

Issue | August 2025



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

There were 403 new RASFF notifications in August. The evaluations can be found under point 1.

"Latest news on residues and contaminants" (point 2) are informing on new maximum levels for acetamiprid. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published a report on lead intake from food.

There are also new developments regarding titanium dioxide.

News on food safety and food fraud can be found again under point 3.

Topic of the month (point 4) are the results and conclusions from the nemo study on eating behaviour commissioned by the Max Rubner-Institute.

Energy drinks:

The EDKAR study (Energy Drinks and Cardiological Risk) investigated the consequences of high consumption of energy drinks over a longer period of time. Data from 97 young people with high consumption of energy drinks was compared with a control group of 160 young people who did not drink energy drinks. No differences in heart health were found. However, the study also showed that young people who consume large amounts of energy drinks smoke more often, drink more alcohol and sleep less. These factors can endanger heart health in the long term. The full study can be found [here](#).

In this context, it is interesting to note that there are [efforts in the United Kingdom](#) to ban the sale of energy drinks with a caffeine content of more than 150 mg/l.

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: August 2025

Compared to July, the number of new RASFF notifications decreased:

- **August 2025:** 403
- July 2025: 485
- June 2025: 431

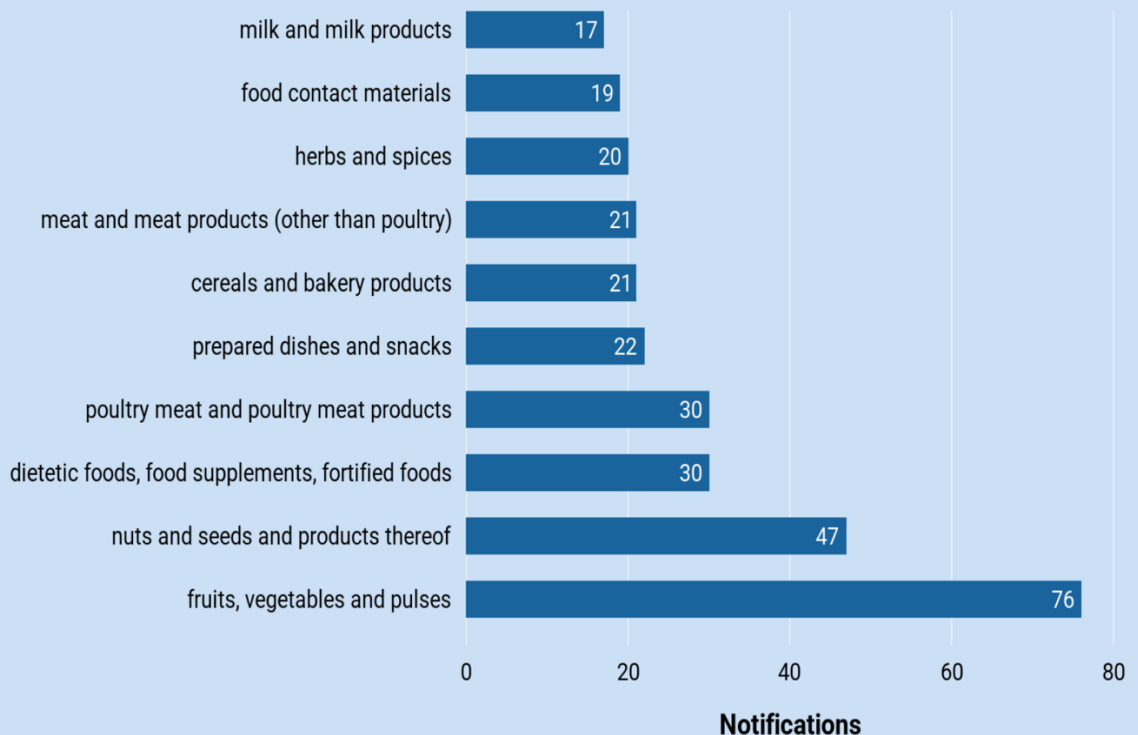
The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 116
- Border rejections: 112
- Information messages: 175



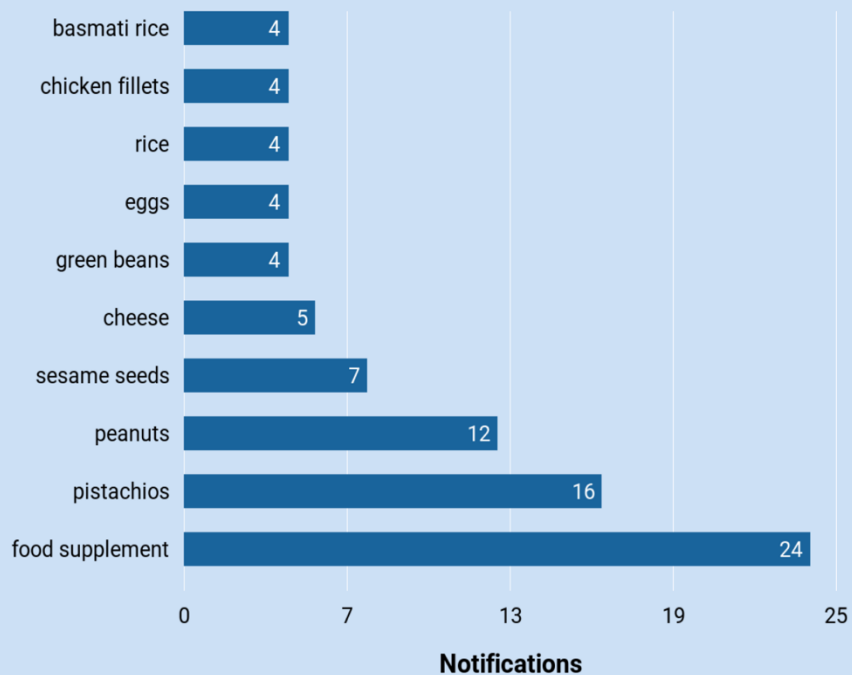
The product category fruit, vegetables and legumes ranks first in the evaluation by product category with 76 notifications. In second place is the product category nuts, seeds and products thereof with 47 notifications. The product categories dietary foods, food supplements and fortified foods, as well as poultry meat and poultry meat products, are in third and fourth place, each with 30 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications August 2025: Top 10 product categories



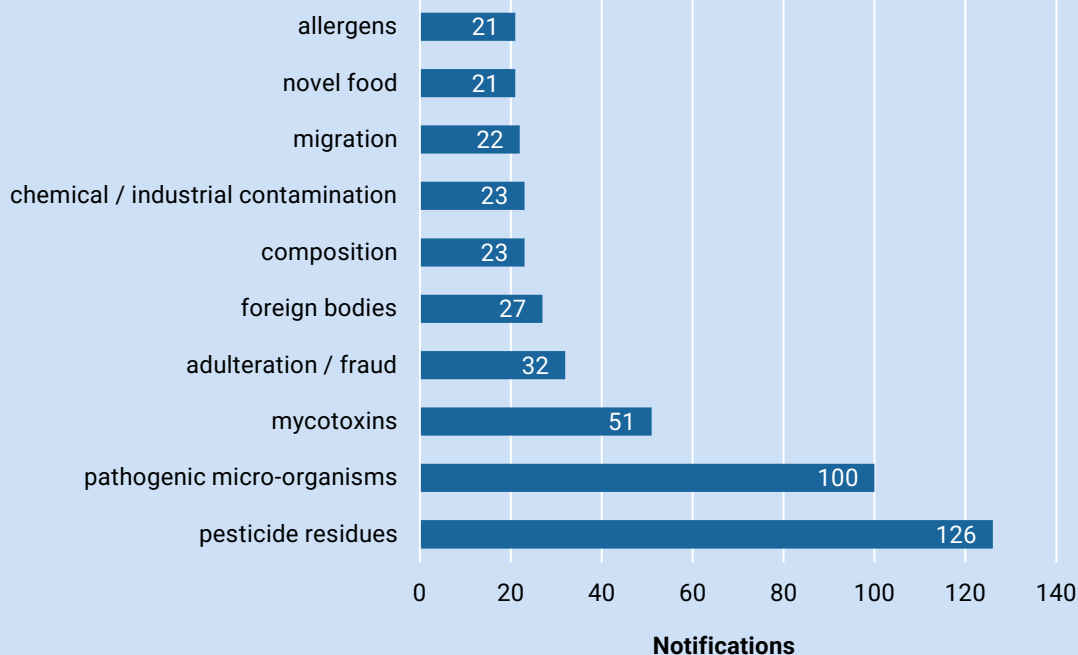
In the evaluation by product, food supplements are in first place with 24 notifications, followed by pistachios and peanuts with 16 and 12 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications August 2025: Top 10 products



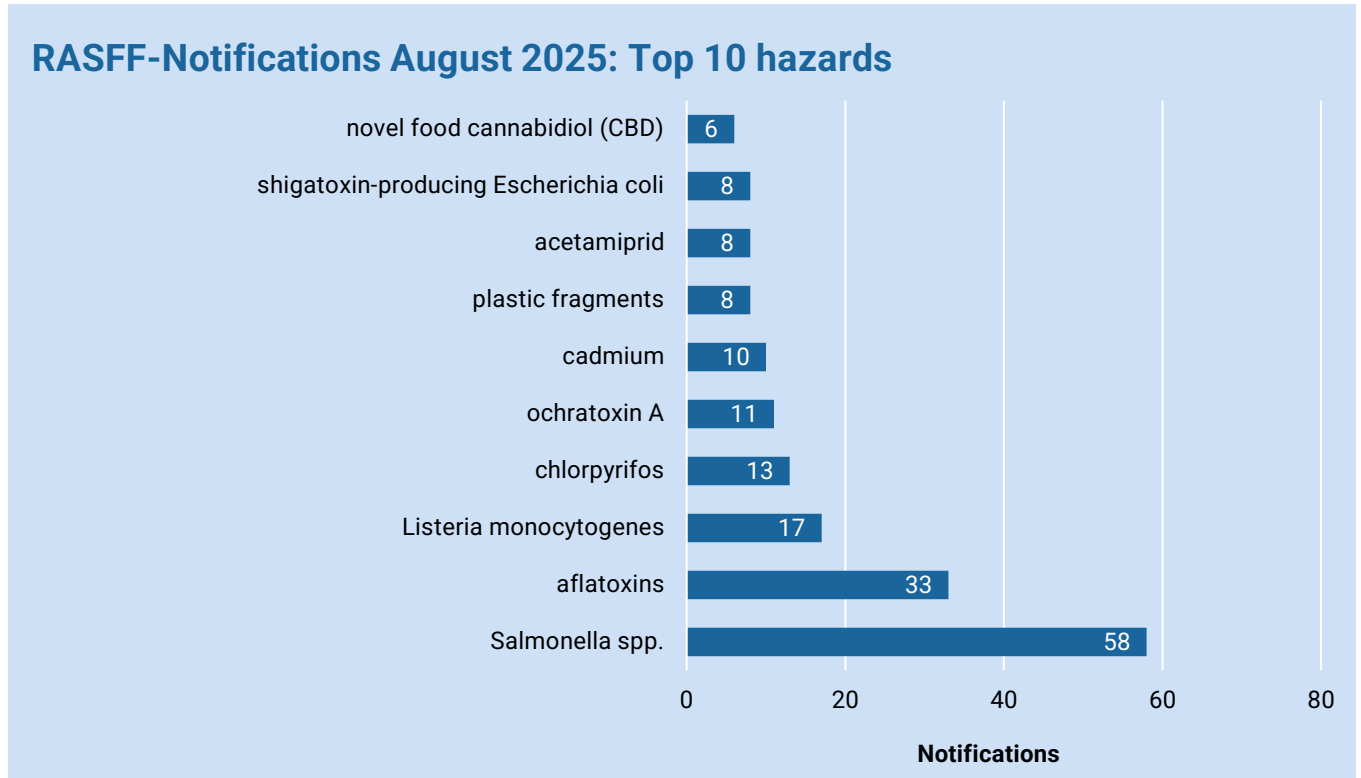
In the evaluation by hazard category, pesticides ranked first in August with 126 cases of maximum residue levels being exceeded or unauthorised pesticides being found. In one notification concerning grape leaves in brine from Türkiye, there were 16 cases of maximum residue levels being exceeded or unauthorised pesticides being found. Pathogenic micro-organism and mycotoxins are following in second and third place with 100 and 51 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications August 2025: Top 10 hazard categories

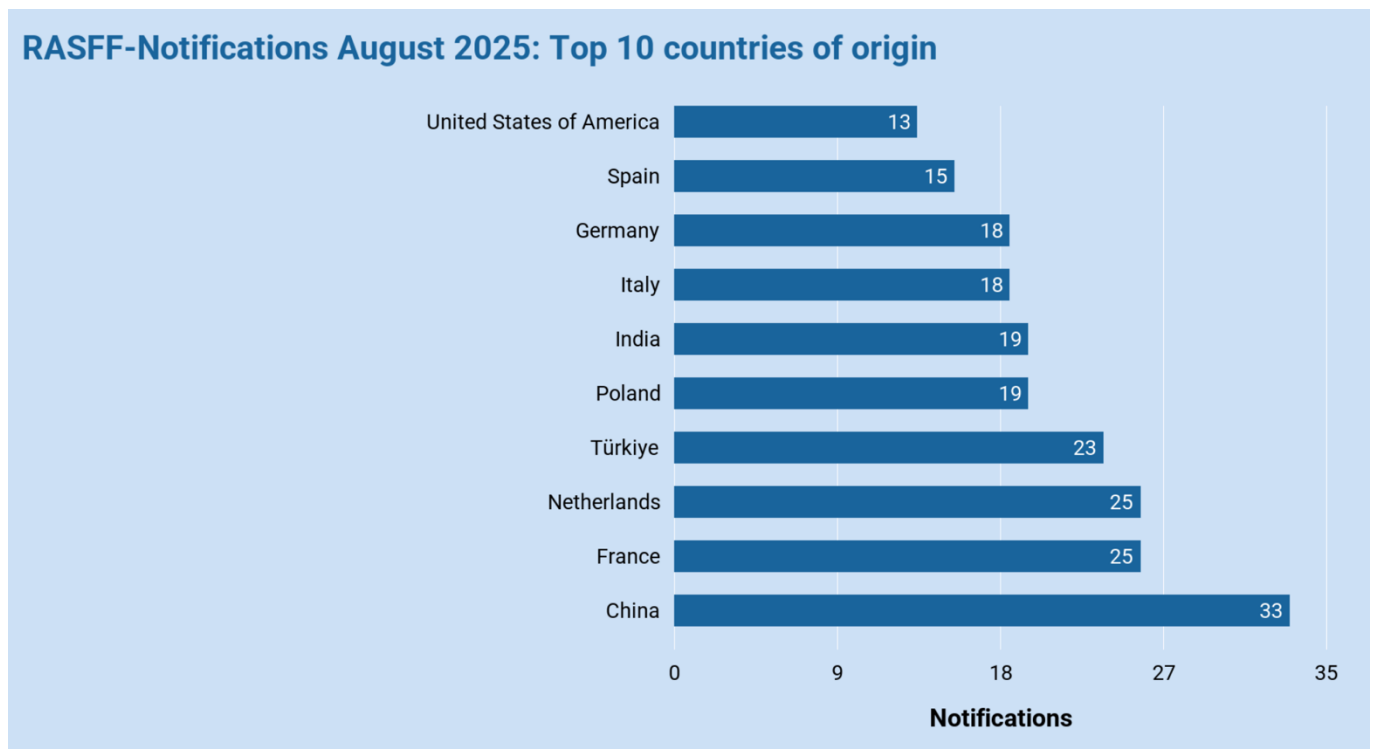


1. RASFF-Notifications in Safefood-Online: August 2025

In terms of hazards, salmonella ranks first with 58 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 33 notifications and *Listeria monocytogenes* with 17 notifications:



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



China is in first place with 33 notifications, followed by France and the Netherlands, each with 25 notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants

Regulation (EU) 2025/1212

Regulation 2025/1212 of June 24, 2025 raised the maximum residue levels for:

- Acetamiprid

on plums, linseeds, poppy seeds, mustard seeds, gold of pleasure seeds, soybeans and honey. The maximum residue levels had previously been at the limit of determination.

In January 2025, Regulation 2025/158 lowered the maximum level of acetamiprid for a large number of foods (see also the [Safefood Online Newsletter February 2025](#)).

EFSA scientific report on dietary exposure to lead in the European population

The EFSA has evaluated the lead exposure of the European population at the request of the European Commission, taking into account the presence of lead in food and drinking water.

In this [report](#), a total of 288,239 analytical results on lead were considered for the exposure assessment, including 9,922 samples of drinking water and 278,317 from various food items. The samples were collected across Europe between 2013 and 2023. Consumption data from 23 different European countries and a total of 55 different dietary surveys were used to estimate chronic dietary lead exposure.

The highest average lead concentrations were found in "meat and meat products," which is attributed to several

very high lead concentrations in game meat. The highest concentrations were measured in wild boar meat (3.7 g/kg) and in air-dried raw sausages (0.36 g/kg). High average lead concentrations were also found in dietary supplements and spices.

The trend analysis, covering data from 2004 to 2022, showed a slight decrease in lead occurrence in most food categories. The largest decline was observed in "products for special dietary purposes, food imitates, and dietary supplements" as well as in "spices, sauces, and condiments." However, an increase in lead occurrence was noted in "legumes, nuts, oilseeds, and spices," "vegetables and vegetable products," and "coffee, cocoa, tea, and infusions."

EU Court of Justice upholds annulment of titanium dioxide carcinogen classification

In its judgment of August 1, 2025, the European Court of Justice upheld the European Court's decision that the classification of titanium dioxide as a probable carcinogen when inhaled was invalid due to methodological errors on the part of the EU Commission.

The judgment of the 5th Chamber of the European Court of Justice of August 1, 2025 can be found [here](#).



Food Safety

- 🕒 USA: Assisted by sniffer dogs and DNA sequencing, researchers discover three new truffle species
- 🕒 The coca market is in chaos and producers around the world are scrambling to adapt
- 🕒 Scientists warn of Dutch Salmonella increase
- 🕒 Canada: Outbreak traced to pistachios sickens dozens
- 🕒 Researchers have described a confirmed case of infant botulism linked to peanut butter that occurred in the United Kingdom in May 2024
- 🕒 EFSA: Re-evaluation of oxygen (E 948) and hydrogen (E 949) as food additives
- 🕒 German BfR: STEC /EHEC infections from food: recognising and preventing risks
- 🕒 German BfR: Selenium: levels in plant-based foods vary from region to region
- 🕒 Food Anaphylaxis: Eight Food Allergens Without Mandatory Labelling Highlighted by the French Allergy-Vigilance Network
- 🕒 Epidemiological and genomic characterization of a rare foodborne outbreak caused by *Bacillus paranthracis* in Huzhou, China, 2024
- 🕒 US: The CDC (Centers for Disease aControl and Prevention) has officially confirmed that is no longer tracking six of eight pathogens that cause foodborne illnesses
- 🕒 Annual Report on Zoonoses in Denmark 2024
- 🕒 Chlorinated paraffins in food contact materials made of rubber from the German market



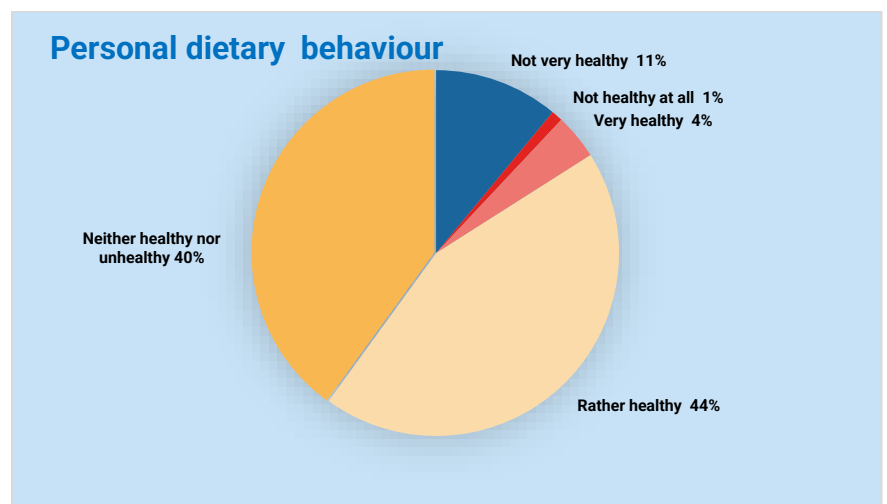
Food Fraud

- 🕒 United Kingdom: An FSA National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) operation investigating the distribution and sale of basmati rice in counterfeit packaging has resulted in the arrest of four people.
- 🕒 Agri Food-Fraud Suspicions, June 2025
- 🕒 Agri Food-Fraud Suspicions, July 2025
- 🕒 Authorities in Spain and Portugal have dismantled a lucrative cross-border operation smuggling contaminated clams into the food chain. In a Europol-backed sting, 11 suspects were arrested, and seven tonnes of shellfish seized
- 🕒 Seafood Origin and Authenticity using Nuclear and Related Technologies
- 🕒 Spanish and Portuguese authorities have taken action to stop the introduction of potentially contaminated clams to the food service industry
- 🕒 Four men in the UK have been sentenced for diverting meat that was not fit for human consumption back into the human food chain, after pleading guilty to the charges earlier this year.

Online survey on the eating behaviour of the adult population in Germany

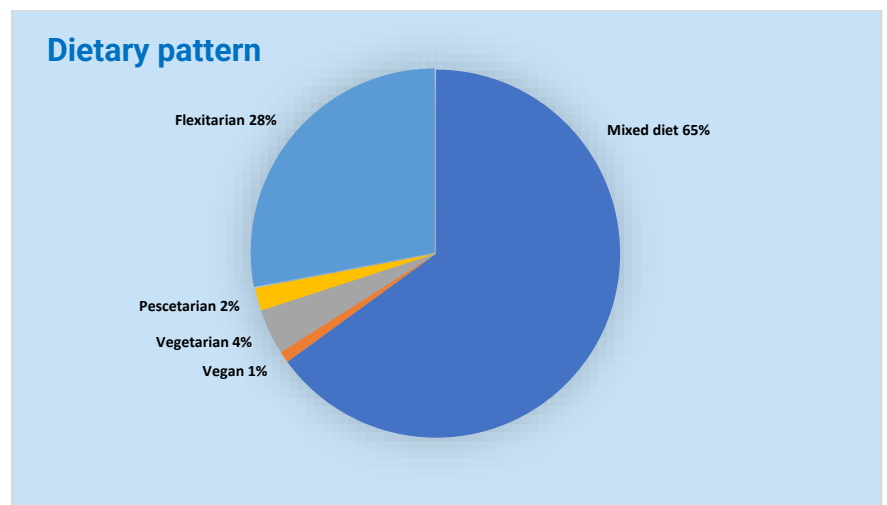


A market research company (GIM, Gesellschaft für innovative Marktforschung) conducted a representative online survey of around 3,100 adults aged between 18 and 80 on behalf of the Max Rubner Institute in Germany. Almost half of those surveyed reported eating a healthy or relatively healthy diet. In contrast, the consumption levels of individual product groups did not necessarily correspond to the recommendations of the German Nutrition Society (DGE).



according to the nemo-study – Max Rubner-Institute

Around 4 per cent of respondents stated that they follow a vegetarian diet, 1 per cent stated that they follow a vegan diet.



according to the nemo-study – Max Rubner-Institute

Feedback

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