

Issue | August 2024



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

Safefood-Online registered 331 new notifications in August. You can find the evaluations under point 1.

Under point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants", we would like to inform you about a regulation with new or amended maximum levels for pesticides.

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

The International Network of Food Safety Authorities of the FAO/ WHO (INFOSAN) has the function of facilitating the rapid worldwide exchange of information. For further information on INFOSAN, please also see the Safefood-Online Newsletter 10/2022.

In the 4th quarter of 2023, the INFOSAN Secretariat was involved in 51 incidents relating to food safety. These were in particular:

<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	13 cases
<i>Salmonella</i> ssp.	10 cases
<i>E. coli</i>	3 cases
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	2 cases
<i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i>	2 cases

The most affected food categories in Q4 2023 were milk and dairy products (8 cases) snacks, desserts and other foods (7 cases), fruit and fruit products (6 cases), fish and other seafood (5 cases), vegetables and plant products (5 cases).

Further information on INFOSAN can also be found in the [Activity Report 2020 to 2021](#), which was published in 2023.

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: August 2024

Compared to July, the number of new notifications on Safefood-Online has decreased significantly:

- **August 2024:** 331
- July 2024: 449
- June 2024: 429

The notifications from August 2024 are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 84
- Border rejections: 90
- Information messages: 157

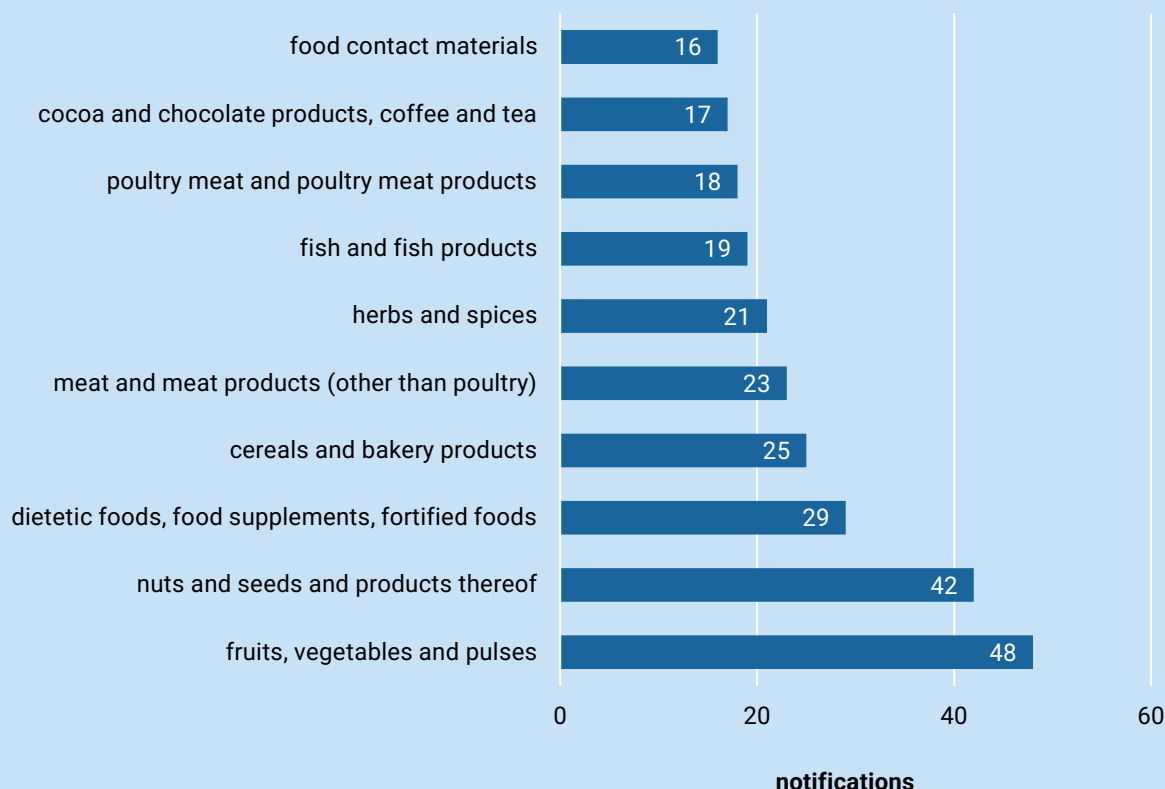


Note:

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.

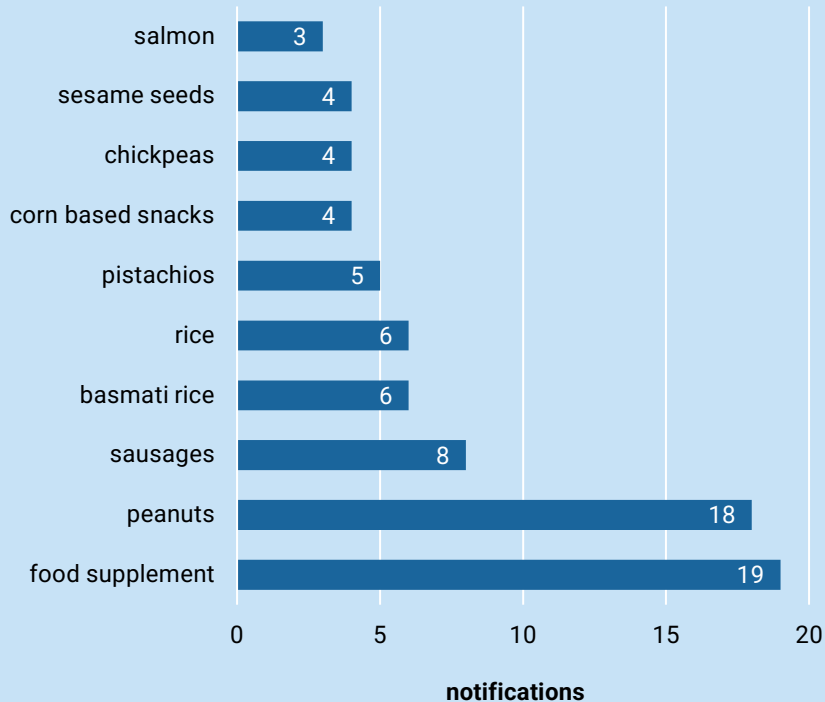
In August, the product category fruit, vegetables and pulses was again in first place with 48 notifications. 26 notifications were due to pesticide residues. The product category nuts, nut products and seeds followed in second place with 42 notifications, including 25 notifications due to mycotoxins and 8 notifications due to pathogenic micro-organisms. The product category dietary foods, food supplements and fortified foods is in third place with 29 notifications:

Notifications August 2024: Top 10 product categories



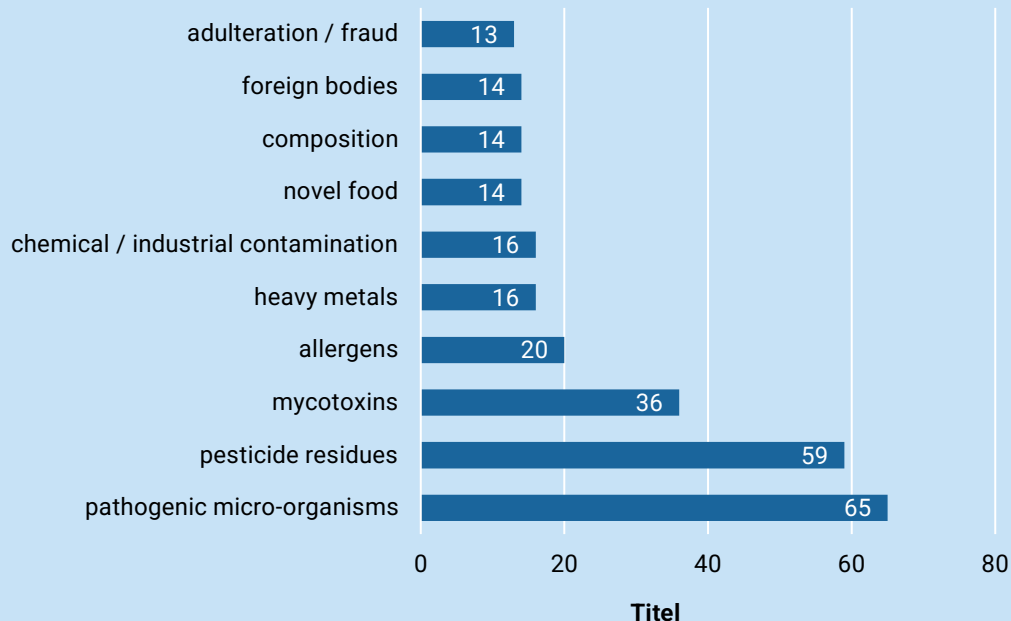
In August, food supplements and peanuts were again in first and second place in the evaluation by products with 19 and 18 notifications, followed by sausages in third place with 8 notifications:

Notifications August 2024: Top 10 products



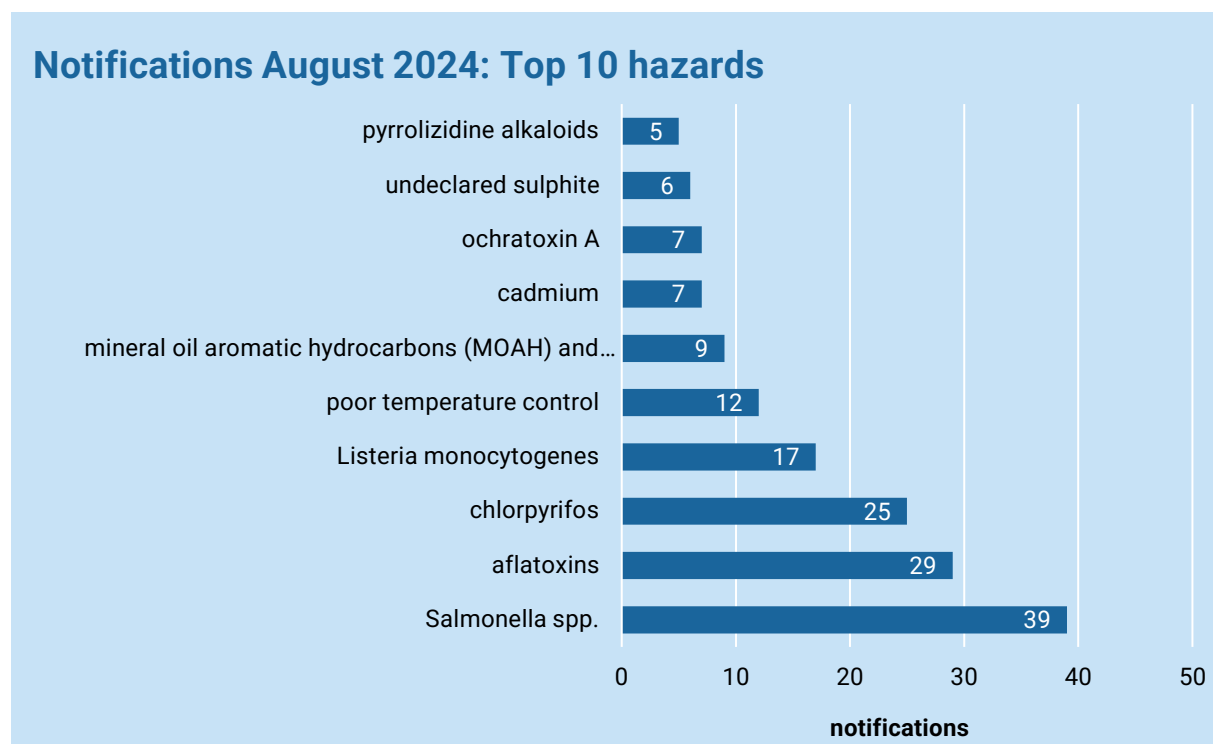
In August, analyzed by hazard category, pathogenic micro-organisms ranked first with 65 notifications, followed by pesticides with 59 notifications (including 25 notifications due to chlorpyrifos findings). Mycotoxins are in third place with 36 notifications:

Notifications August 2024: Top 10 hazard categories

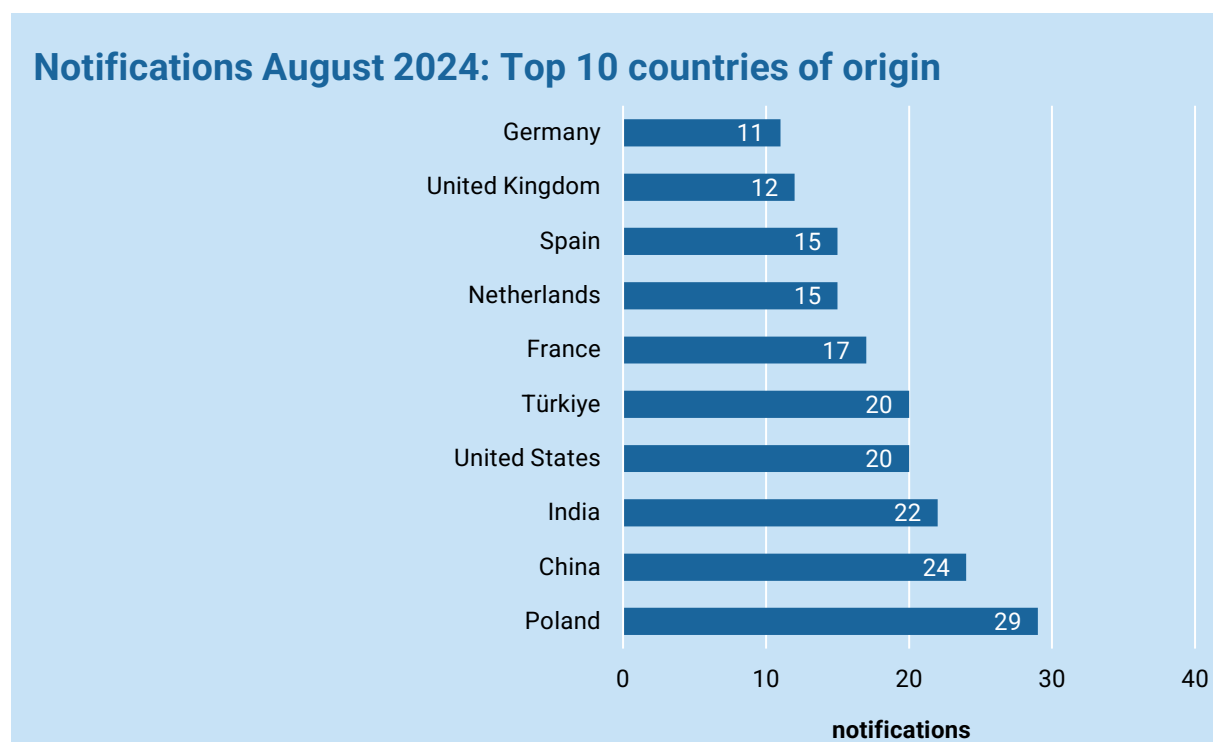


1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: August 2024

According to hazards, Salmonella are in first place with 39 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 30 notifications (including 24 notifications in the product category nuts, nut products and seeds with 16 notifications for peanuts and 4 notifications for pistachios). Chlorpyrifos is in third place with 25 notifications. With 20 notifications, most cases were in the product group herbs and spices:



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



Poland is in first place with 29 notifications, followed by China and India with 24 and 22 notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



Regulation (EU) 2024/376

Regulation (EU) 2024/376 of January 24, 2024 amended Annex II to Regulation (EC) 396/2005 on maximum residue levels for:

- indoxacarb

in or on certain products. The new provisions of this regulation apply from August 14, 2024.

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



- 🕒 German BfR: The consumption of wild boar liver contributes to a high intake of PFAS
- 🕒 German BfR: Gilding instead of charring: questions and answers about acrylamide in food
- 🕒 First market approval for NGT/"new GM" plants in the EU
- 🕒 EFSA: Assessment of genetically modified maize DP915635 for food and feed uses, under regulation (EC) No 1829/200

Food Safety

- 🕒 UK food standards agencies (FSA) call for ban on bamboo-based plastic F&B packaging
- 🕒 Sweden: Rise in *Campylobacter* cases is prompting warning
- 🕒 US: More cinnamon recalled over elevated lead levels
- 🕒 US: A multi-year heavy metal analysis of 72 dark chocolate and cocoa products in the USA
- 🕒 EFSA: Scientific opinion on the tolerable upper intake level for vitamin E
- 🕒 US: new tests by Consumer Reports have found that the chemical perchlorate—which is used in rocket fuel, missiles, explosives, airbags, and certain types of plastic—is in a wide variety of fast foods and grocery items
- 🕒 EFSA Technical report: Emerging chemical risks in food and feed
- 🕒 France: More than 70 people have fallen sick in a *Salmonella* outbreak linked to cheese.
- 🕒 German BfR: *Salmonella* control programme – results for 2023: stable situation with low levels



Food Fraud

- 🕒 Portuguese authorities have cracked down on dodgy food supplements, olive oil, wine, and meat products in a range of operations over recent months
- 🕒 A summary of investigations from the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA-IOD) in the Netherlands has revealed financial gain is the most important motive for fraud in the red meat sector
- 🕒 Inside Europe's fight against fake olive oil
- 🕒 The National Farmers Union (NFU) has voiced concerns about the United Kingdom's new approach to import controls
- 🕒 Application of Spatial Offset Raman Spectroscopy (SORS) and Machine Learning for Sugar Syrup Adulteration Detection in UK Honey
- 🕒 Agri Food Fraud Report July 2024
- 🕒 Suspected fraud discussions up in Europe for July
- 🕒 Food Standards Scotland (FSS) is issuing a public health warning after lab results from counterfeit vodka seized earlier this month confirmed the presence of the chemical isopropyl, which can be harmful if consumed

Statements of the German Working Group of Food Chemistry experts from the federal states and from the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (ALS)

The task of the Working Group of Food Chemistry Experts (ALS) is to coordinate the examination and assessment of food in particular between the monitoring authorities of the federal states.

The testing facilities of the federal states and the Federal Armed Forces are represented in the ALS. It is managed by the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL). The following working groups currently exist within the ALS:

- WG "Consumer goods"
- WG "Dietetic foods, nutritional and delimitation issues"
- WG "Genetically modified foods"
- WG "Cosmetic products"
- WG "Wine and spirits"

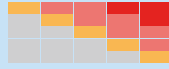
Under this [LINK](#) at BVL you will find further information on ALS. All ALS statements are summarized in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Details of the individual opinions can be found in the [archive](#), where the ALS opinions can be found by meeting number from 2006 onwards.

Currently ([122nd meeting](#)), for example, it has been clarified that the term "wheat flour" is not sufficient for wheat flour with vitamins or minerals and that this must also be labelled as a compound ingredient in baked goods made with it.



Feedback

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



safefood-online GmbH
Birkenweg 18
D-68723 Schwetzingen

Phone: +49 (0) 62 02 / 923 697
Fax: +49 (0) 62 02 / 923 696
E-Mail: info@safefood-online.de
Internet: www.safefood-online.de

Personally liable partner:
Dr. Bernhard Müller

Registered Office: Schwetzingen
Commercial Register: Amtsgericht Mannheim,
HRB 710365

Sales tax identification number according to § 27a
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