

Issue | March 2025



# NEWS LETTER

## Dear Safefood-Online users,

In March we saw 467 new RASFF-notifications. This was significantly higher than in February. The evaluation is available under point 1.

Under 'News on residues and contaminants' (point 2), we inform about the report of the European Environment Agency's on mycotoxin contamination in connection with climate change.

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has published the report on the proficiency test for the determination of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in honey by the German Reference Laboratory for Mycotoxins and Plant Toxins.

In a draft regulation, the EU Commission sets maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in fish and seafood.

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

The European Commission launched its '[Vision' for Agriculture and Food 2025 - 2029](#).

The vision sets out the following four priority areas for EU action:

- Make the agri-food sector an attractive and predictable sector that guarantees a fair standard of living and opens up new income opportunities
- Ensure the competitiveness and resilience of the agri-food sector
- Ensure that the agri-food sector contributes to the preserving of healthy soils, clean water and air, as well as the protection and restoration of biodiversity
- Valuing food and promoting fair living and working conditions in dynamic rural areas.

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: March 2025

The number of new RASFF notifications has increased significantly compared to February 2025:

- **March 2025:** 467
- February 2025: 366
- January 2025: 361

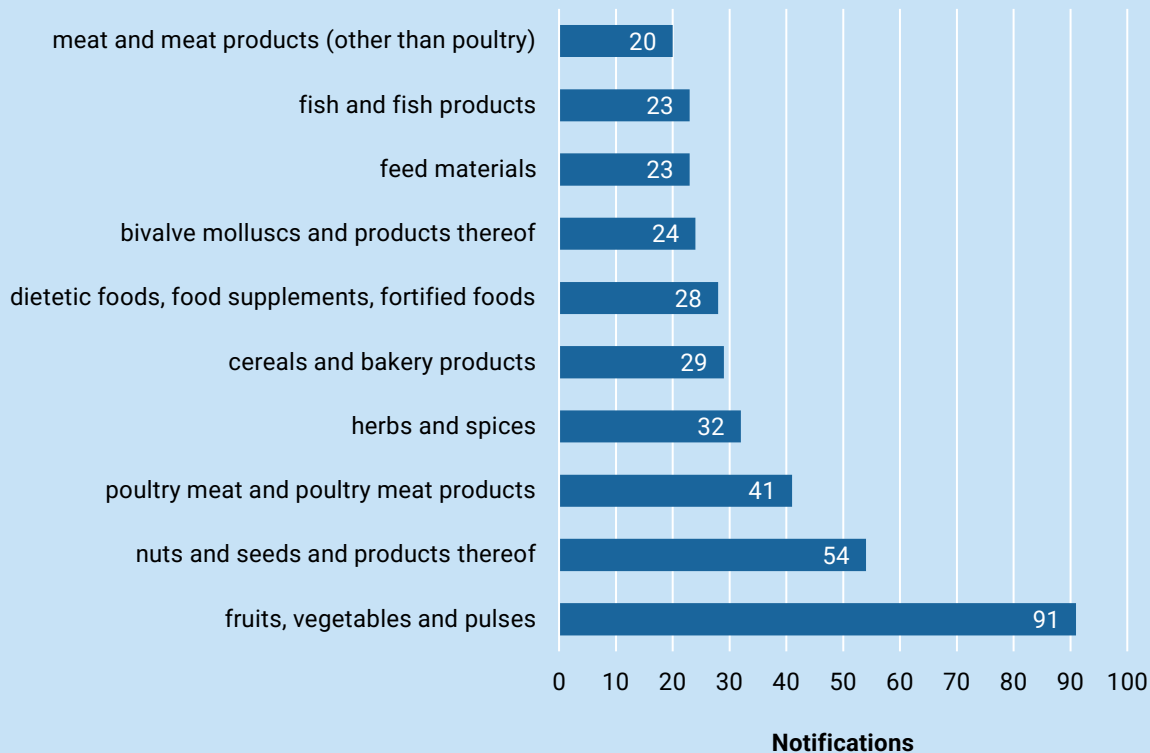
The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 103
- Border rejections: 146
- Information messages: 217
- Non-compliance notification: 1



With 91 notifications in March 2025, fruit, vegetables and pulses were again in first place in the evaluation by product category. 51 notifications concerned pesticides and 18 notifications were due to mycotoxins. The product category nuts, seeds and products thereof followed in second place with 54 notifications. 31 notifications were due to mycotoxins and 13 notifications were due to pathogenic micro-organisms. The product category poultry meat and poultry meat products is in third place with 41 notifications, 38 were due to pathogenic micro-organisms:

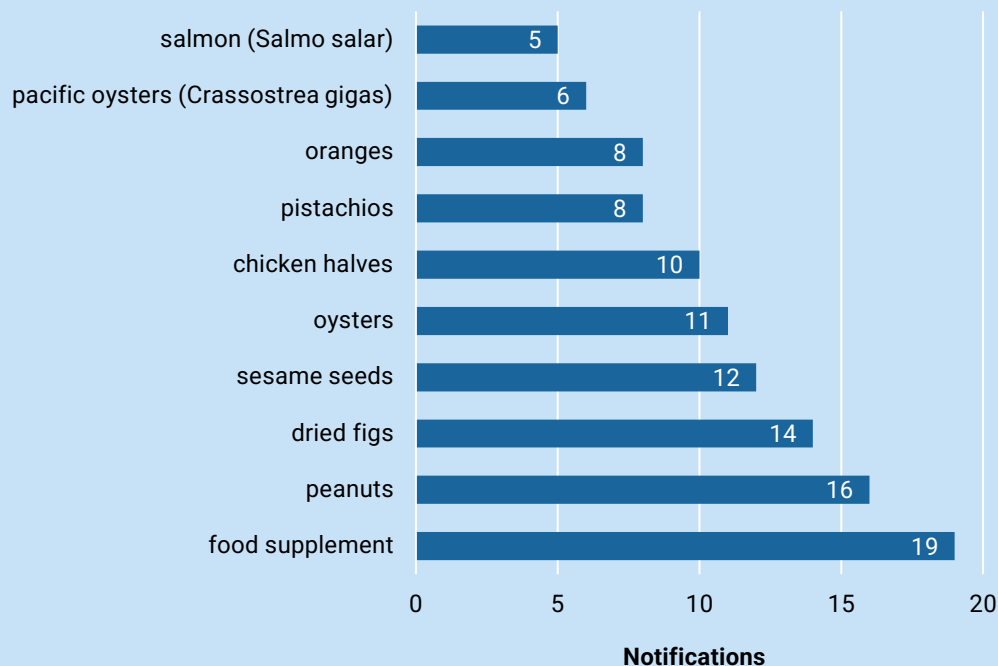
### RASFF-Notifications March 2025: Top 10 product categories



In terms of products, food supplements ranked first in March with 19 notifications, followed by peanuts and dried figs in second and third place with 16 and 14 notifications:

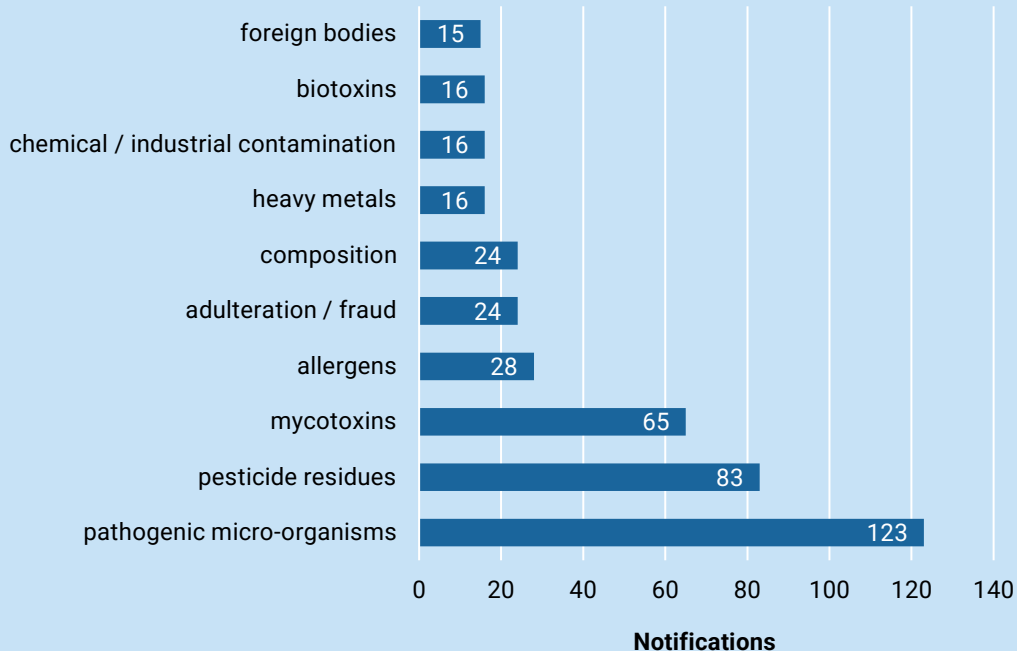
## 1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: March 2025

### RASFF-Notifications March 2025: Top 10 products



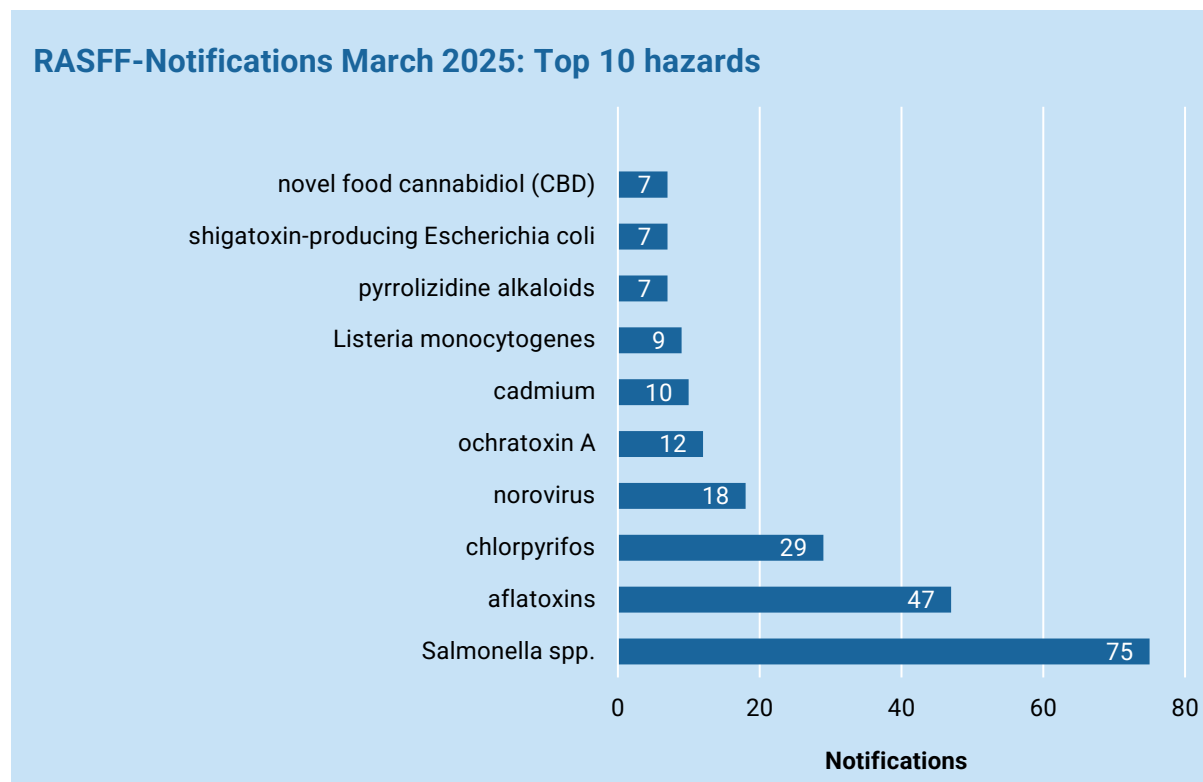
In March, pathogenic micro-organisms ranked first in the evaluation by hazard category with 123 notifications, followed by pesticides with 83 notifications (29 due to chlorpyrifos) and by mycotoxins with 65 notifications:

### RASFF-Notifications: Top 10 hazard categories

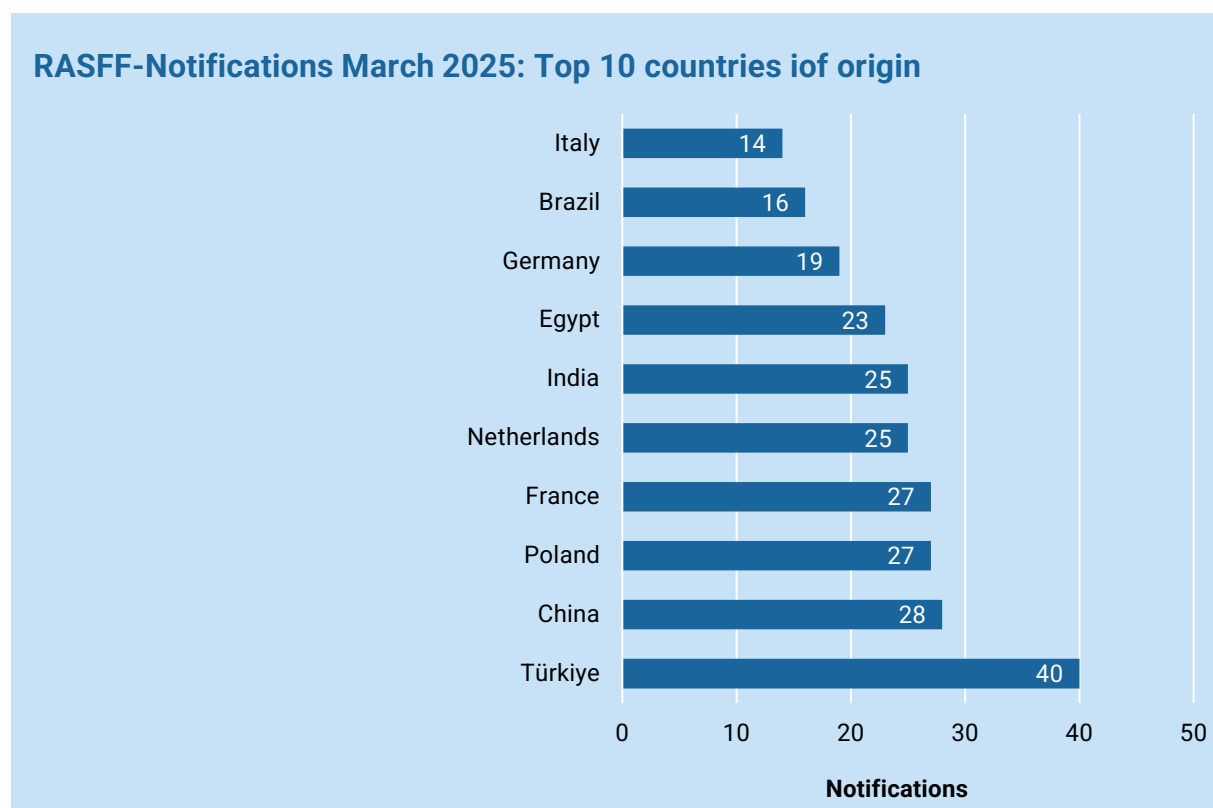


## 1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: March 2025

According to hazards, salmonella are in first place with 75 notifications, followed by aflatoxins and chlorpyrifos with 47 and 29 notifications:



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



Türkiye is in first place with 40 notifications, followed by China and Poland with 28 and 27 notifications.

## 2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



### European Environment Agency: Mycotoxin exposure in a changing European climate

Rising temperatures due to climate change are increasing the risk of human exposure to mycotoxins, according to the European Environment Agency (EEA). A briefing published by the Agency addresses health concerns related to mycotoxins and how to combat their spread and prevent contamination in a changing European climate. Further information on the European Environment Agency's briefing can be found under this [LINK](#).

### Report 2024 of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) on the proficiency test for the determination of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in honey of the German Reference Laboratory for Mycotoxins and Plant Toxins

The German Reference Laboratory (NRL) for mycotoxins and plant toxins organised a proficiency test for the determination of pyrrolizidines in honey, in which 26 laboratories took part. Three honey samples and a standard

solution were analysed. The concentration tested ranged from 0.8 to 84.3 µg/kg. The standard deviation of reproducibility was between 12 and 42 % for PAs and between 44 and 77 % for the PA-N oxides.

On average, 88 % of the z-values were within the acceptable range ( $|z| \leq 2$ ). Further information can be found in the linked [BfR report](#).

### Proposal for a regulation on maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in fish and

The EU Commission proposes maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in fish and other seafood ([Draft Regulation](#)). The proposed maximum levels can be found in the [annex](#) to the draft regulation.

The background is the update of the [risk assessment of chronic dietary exposure to inorganic arsenic in food](#) by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The EFSA concludes that the current exposure to inorganic arsenic continues to give rise to health concerns for consumers. The consumption of fish and certain other seafood contributes to this exposure. EFSA recommends maximum levels for inorganic arsenic for these products.





## Food Safety

- 🕒 Gene-edited non-browning banana could cut food waste, scientists say
- 🕒 Australian Government Approves Commercial Release of GM Cavendish Banana
- 🕒 US: Raw cat food recalled after state testing finds contamination with bird flu
- 🕒 The European Union summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2022–2023
- 🕒 ECDC-EFSA Report: Prolonged cross-border multi-serovar Salmonella outbreak linked to consumption of sprouted seeds
- 🕒 US: two important food safety committees eliminated: The committees are the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food (NACMCF) and the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI)
- 🕒 With regulation 2025/351, the EU tightens the requirements on the purity of plastic materials that come into contact with food
- 🕒 EU authorises the production of dealcoholised organic wine
- 🕒 At the third attempt, the Polish Council Presidency has broken the resistance of the member states against the deregulation of crops produced by new genomic technologies (NGT). The new draft will enter trilogue discussions in April
- 🕒 Attribution of Salmonella enterica to Food Sources by Using Whole-Genome Sequencing Data
- 🕒 German BfR: Data collection for the EDKAR study on the consumption of energy drinks and their health effects in adolescents completed
- 🕒 CRISPR/Cas9: a sustainable technology to enhance climate resilience in major Staple Crops



- 🕒 The Consortium for the Protection of Mozzarella di Bufala Campana DOP reported 475 cases of counterfeit buffalo mozzarella sold online in 2024
- 🕒 Advances to prevent food fraud in the consumption of virgin olive oil and pine nuts

## Food Fraud

- 🕒 Portuguese authorities have uncovered illegal slaughter operations, olive oil fraud, and food unfit for consumption in various operations during recent months
- 🕒 Food Authenticity Network (FAN): Food Fraud Report 2024
- 🕒 Dairy Reporter: the most targeted food products regarding food fraud
- 🕒 Spanish tourist uncovers large-scale Rioja wine fraud in Asia
- 🕒 EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions February 2025
- 🕒 Food Standard Agency (FSA): The National Food Crime Unit is asking businesses along the food supply chain to be conscious of fraudulent laboratory test results being used as a method to facilitate potential food crime

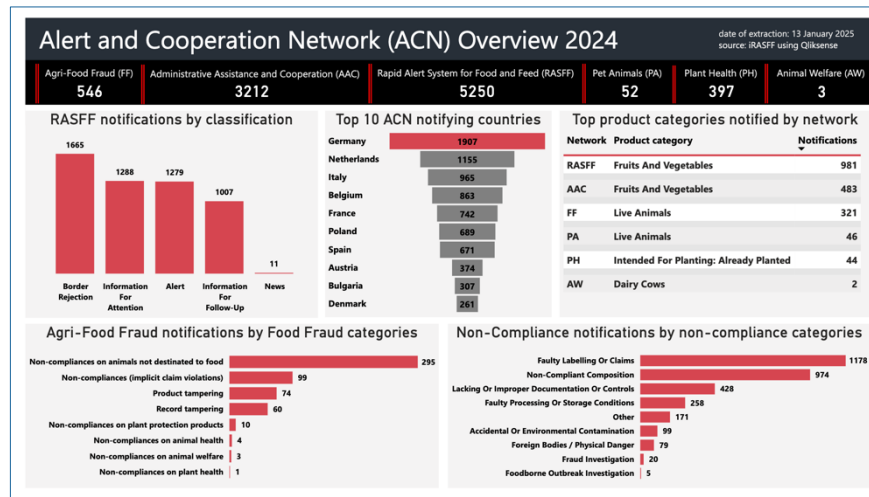
## The digitalisation of administrative assistance and collaboration in the European Economic Area is moving forward

As part of the presentation of the Annual Report 2023 of the Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN) we mentioned in the [SafeFood-Online Newsletter for October 2024](#) that a plant health network had been integrated into the ACN. Two networks for pets (Pet Animal Network - PAN) and animal welfare (Animal Welfare Network - AWN) are now also integrated into the ACN.

The Administrative Assistance and Cooperation Network (AAC) serves to exchange information on non-compliance with EU regulations relating to food, feed plant protection and animals and does not constitute a risk reportable under the RASFF or a food fraud case (FFN).

As reported by the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety, the authorities have exchanged over 3,200 notifications in the AAC. One third of the notifications were submitted by the German authorities.

Below is an overview of the notifications in the ACN for the year 2024:



Source: EU-Commission

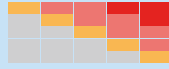
To enlarge please click on the chart.

### Feedback

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

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