

Issue | January 2025



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

There were 361 RASFF notifications in January 2025. As usual, you will find the evaluations under point 1 of this newsletter.

Under “News on residues and contaminants”, we present the national reporting on pesticide residues 2023 from the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) and provide information on stricter regulations for the use of bisphenol A (BPA) and related chemicals in food contact materials (point 2).

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

From small and large leaves:

With [Regulation 2024/3196](#) of December 18, 2024, the EU Commission has now set maximum residue limits for small and large radish leaves. For *Raphanus sativus* var. *longipinnatus* and var. *niger* (large radish leaves), the maximum levels apply as for



“kale”. For small radish leaves of *Raphanus sativus* var. *radiclua* (radish), the maximum quantities of roman rocket/rucola apply. The background to this is that the “greens” of radishes are increasingly being used for smoothies or salads instead of being disposed of in the organic waste garbage can.

Last year, the CVUA Stuttgart tested 10 samples of radishes from conventional cultivation, separated into roots (“radishes”) and leaves, for pesticide residues. The leaves showed significantly higher residues.

The question is whether the new regulations will have an impact on the marketing of radishes with greens.

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: January 2025

Compared to December 2024, the number of new RASFF-notifications decreased slightly in January 2025.

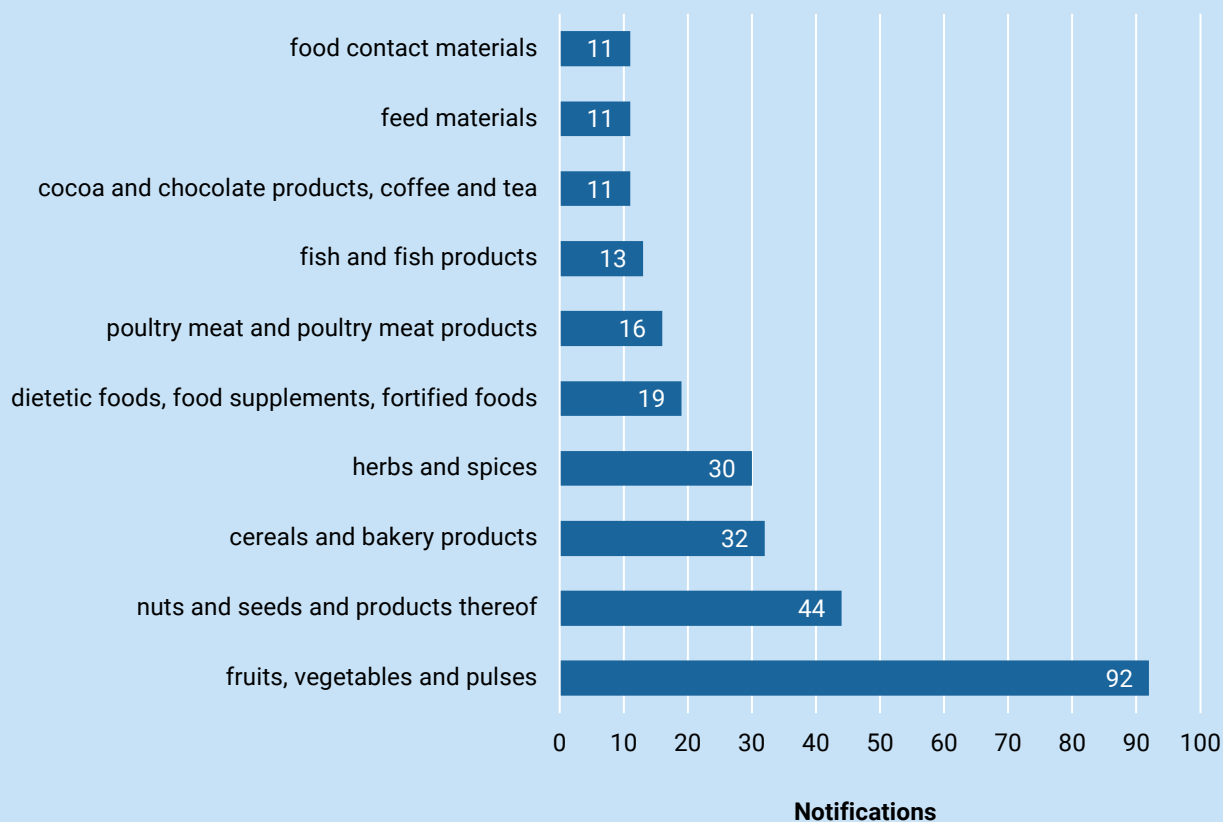
- **January 2025:** 361
- December 2024: 395
- November 2024: 430

The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 101
- Border rejections: 111
- Information messages: 146
- Non-compliance notification 3

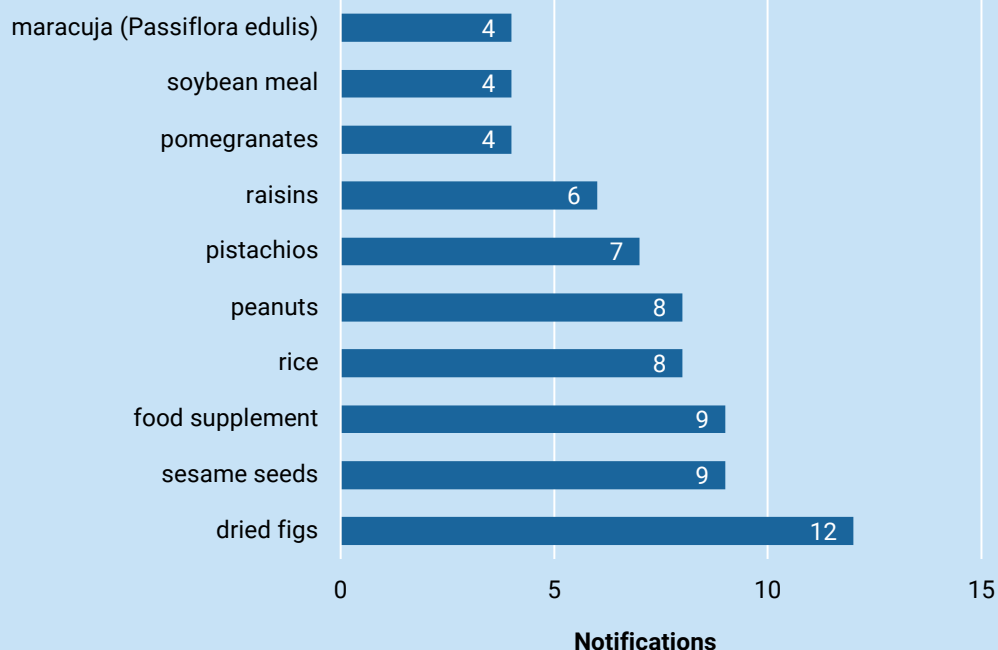
In January 2025, the product category fruit, vegetables and pulses was in first place with 92 notifications, followed with a clear distance by nuts, seeds and products thereof as well as cereals and bakery products with 44 and 32 notifications. 50 notifications in the product category fruit, vegetables and pulses were due to pesticides and 21 notifications due to mycotoxins. For nuts, seeds and products thereof, 26 notifications are relating to mycotoxins:

RASFF-Notifications January 2025: Top 10 product categories



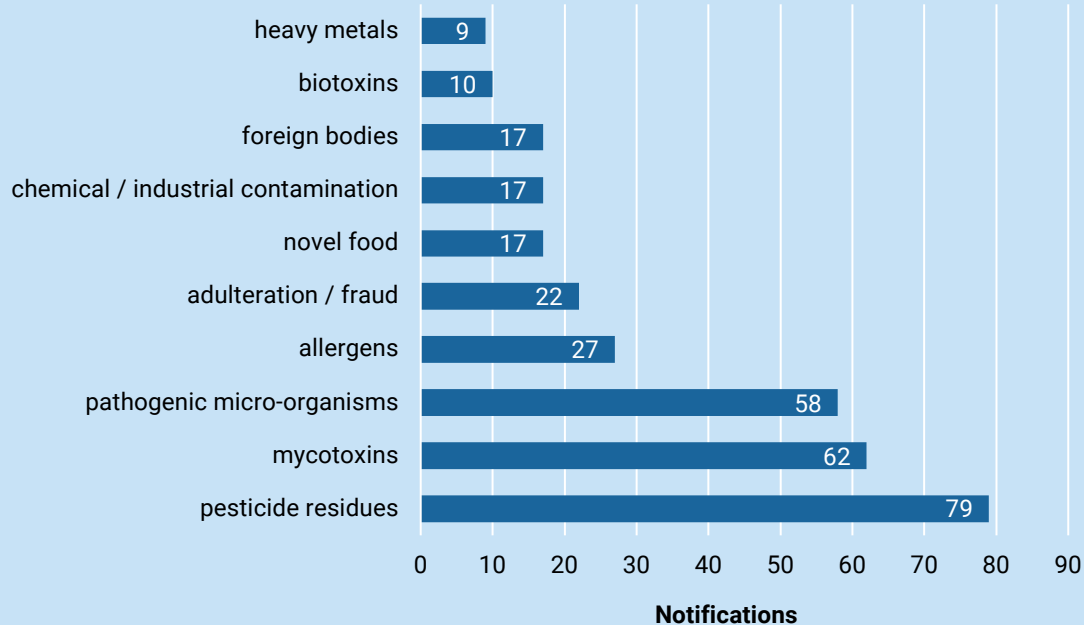
Dried figs are ranking first in the evaluation by products with 12 notifications. Food supplements and sesame seeds are following each with 9 notifications. For 11 notifications, dried figs originated from Türkiye:

RASFF-Notifications January 2025: Top 10 products



In the evaluation by hazard category, pesticides are in first place with 79 notifications, followed by mycotoxins with 62 notifications (including 22 notifications due to chlorpyrifos) and pathogenic micro-organisms with 58 notifications:

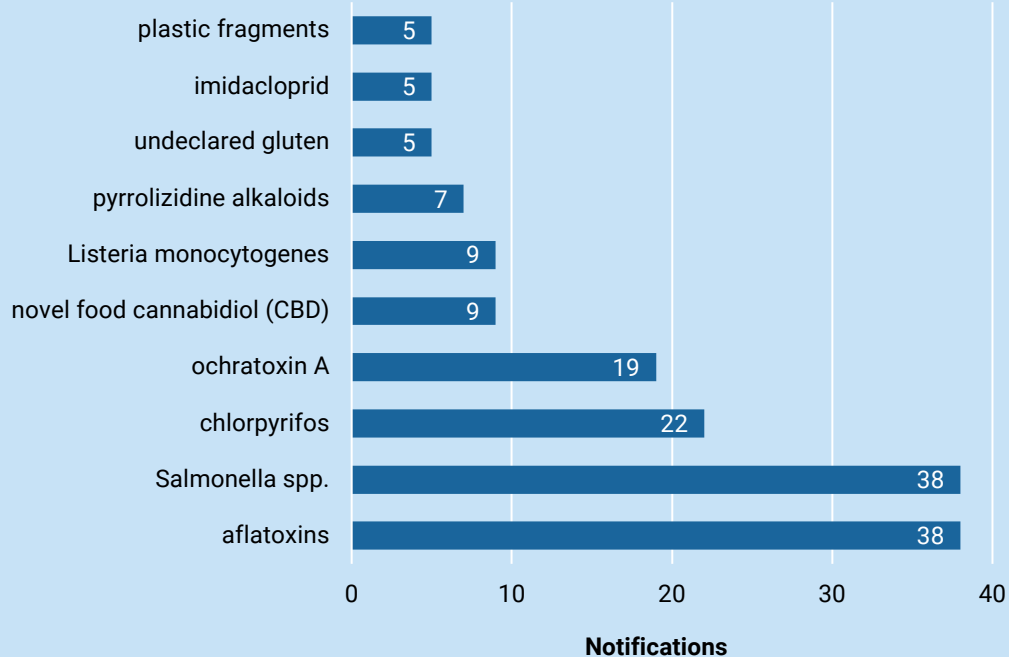
RASFF-Notifications January 2025: Top 10 hazard categories



1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: January 2025

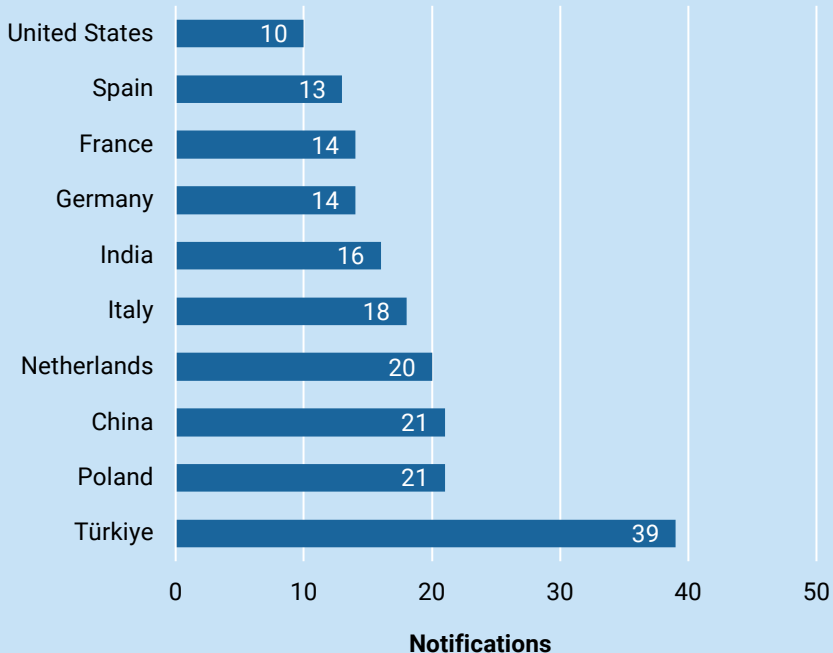
In terms of hazards, aflatoxins and salmonella are in first and second place with 38 notifications, followed by chlorpyrifos with 22 notifications.

RASFF-Notifications January 2025: Top 10 hazards



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

RASFF-Notifications January 2025: Top 10 countries of origin



Türkiye is in first place with 39 notifications, followed by Poland and China each with 21 notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL): National report 2023 on pesticides residues

The BVL has published the **national reporting on plant protection product residues 2023**. Maximum residue limits were exceeded in 1.3% of samples from EU member states. In comparison, this was the case for 8.5% of samples from non-EU countries. There were frequent exceedances in mangoes, dried beans, pepper, rice, tea, peanuts, beans (with pods) and cherries. In the case of conventionally grown foods, 35.8% were residue-free, i.e. no quantifiable residues. For organic products, the proportion was 71.9%. Under the LINK above you will find the report as well as tables with the results and further information.



Source: German BVL

Bisphenol A

With **Regulation (EU) 2024/3190** of December 19, 2024, the EU has issued stricter regulations for the use of bisphenol A (BPA) and related chemicals in food contact materials. This is due to health concerns regarding the presence of BPA in food. The new regulation bans the use of BPA in the manufacture of plastic food contact materials and other materials, including varnishes and coatings, printing inks and adhesives. There are limited exceptions for the use of BPA in certain plastic film membranes and varnishes on large tanks and vessels used in food production. Authorisation can be requested for other uses that are critical for the production of food contact materials.

By July 20, 2026, packaged food placed on the EU market must comply with the new regulations.

However, there is an exemption for packaged fruit and vegetables and fishery products that comply with the current rules and can be placed on the EU market until January 20, 2028. The exception for fruit and vegetables does not apply to fruit juices and nectars.

A further exception applies to food in containers where a varnish or coating manufactured using BPA has been applied only to the *exterior* metal. These products can be placed on the EU market until January 20, 2028.

For further information, please refer to the linked regulation.



Food Safety

- 🕒 Codex Alimentarius: 47. Session 25. - 30.11.2024
- 🕒 Data-driven pipeline modeling for predicting unknown protein adulteration in dairy products
- 🕒 US: A new study shows that an unexplained outbreak of gastrointestinal and liver disease in 2022 was linked to ready-to-eat meals containing tare flour
- 🕒 US: FDA to begin testing raw milk cheese for contamination with bird flu
- 🕒 EFSA's activities on Emerging Risks in 2023
- 🕒 German BfR: Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD): questions and answers
- 🕒 EFSA: DRV-Finder: interactive tool for quick access to EFSA's dietary reference values for nutrients
- 🕒 New GMOs and patents: Poland's Illusory Solutions
- 🕒 US: The Connecticut Department of Agricultural has issued a "stop sale" and recall on raw milk from a company because of two cases of illness tied to the dairy's unpasteurized milk were confirmed.
- 🕒 EFSA: Re-evaluation of citric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (E 472c) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age and follow-up of its re-evaluation
- 🕒 US: FDA announces new strategy to prevent contamination of fresh and frozen berries
- 🕒 German BfR: Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD): questions and answers
- 🕒 EFSA: Risks to human and animal health from the presence of bromide in food and feed
- 🕒 EFSA: Re-evaluation of butane (E 943a), isobutane (E 943b) and propane (E 944) as food additives

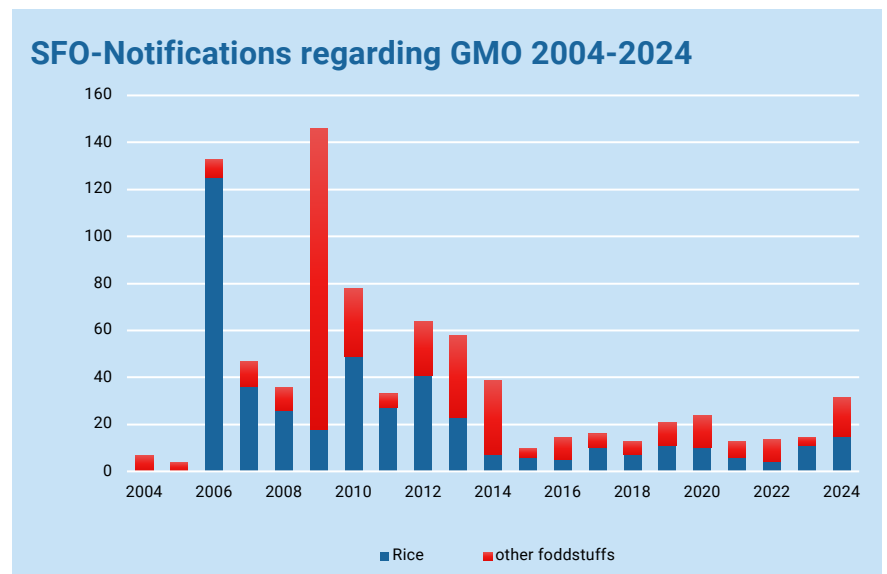


Food Fraud

- 🕒 Food Authentication goes green: Development of a fast and resource-saving method for determining the geographical origin of hazelnuts using ICP-MS and laser ablation
- 🕒 Meeting the challenge of varietal and geographical authentication of hazelnuts through lipid metabolite fingerprinting

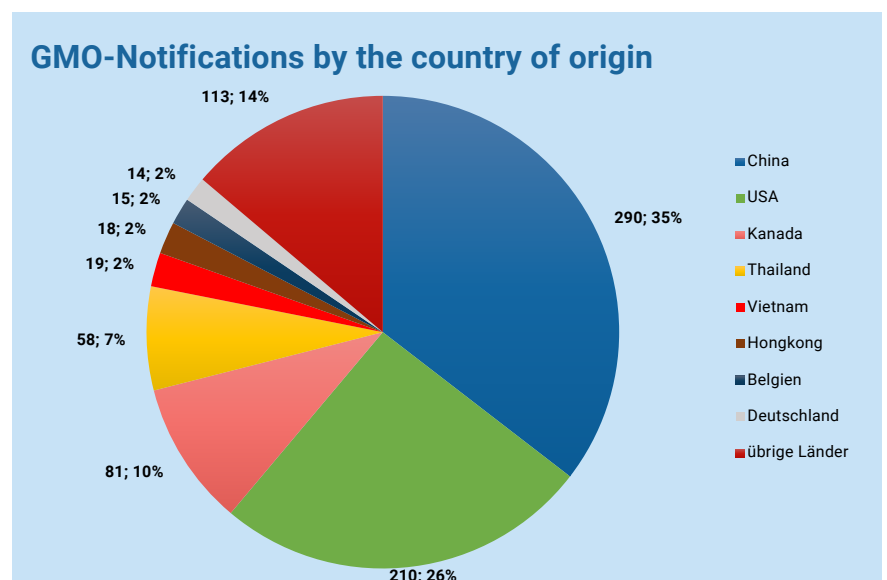
Genetically modified organisms: Screening table for GMO

Safefood-Online is still receiving notifications of genetic modification:



Most of the high number of notifications in 2006 were related to long-grain rice from the USA (LLRice 601, "Liberty LINK"). The high number of notifications in 2009 was due to genetically modified linseed from Canada (CDC Trifid, FP 967). Notifications on GMO rice accounted for around 53% of all GMO notifications. 224 of the 290 notifications (77%) from China were due to findings of GMO rice.

Below are the GMO notifications in Safefood-Online by country of origin:



Therefore, GMO testing plays an important role in quality assurance measures.

The “Screening table for GMO detection” published on the website of the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) is a very useful tool for planning and evaluating GMO testing:)

Event	Unique Identifier	Plant	P35S		T-nos		CTP2-CP4EPSPS		bar	pat		35S-pat		cry1Ab/Ac		p-FMV		P-nos		Agroborder I		Agroborder II		P-CaMVV-pat		RM
			+	-	+	-	+	-		+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	
ASR368	EMG-36800-2	clevering bentgrass	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
J101	MON-00101-8	alfalfa	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
J163	MON-00163-7	alfalfa	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
J101xJ163	MON-00101-8 x MON-00163-7	alfalfa	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Excerpt from the BVL screening table for GMO detection

The information on screening sequences of GMO events provided in this overview comes from the following databases:

- **EUGenius**(European GMO INitiative for a Unified Database System)
- **JRC GMO-Matrix**

Both databases also provide valuable information.

EUGenius currently contains information on 931 GMO events, 63 of which were obtained using genome editing (search: “gene editing”).

Feedback

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

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