

Issue | November 2024



# NEWS LETTER

## Dear Safefood-Online users,

In November 2024, 430 RASFF notifications were published. You can find the evaluations as usual under point 1 of this newsletter.

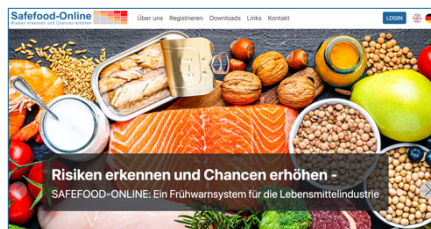
An implementing Regulation on metribuzin was published in the Official Journal of the European Commission (point 2).

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

3-weeks ago our newly designed website was launched. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your very positive feedback.

We have not only improved the look of Safefood-Online and made it more user-friendly, we have also adapted the database technology to current and future requirements. This was due in particular to the large amount of data in Safefood-Online and the significant increase in the number of new notifications (including the notifications from the Monthly Food Fraud

Summary Reports and the Agri-Food Fraud notifications).



With the new database structure complex queries such as HACCP export or food fraud analysis can be carried out quickly. At the same time, the new technology also provides the basis for further data evaluation options.

You are welcome to let us know your experiences with the redesigned website.

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: November 2024

Compared to October, the number of new RASFF notifications is in November at a significantly lower level:

- **November 2024:** 430
- Oktober 2024: 531
- September 2024: 338

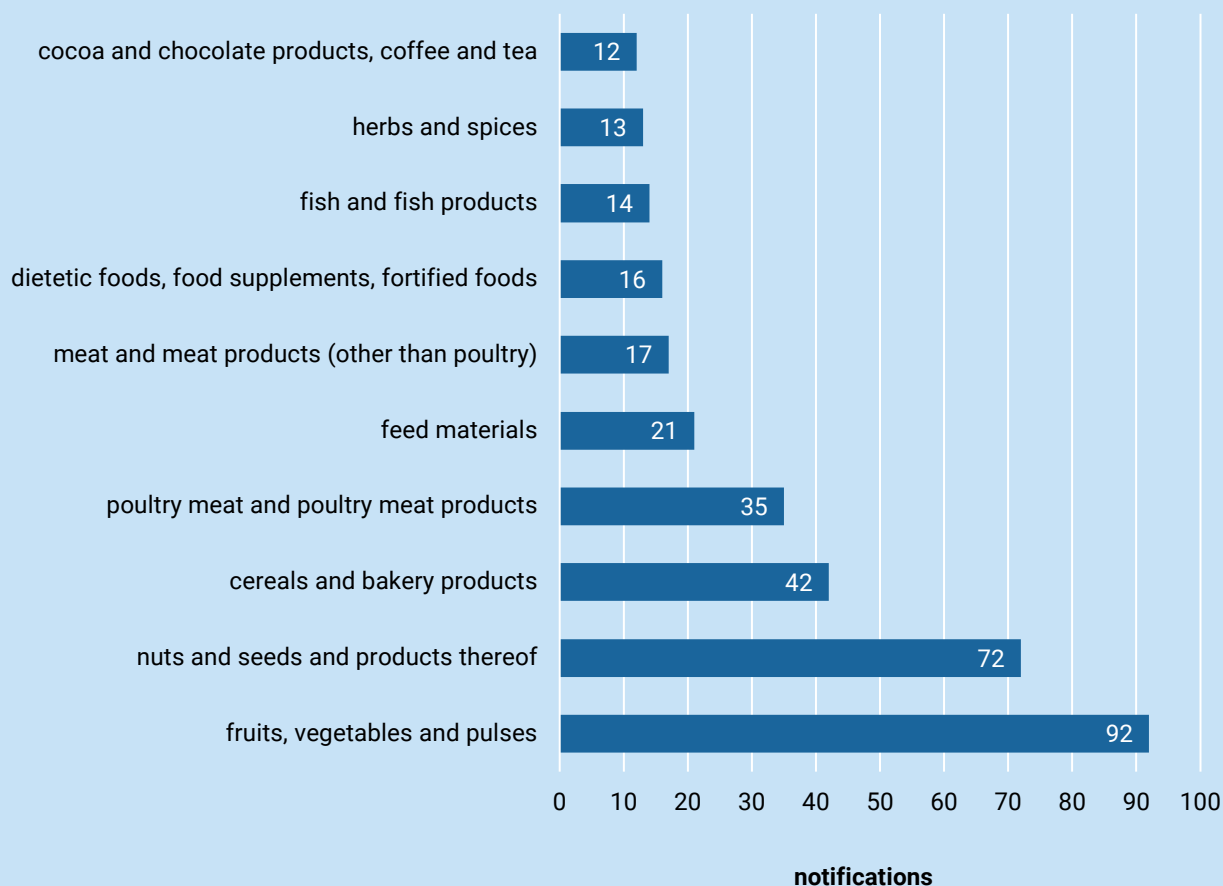
The notifications from November 2024 are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 100
- Border rejections: 132
- Information messages: 198



In November 2024, the product category fruit, vegetables and pulses ranked first with 92 notifications, followed by nuts, seeds and products made thereof (72 notifications). Cereals and bakery products are in third place with 42 notifications. In the category fruit, vegetables and pulses product category, 42 notifications are related to pesticide findings and 36 notifications to mycotoxins. Nuts, seeds and products made from them received the most notifications due to mycotoxins (38) and pathogenic micro-organisms (15):

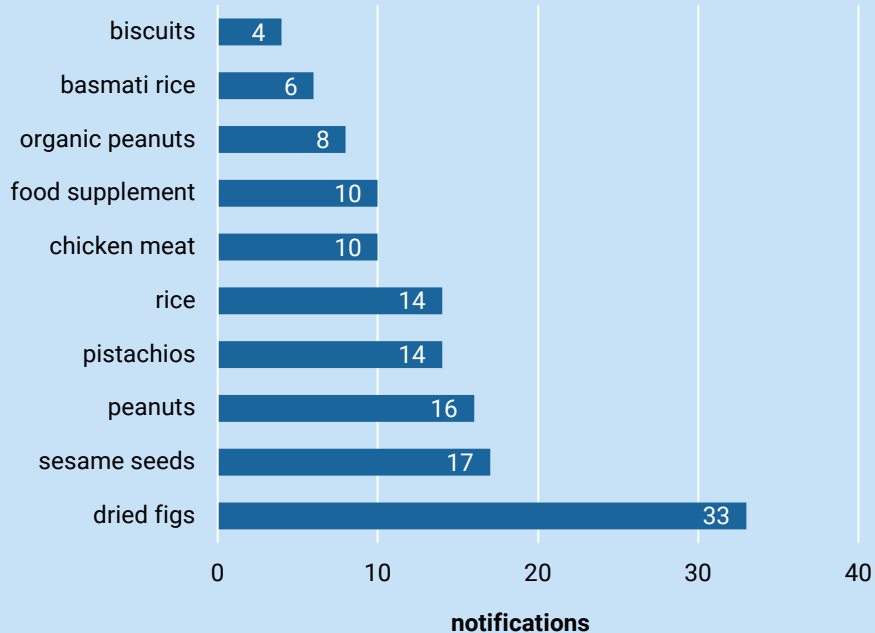
### RASFF-Notifications November 2024: Top 10 product categories



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

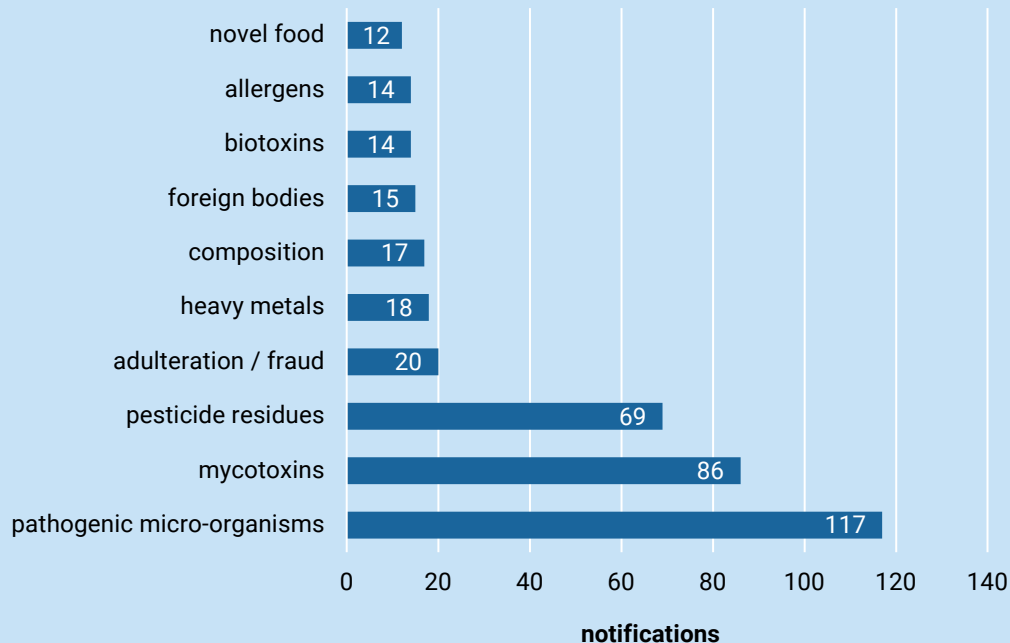
As in the previous month, dried figs are ranking first in the evaluation by products with 33 notifications. All notifications concerned mycotoxin findings. Sesame seeds followed in second place with 17 notifications, 11 notifications due to salmonella. Peanuts are in third place with 16 notifications. With one exception, all notifications concerned aflatoxins:

### RASFF-Notifications November 2024: Top 10 products



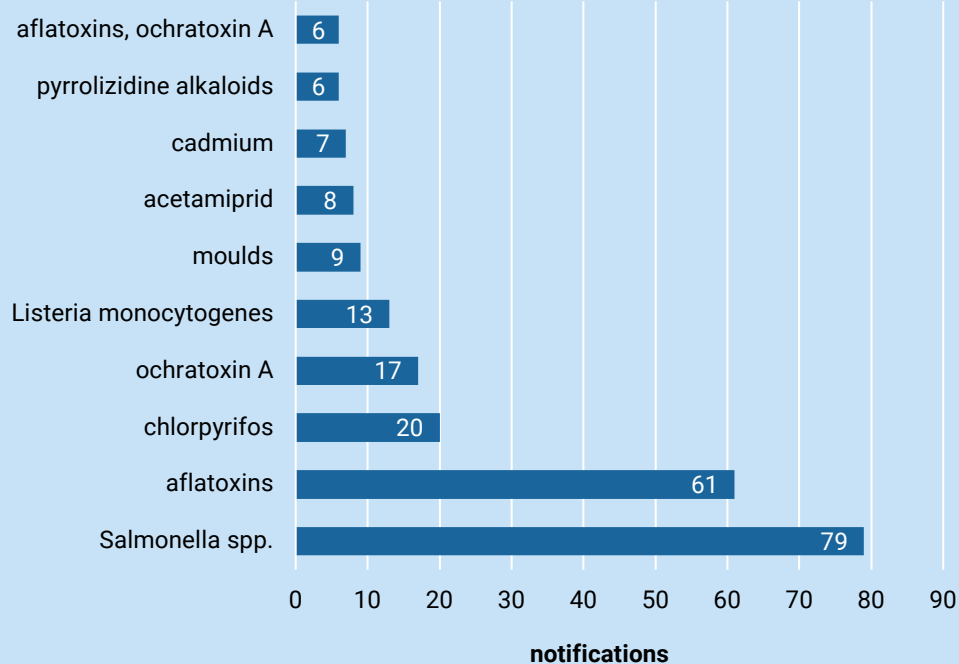
In the evaluation by hazard category, pathogenic micro-organisms were in November again in first place with 117 notifications, followed by mycotoxins with 86 notifications (including 20 notifications due to chlorpyrifos findings) and pesticides with 69 notifications, mainly for dried figs, peanuts and pistachios:

### RASFF-Notifications November 2024: Top 10 hazard categories



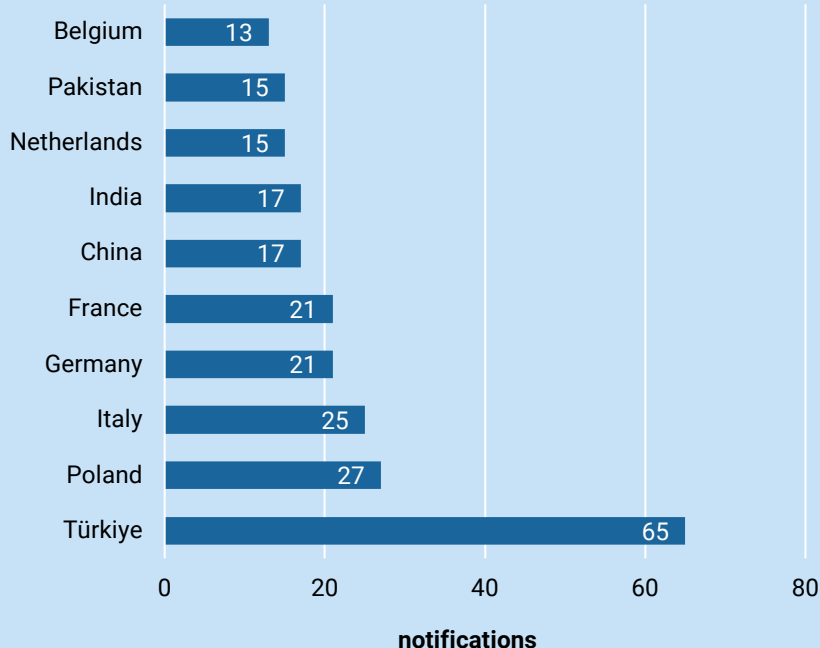
In terms of hazards, Salmonella remained in first place in November with 79 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 61 notifications and Chlorpyrifos with 20 notifications:

### RASFF-Notifications November 2024: Top 10 hazards



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

### RASFF-Notifications November 2024: Top 10 countries of origin



Türkiye is in first place with 65 notifications, followed by Poland and Italy with 27 and 25 notifications.

## 2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



### Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2806

With **Implementing Regulation 2024/2806**, the EU Commission has decided not to renew the authorization of the active substance metribuzin due to concerns about its endocrine-disrupting properties. The EU member states must withdraw the approvals for products containing metribuzin by May 24, 2025 at the latest.





## Food Safety

- 🕒 German BfR: Climate change and foodborne disease
- 🕒 German BfR: PFAS: Not all “forever chemicals” are persisting in the body
- 🕒 EFSA: Scientific opinion on the extension of the authorisation of use of the food additive steviol glycosides (E 960a–d) and the modification of the acceptable daily intake (ADI) for steviol
- 🕒 German BfR: Consumer Monitor 08/2024
- 🕒 ECDC: Prolonged multi-country outbreak of Salmonella Strathcona ST2559 linked to consumption of tomatoes in the EU/EEA and the UK
- 🕒 A European Commission ban on the use of aloe vera preparations used in food has been annulled by the EU General Court following a lengthy legal battle
- 🕒 US: Deadly outbreak of E. coli infections traced to organic carrots; dozens of brands recalled
- 🕒 ECDC: Antimicrobial resistance in the EU/EEA (EARS-Net) - Annual Epidemiological Report 2023
- 🕒 Germany sees outbreaks decline, but cases increase
- 🕒 Identification of Bacterial Pathogens in Organic Food of Animal Origin in Poland
- 🕒 Estimating Underdetection of Foodborne Disease Outbreaks
- 🕒 Raw Farm dairy recalls raw milk because of contamination with bird flu
- 🕒 EFSA: Re-evaluation of saccharin and its sodium, potassium and calcium salts (E 954) as food additives
- 🕒 EFSA: Re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010 on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data. Part 2



## Food Fraud

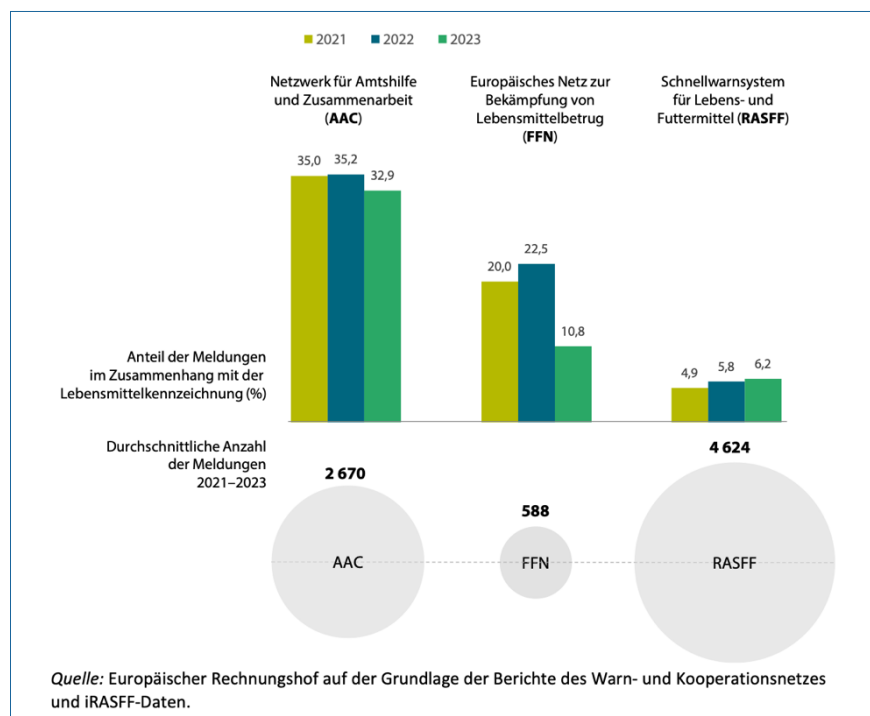
- 🕒 UK: A man has been arrested and bailed as part of a joint investigation by police and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) into suspected fraud linked to cattle
- 🕒 Turmeric Trouble: The hidden danger of lead contamination in the golden spice!
- 🕒 The crucial importance of soy sauce authenticity: Global trade, adulteration risks, and analytical challenges
- 🕒 Extra virgin olive oil is hailed for its health benefits and superior taste, but it's also a food that's a common victim of food fraud, leading some fake olive oil products to be branded as "fool's gold"
- 🕒 US: Salmon frequently mislabeled in Seattle grocery stores and sushi restaurants
- 🕒 A new three-year EU project, led by Ireland, will see academics, regulators and the food industry unite to combat food fraud and enhance transparency in food supply chains

## European Court of Auditors: Food labelling in the EU – consumers can get lost in the maze of labels (Special report 2024)



The European Court of Auditors has presented the **Special Report 2024 on food labelling in the EU** and concludes that food labelling within the EU can help consumers make informed decisions when buying food. On the other hand, according to Keit Pentus-Rosimannus, the member of the European Court of Auditors responsible for the audit, food labels often lead to confusion instead of providing clarity. The report emphasizes that overly cautious allergen warnings and vague statements such as “may contain” limit the choice of food allergy sufferers. Vegetarians and vegans are particularly affected, as there is still no EU-wide regulation for this area. The lack of nutritional profiles is also (still) criticized, as this makes it possible to make nutritional and health claims despite high levels of sugar and fat, for example

For the report, the notifications in the iRASFF relating to food labelling were also evaluated:



### Feedback

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





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