

Issue | May 2025



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

There were 392 new RASFF-notifications in May. The evaluation can be found under point 1.

Under "News on residues and contaminants" (point 2), we inform about a draft regulation on maximum levels of fluralaner in fin fish.

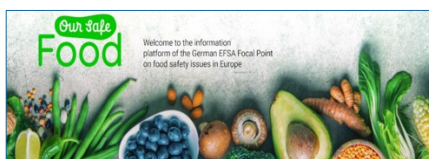
We also present the EU Report 2023 on pesticide residues in food. AGRINFO invites interested parties to a webinar on the planned limit values for mineral oil hydrocarbons.

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

Topic of the month (item 4) is the report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on the food safety of personalised nutrition with a focus on food supplements and functional foods.

Oursafefood.de: Website of the EFSA Focal Point at the German Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)

The EU Transparency Regulation of 2019 requires communication on risks in the food chain. EFSA has launched the Coordinated Communications initiative to strengthen cooperation in the risk area.



The German BfR platform **oursafefood.de** provides information on food safety, offers communication media and provides information on European food safety systems and notifications from European countries. Last year, the BfR published **questions and answers** on the role of the EFSA Focal Point.

We hope that also this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter is interesting for you and we are of course looking forward to your feedback.

Your Safefood-Online Team

1. RASFF-Notifications in Safefood-Online: May 2025

Compared to April, the number of new RASFF notifications slightly decreased:

- **May 2025:** 392
- April 2025: 421
- March 2025: 467

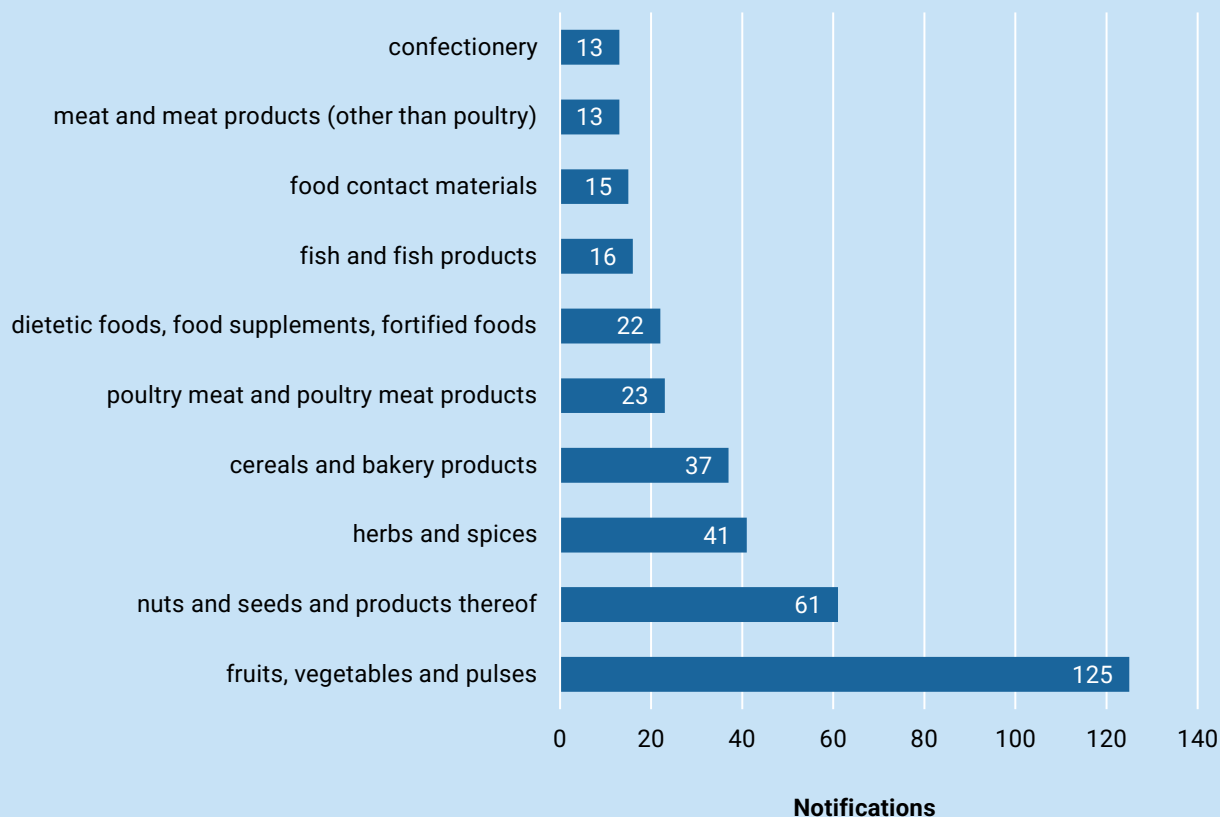
The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 135
- Border rejections: 90
- Information messages: 67



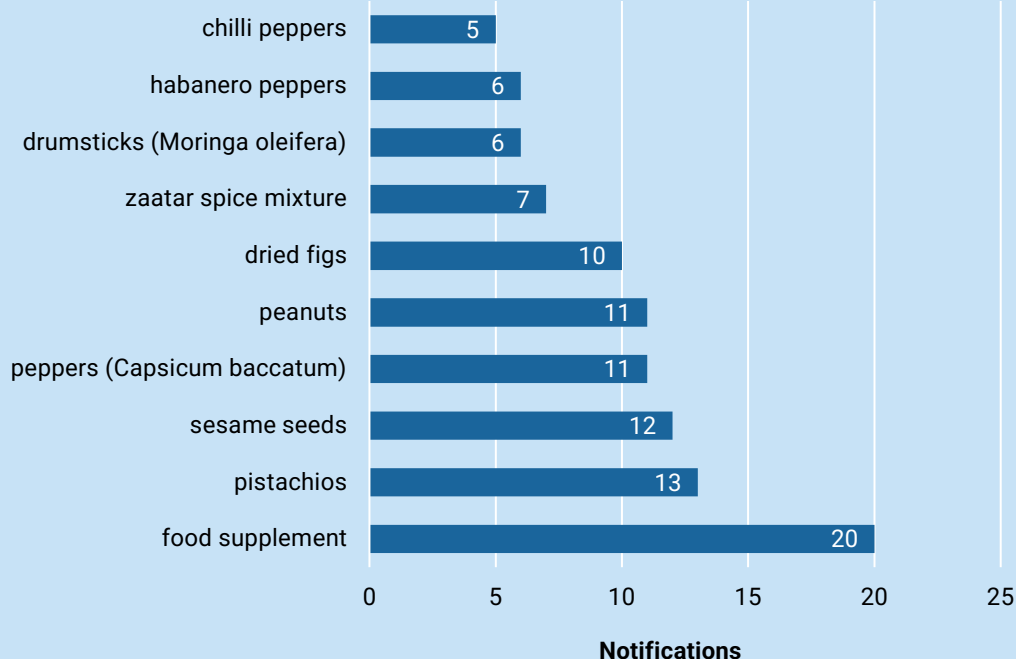
The product category fruits, vegetables and pulses is in first place in the analysis by product category with 125 notifications. 77 notifications concerned pesticides (11 notifications were due to findings of chlorpyrifos and 18 notifications were due to mycotoxins). The product category nuts, seeds and products thereof followed in second place with 61 notifications. In this product category, there were 29 notifications due to mycotoxins and 15 notifications due to pathogenic micro-organisms. The product category herbs and spices is in third place with 41 notifications, 11 due to pesticides:

RASFF-Notifications May 2025: Top 10 product categories



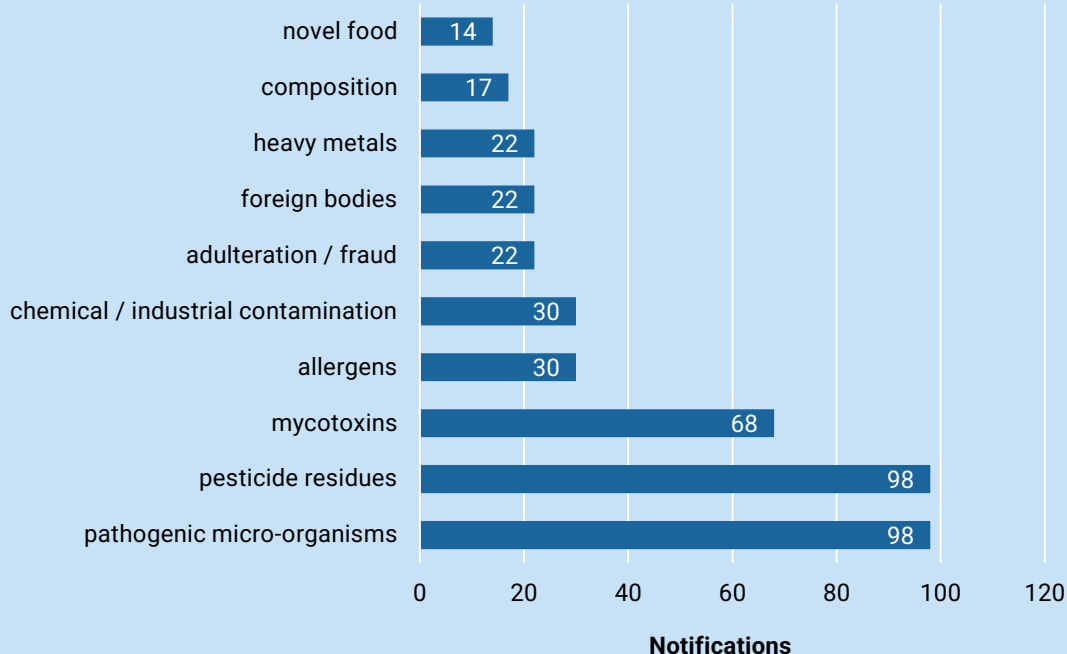
In May, food supplements were again in first place with 20 notifications, followed by pistachios and sesame seeds in second and third place with 13 and 12 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications May 2025: Top 10 products



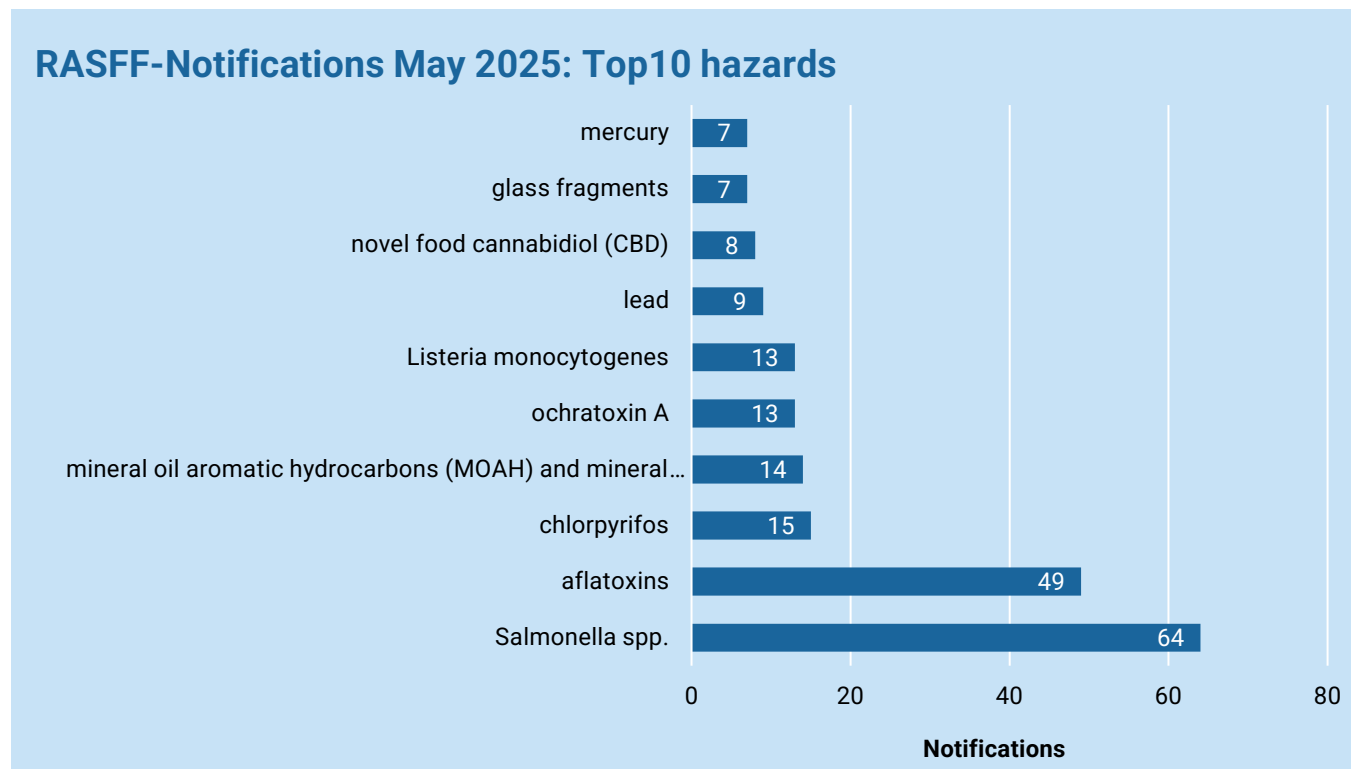
In the evaluation by hazard category, pathogenic micro-organisms and pesticides are at the top in May, each with 98 notifications. In the hazard category pesticides, 15 notifications are due to findings of chlorpyrifos. Mycotoxins are ranking third with 68 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications May 2025: Top 10 hazard categories

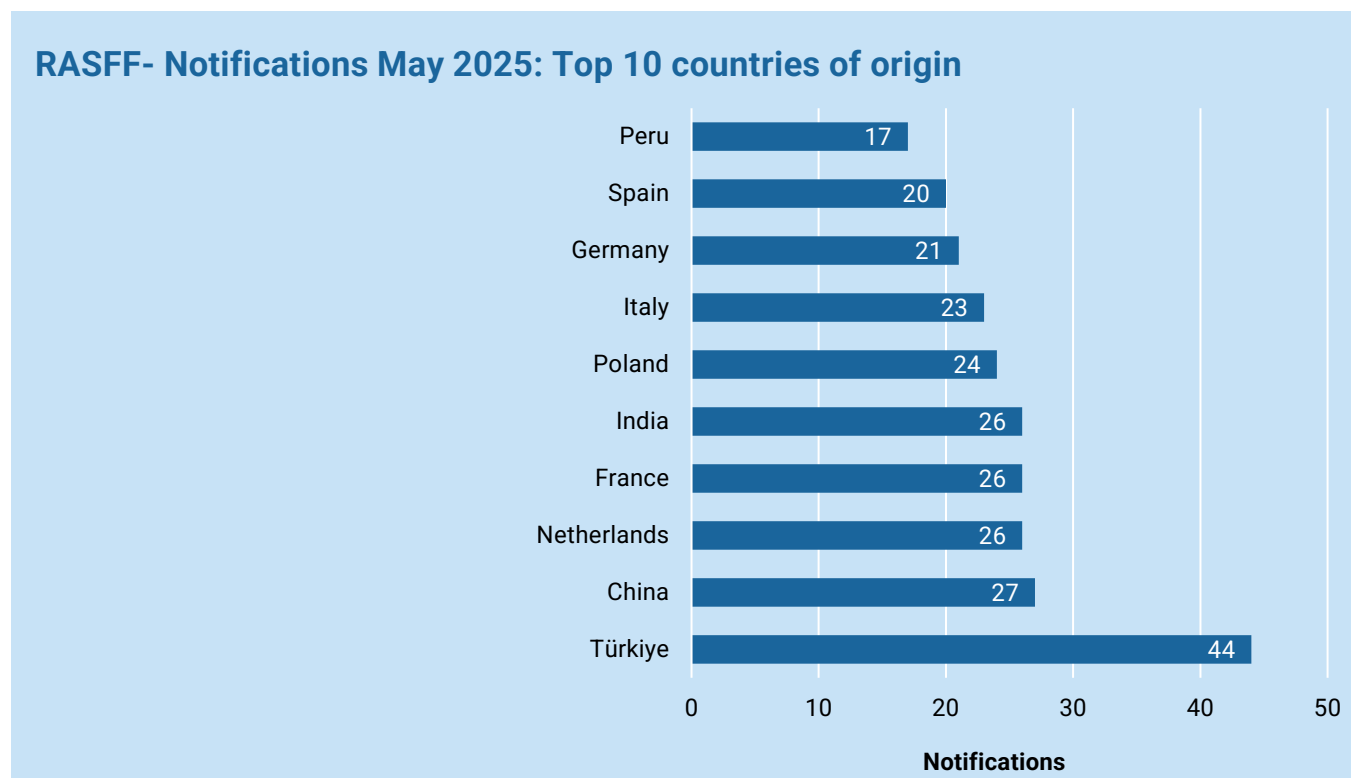


1. RASFF-Notifications in Safefood-Online: May 2025

In terms of hazards, salmonella ranked first with 64 notifications, followed by aflatoxins and chlorpyrifos with 49 and 15 notifications:



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



With 44 notifications, Türkiye is in first place, followed by China and the Netherlands with 27 and 26 notifications

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



Draft Regulation regarding maximum residue limits for fluralaner in fin fish

The European Commission has published a **draft regulation** with an **annex** to amend Regulation (EU) 37/2010 on pharmacologically active substances and their classification regarding maximum residue limits in foodstuffs of animal origin. This draft aims to establish maximum residue levels for fluralaner in (fin) fish. The EU proposes a maximum residue limit of 65 µg/kg for (fin) fish, applicable to muscle and skin in their natural proportions.

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

EU-Report 2023 on pesticide residues in foodstuffs

The **EU-Report 2023** on pesticide residues in foodstuffs provides an overview of the official control activities related to pesticide residues conducted in the EU Member States, Iceland, and Norway. It summarizes the results of both the EU-coordinated control program (Multi-annual Control Programmes for Pesticide Residues, EU-MACP) and the national control programs (Multi-annual National Control Plan, MANCP).

The results of this report are a valuable aid, for example, in the development of testing plans within quality management.

Data visualisation is also available for both the EU-coordinated control program (EU MACP) and the national control programs (MANCP).

AGRINFO-Webinar regarding new limits for mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOH)

In mid-June, AGRINFO is organising a **webinar** on the EU Commission's planned limits for mineral oil hydrocarbons in food.

For more information, see also EU Food Safety: **Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons (MOH)** and AGRINFO's guide "**Mineral oil hydrocarbons in food - an introduction to the planned EU-wide regulations**".

AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by **COLEAD** (Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development) and is an information platform that providing information on updates to European regulations.



- 🕒 New GMOs: freedom of choice only possible through mandatory labelling, warn 49 civil society organisations
- 🕒 Third update of the EU database of processing factors for pesticide residues
- 🕒 2024 EFSA Annual Report Emerging Risks and Horizon Scanning Activities

Food Safety

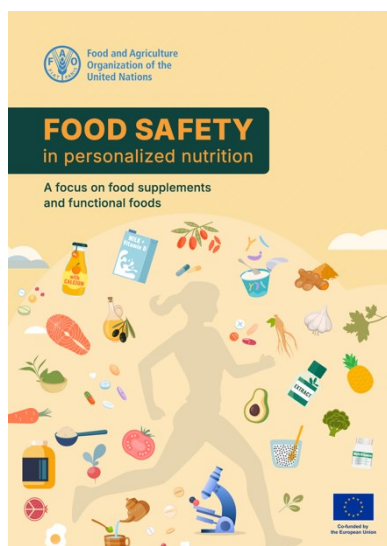
- 🕒 study explores the application of Near-Infrared Hyperspectral Imaging (NIR-HSI) as a non-destructive method for monitoring the oxidation of hazelnuts stored under different atmospheric conditions and light exposures, directly inside plastic bags, without the need for packaging removal nor sample preparation
- 🕒 EFSA: Re-evaluation of acesulfame K (E 950) as food additive
- 🕒 US: Salmonella contamination spurs recall of fresh tomatoes
- 🕒 Canada: Company recalls pumpkin seeds because of Salmonella contamination
- 🕒 Latest data shows huge spike in E. coli infections in England
- 🕒 The future of farming: Who will produce our food?
- 🕒 The public opinion in Sweden on gene-edited crops and farmed animals
- 🕒 Gene-edited crops spark debate in Berlin as Brussels advances new rules



Food Fraud

- 🕒 The European Commission has proposed a change to tuna freezing rules to clamp down on food fraud and the risk of consumers getting sick
- 🕒 Great Britain: FSA announces additional investigatory powers to tackle food fraud
- 🕒 US: South Carolina chicken plant sabotage case exposes food safety gap
- 🕒 New Zealand: Whistleblower information leads to fines for meat firms
- 🕒 How DNA Barcoding went from biodiversity tracker to food fraud detector
- 🕒 Report on EU-Agri-Food Fraud suspicions, April 2025
- 🕒 Food Fraud Vulnerability Index 2025: Countries Most at Risk for Adulterated Foods
- 🕒 External and internal food fraud prevention in Finnish food businesses
- 🕒 Food authenticity and the interactions with human health and climate change

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) presents report on the food safety of personalised nutrition with a focus on food supplements and functional



Over the last two decades, personalised nutrition has become increasingly important among experts, consumers and researchers. Nutritional recommendations are usually aimed at broad population groups. However, a personalised approach has been around for some time, which aims to adapt nutritional recommendations to the needs of each individual.

Food supplements and functional foods are key components of personalised nutrition. As this area continues to grow, it is important to monitor the safety aspects of such products more closely, especially given that the lack of clear legal regulations, definitions and terminology in some countries contributes to significant differences in the regulation of these products

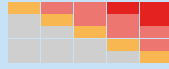
With the report '**Food Safety in Personalised Nutrition**', the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides a comprehensive overview of potential safety risks associated with dietary supplements and functional foods - including adulteration, drug interactions, overdose and toxicity - supported by case studies from scientific literature and media reports. In addition, regulatory frameworks in various countries and regions will be analysed, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Europe, India, Japan, Niger, China, India, Japan and the United States.

The report also highlights consumer awareness of the safety of these products, analyses the reasons for their use and the influence of marketing on their distribution.

Feedback

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

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