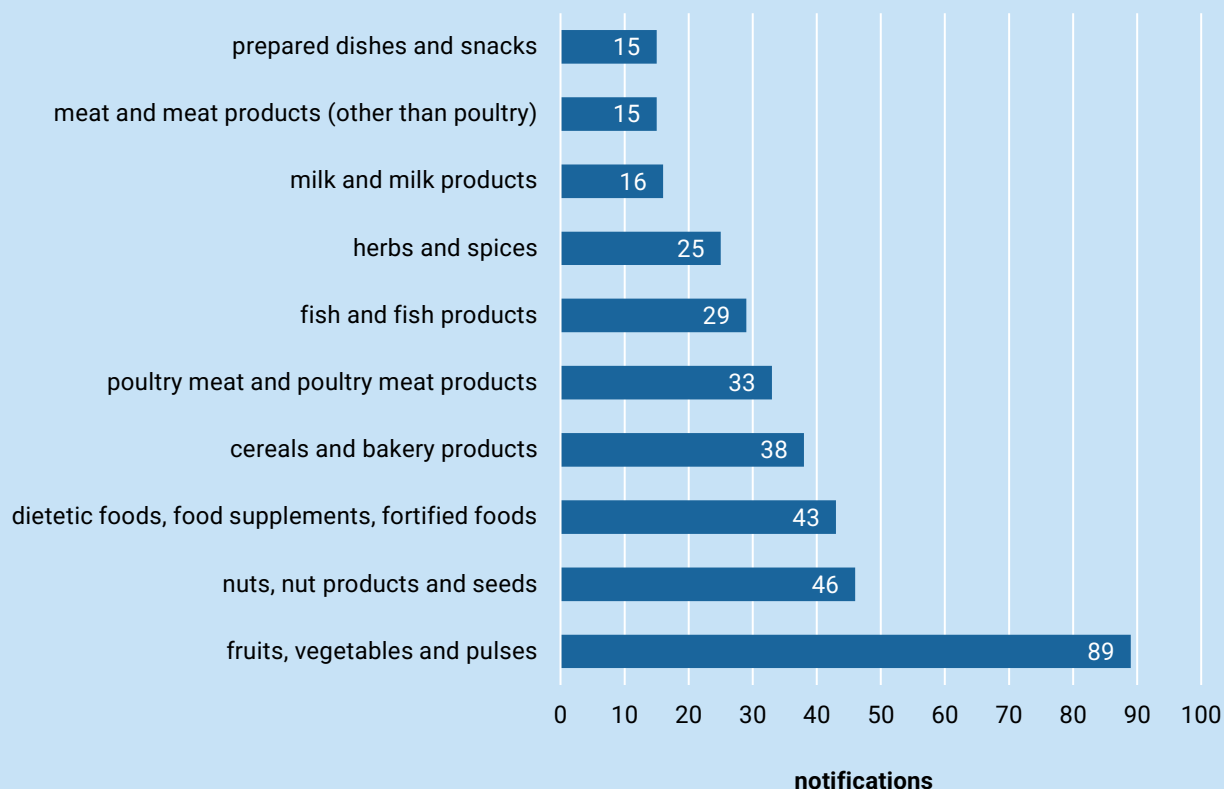


### Note:

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 July, the product category fruit, vegetables and pulses was again in first place with 89 notifications. 63 notifications were for pesticide residues (with 9 notifications for formetanate and 8 notifications for chlorpyrifos). The product category nuts, nut products and seeds followed in second place with 46 notifications, including 23 notifications for mycotoxins and 13 notifications for pathogenic micro-organisms. The product category dietary foods, food supplements and fortified foods is in third place with 43 notifications:

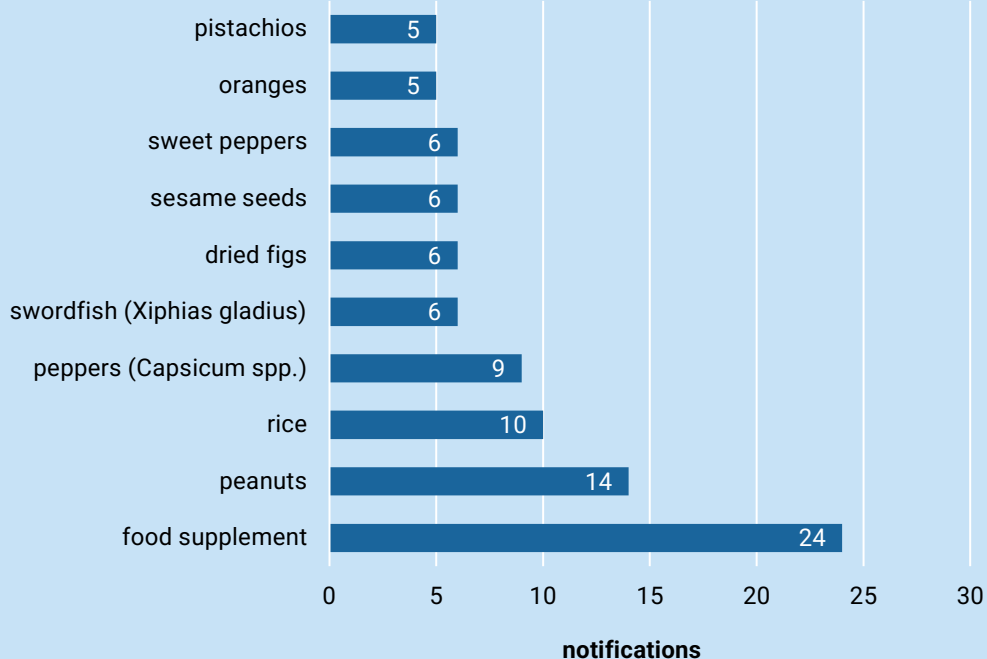
### Notifications July 2024: Top 10 product categories



## 1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: July 2024

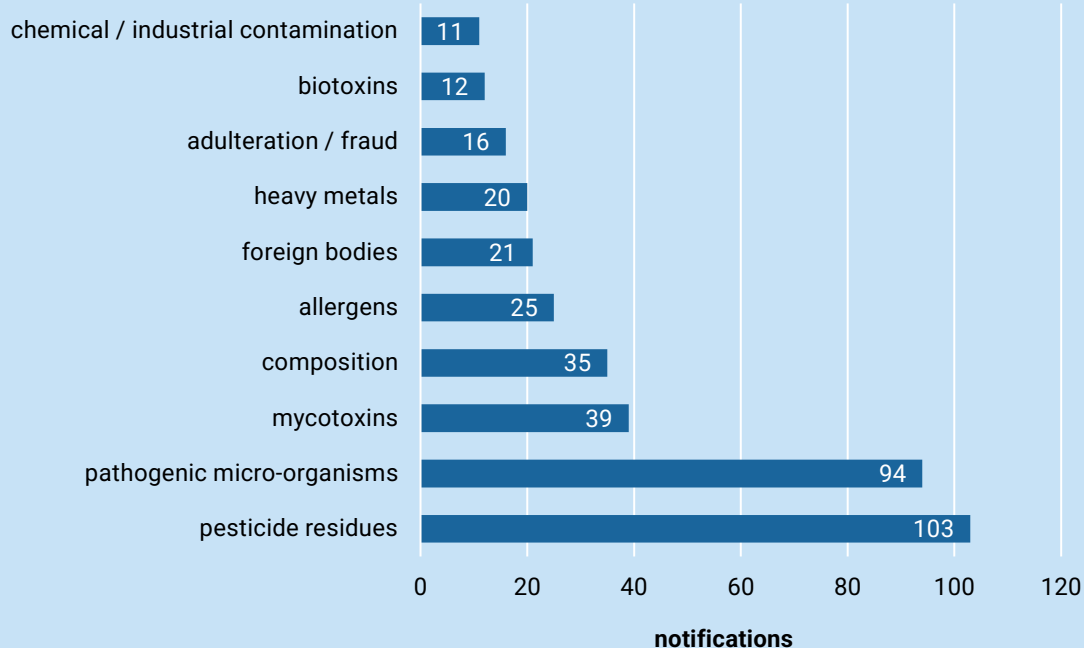
According to products, the highest number of notifications in July (24) concerned food supplements, followed by peanuts with 14 and rice with 10 notifications:

### Notifications July 2024: Top 10 products



By hazard category, pesticides are in first place with 103 notifications. In 21 cases, chlorpyrifos findings caused the notifications pathogenic micro-organisms and mycotoxins are following with 94 and 39 notifications:

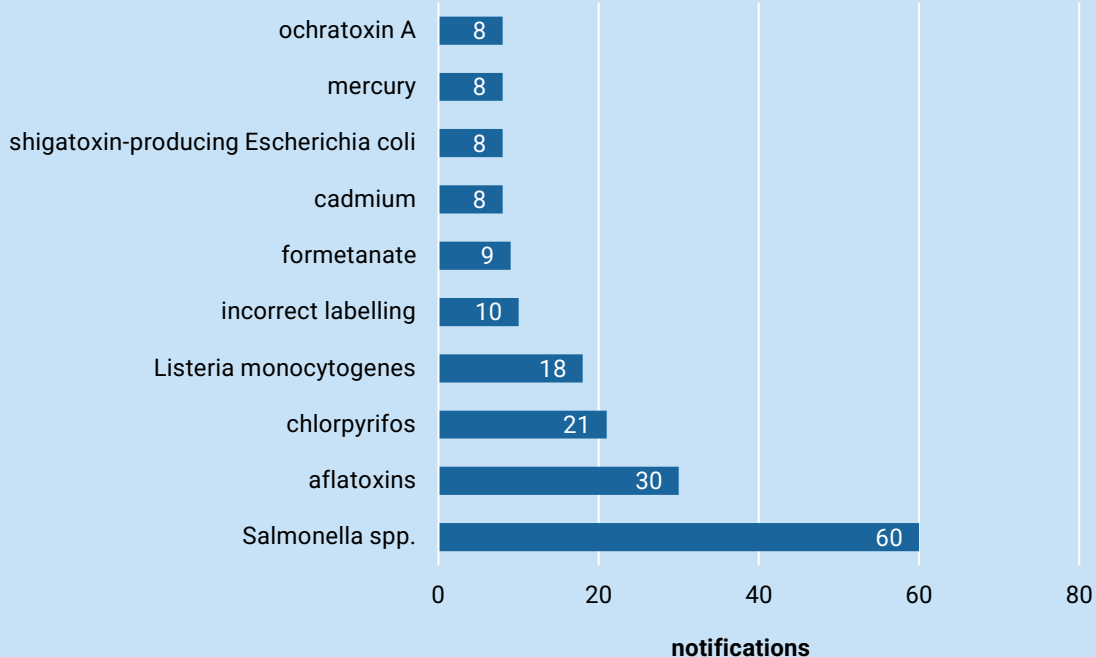
### Notifications July 2024: Top 10 hazard categories



## 1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: July 2024

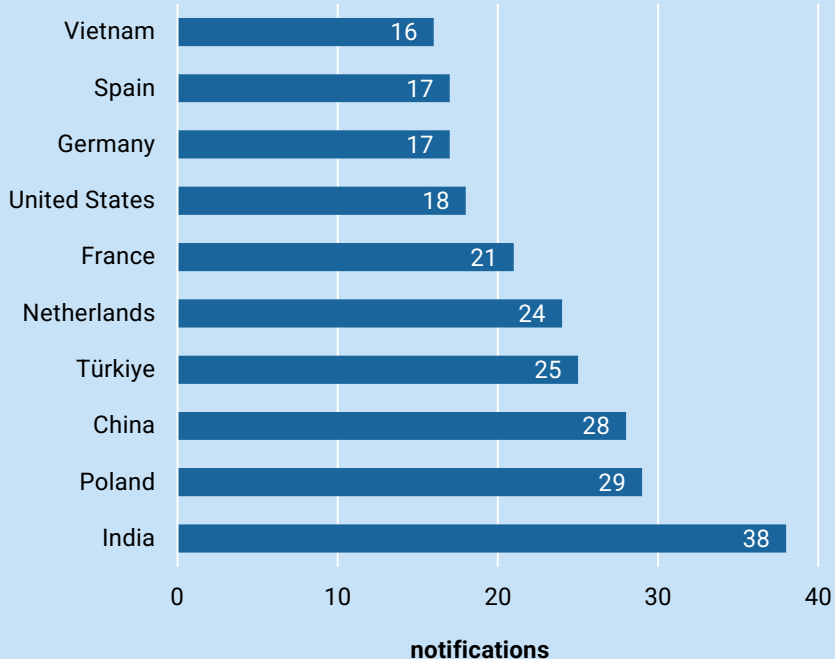
By hazard, salmonella are in first place with 60 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 30 notifications (including 23 notifications in the product category nuts, nut products and seeds with 14 notifications for peanuts and 5 notifications for pistachios) and chlorpyrifos with 21 notifications. Here most notifications were made in the product categories fruit, vegetables and pulses and herbs and spices with 8 notifications each:

### Notifications July 2024: Top 10 hazard categories



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

### Notifications July 2024: Top 10 country of origins



India is in first place with 38 notifications, followed by Poland with 29 and China with 28 notifications.

## 2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



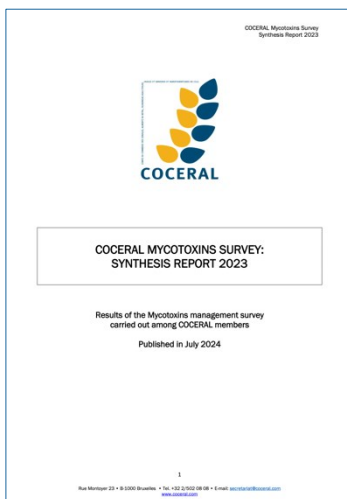
### Risk assessment of small organoarsenic species in food

Small organic arsenic species are compounds that do not contain any organic groups bound to arsenic other than methyl groups. The most common are monomethylarsonic acid (MMA) and dimethylarsinic acid (DMA). Rice and fish are the main sources of arsenic in the human diet.

You can find the full report [here](#). EFSA has published a [summary](#) on this topic.

### COCEROL Mycotoxins Survey

The European association of trade in cereals, oilseeds, rice, pulses, olive oil, oils and fats, animal feed and agrosupply (COCEROL) has published the [results of the survey of COCEROL members on the handling of mycotoxins](#).



### Acrylamide is also produced in the body itself.

An interesting discovery has now been made as part of a research project at the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR): acrylamide is also produced in the body itself and even in larger quantities than previously assumed. The results were published in the journal "Archives of Toxicology" under the title: "[Internal exposure to heat-induced food contaminants in omnivores, vegans and strict raw food eaters: biomarkers of exposure to acrylamide \(hemoglobin adducts, urinary mercapturic acids\) and new insights on its endogenous formation](#)"

See also the article in [foodingredients first](#).



## 2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



### Food Safety

- 🕒 German BfR: Allergies -The most important questions and answers at a glance
- 🕒 According to a recent report, Campylobacter and Listeria infections have increased, but Salmonella and E. coli cases dropped in Ireland in the first three months of 2024.
- 🕒 Researchers confirm pasteurisation inactivates H5N1 virus in milk
- 🕒 UK food safety in 'absolute chaos' due to Brexit, expert warns
- 🕒 US: Colorado dairy worker is the fourth human this year to contract and recover from H5N1
- 🕒 US: Reported Incidence of Infections Caused by Pathogens Transmitted Commonly Through Food: Impact of Increased Use of Culture-Independent Diagnostic Tests – Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network, 1996–2023
- 🕒 Norway: Norwegian health officials are investigating the reasons behind a spike in Salmonella cases, which have sickened more than 30 people
- 🕒 ECDC: Botulism Annual Epidemiological Report for 2022
- 🕒 More than 130 people are sick in France as part of a Yersinia outbreak linked to a raw milk goat's cheese brand
- 🕒 EFSA: Guidance on risk–benefit assessment of foods
- 🕒 Screening for emerging chemical risks in the food chain (SCREENER)
- 🕒 EU's food watchdog dismisses concerns over gene-edited crops proposal amid Council deadlock
- 🕒 EFSA: Public health aspects of Vibrio spp. related to the consumption of seafood in the EU
- 🕒 US: More imported cinnamon recalled because of high levels of lead

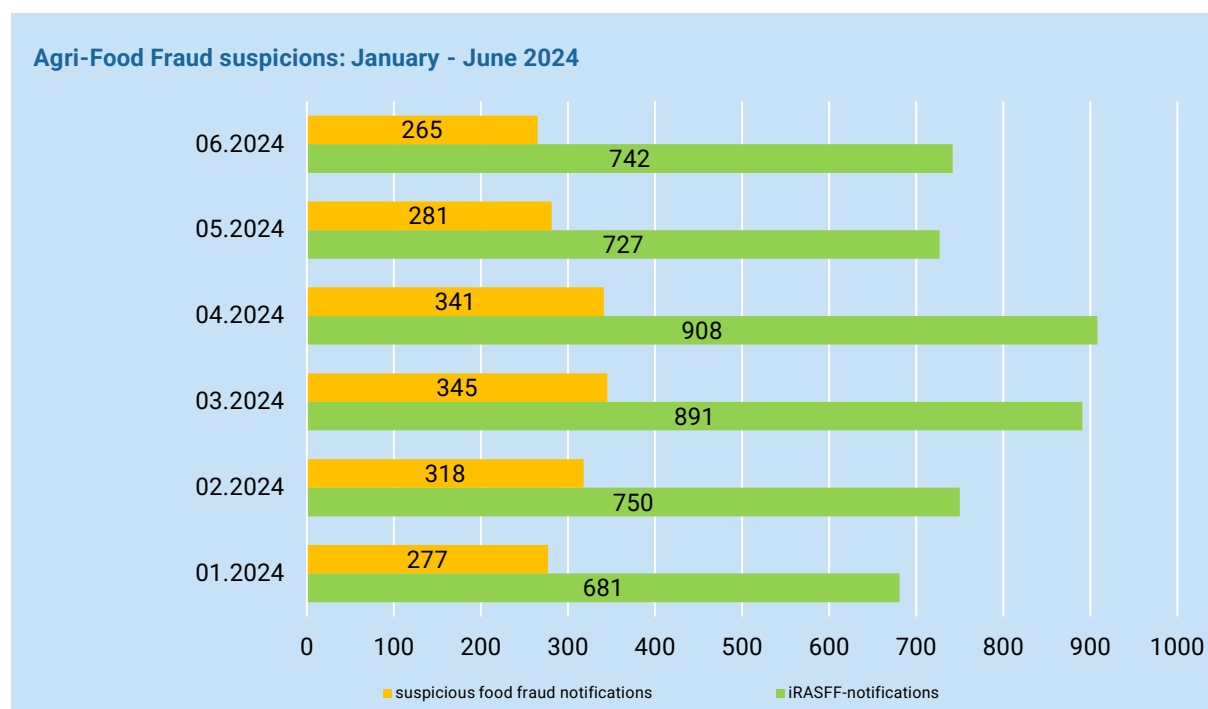


## Food Fraud

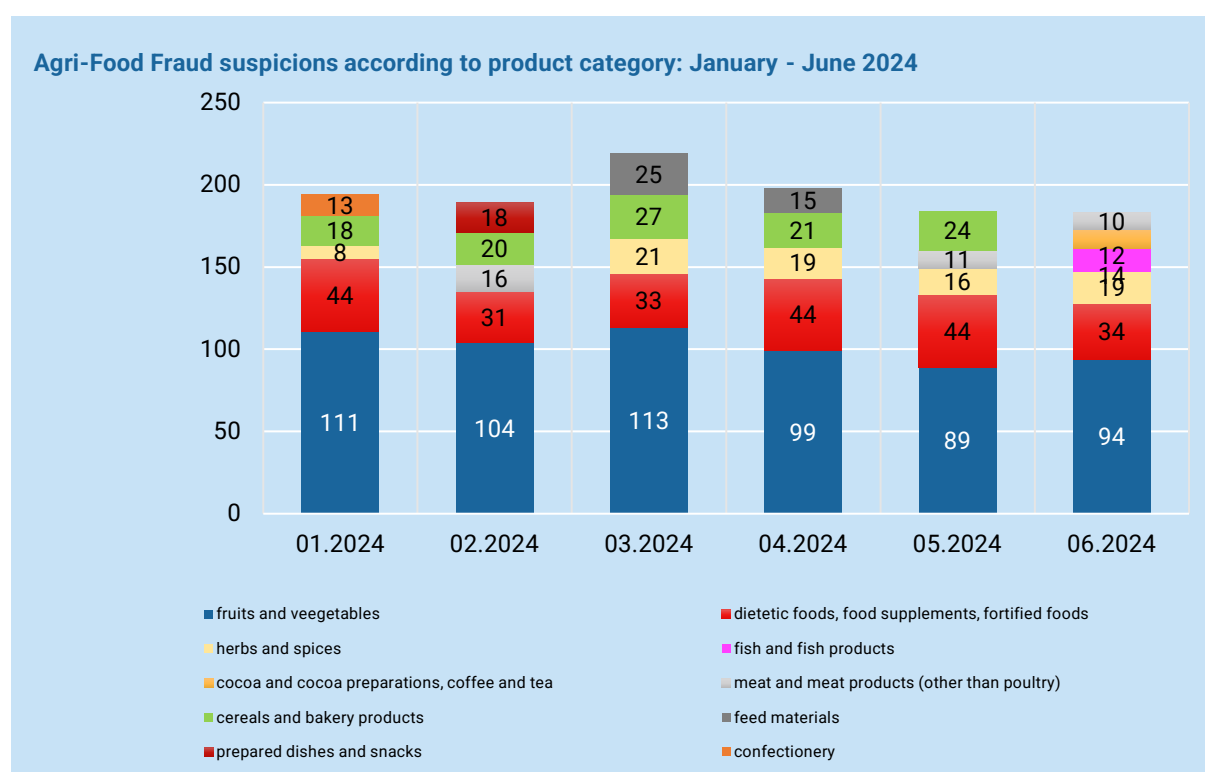
- 🕒 Supermarkets may have sold rotten meat for years as foreign products ‘falsely labelled British’
- 🕒 India: Eliminating food fraud vulnerabilities
- 🕒 Great Britain: A food business owner in England has been fined for falsifying Salmonella testing certificates
- 🕒 Food Authenticity Network (FAN): Global Food Fraud Report 2023
- 🕒 Report on Agri-Food Suspicions May 2024
- 🕒 Report on Agri-Food Suspicions June 2024
- 🕒 Fake olive oil on the rise as Mediterranean markets continue to struggle
- 🕒 A comprehensive systematic review and bibliometric analysis of food fraud from a global perspective
- 🕒 IFS: Product and Food Defence Guideline
- 🕒 A two-tier approach for the detection of contaminants and adulterants in sunflower oil to protect consumer safety
- 🕒 French water controls criticized in EU audit; consumers deceived

## Report on Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions June 2024

Since January 2024, the European Commission is publishing the report on Agri-Food Fraud suspicions monthly. As already informed (see also the Safefood-Online Newsletters March and April 2024), these are notifications from the iRASFF that have been classified as suspicious and serve to warn or initiate investigations by the competent authorities of the member states. Below is an overview of the development of notifications from January to June 2024:

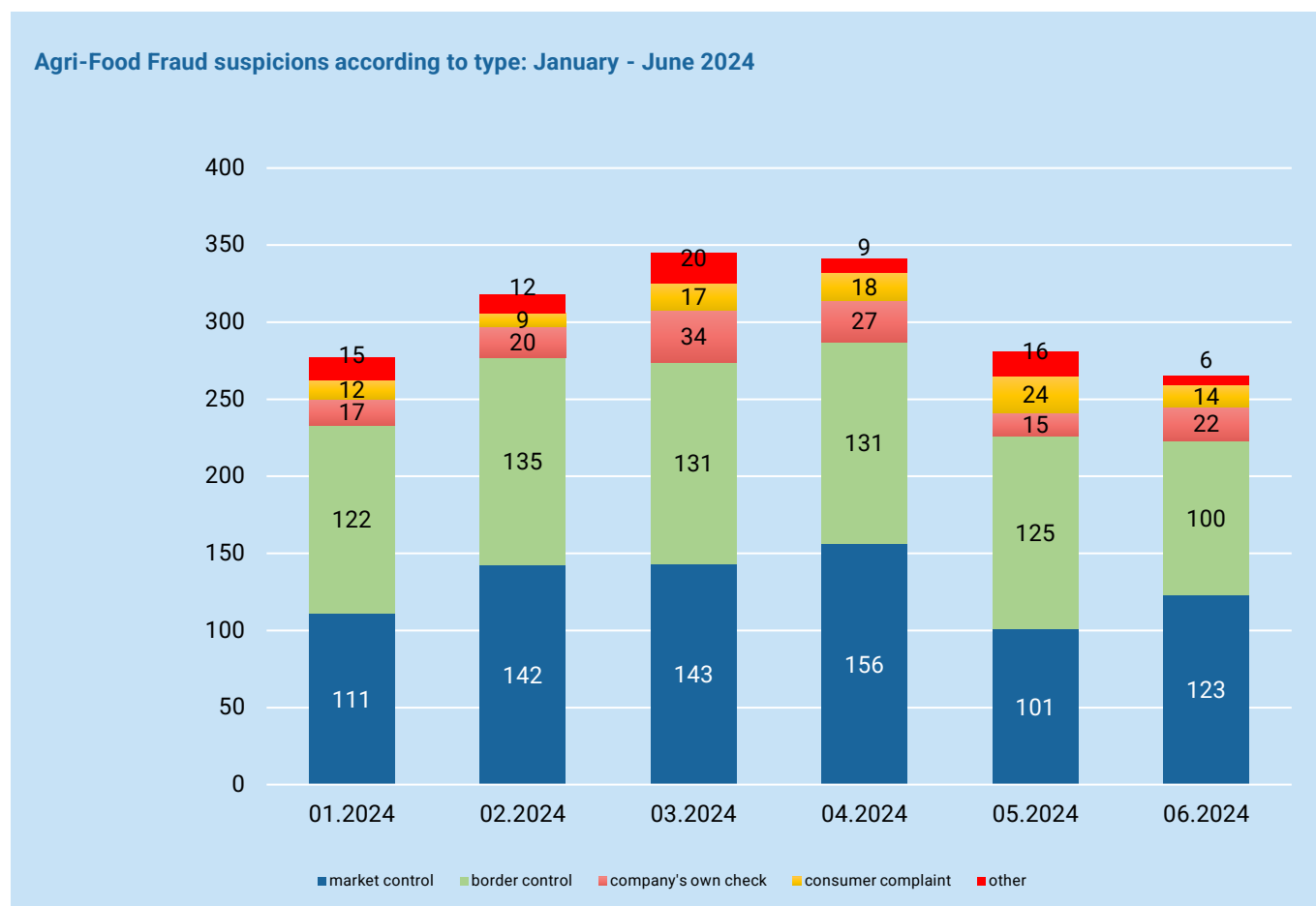


The suspicious agri-food fraud notifications are broken down by product category as follows:





Finally, the presentation by type of notification:



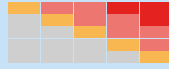
Further information can be found on the website of the [Agri-Food Fraud Network](#), especially detailed information about the notifications.

From now on, we will also include the agri-food fraud notifications in the Safefood-Online database so that these notifications are also taken into account in the corresponding evaluations in Safefood-Online



## Feedback

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