

Issue | October 2025



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

In October 2025, there were 532 new notifications in the EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). This is an increase of almost 100 notifications compared to the previous month of September. The evaluations can be found under point 1.

"Latest news on residues and contaminants" (point 2), informs about maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in fish and seafood, as well as about proposed regulations on maximum pesticide levels.

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

Topic of the month (point 4) are the results of the European OPSON Operation XIV.

It's all about sausage:

The European Parliament has voted to restrict the use of terms such as "sausage," "steak," and "burger" on the labels of plant-based foods. The members of the EU-Parliament adopted the proposal ([Amendment 645](#)) by French EPP member Céline Imart, with 355 votes in favour, 247 against, and 30 abstentions.



The vote follows closely after the launch of the "[No Confusion Coalition](#)" by We Planet and the European Vegetarian Union (EVU), representing more than 400 organizations, NGOs, and food companies across Europe. It will be interesting to see how the decision-making process is proceeding on European level.

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

Compared to September, the number of new RASFF notifications increased from 433 to 532 in October:

- **October 2025:** 532
- September 2025: 433
- August 2025: 403

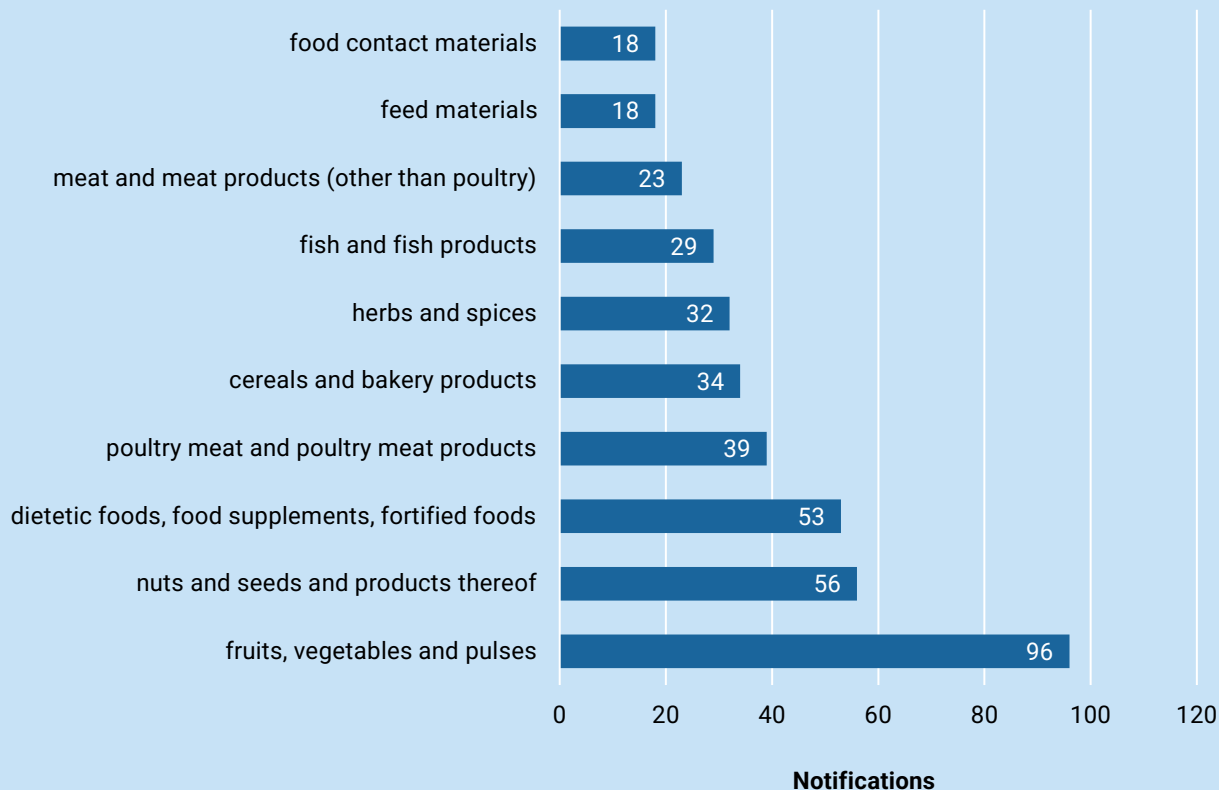
The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 135
- Border rejections: 115
- Information messages: 281
- Non compliance notifications 1



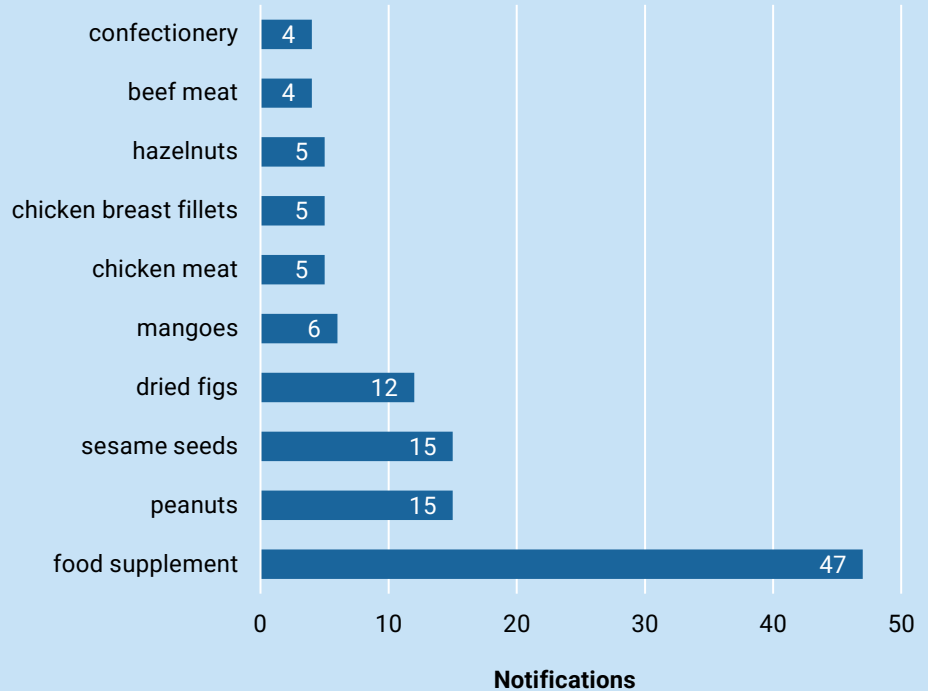
The product category fruit, vegetables and legumes remains in first place with 96 notifications in the evaluation by product category. In second place is the product category nuts, seeds and products thereof with 56 notifications. The product category dietary foods, food supplements and fortified foods follows in third place with 53 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications October 2025: Top 10 product categories



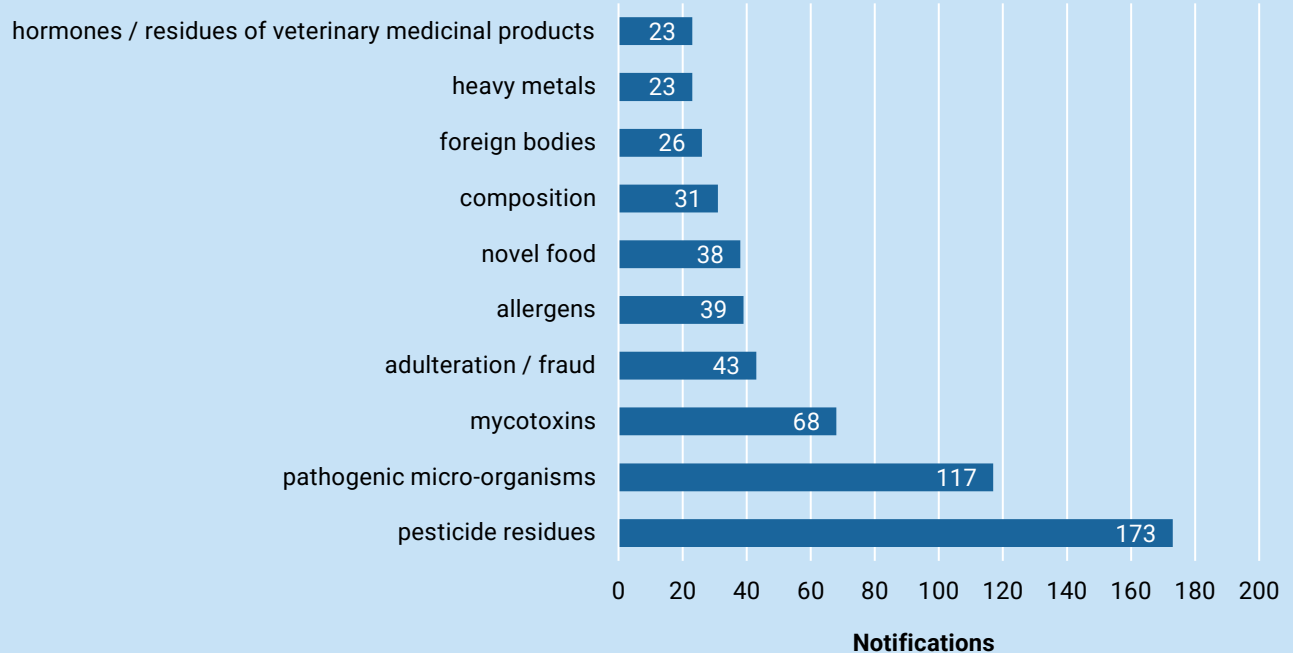
In the ranking by product, food supplements are in first place with 47 notifications, followed by peanuts and sesame seeds, each with 15 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications October 2025: Top 10 products



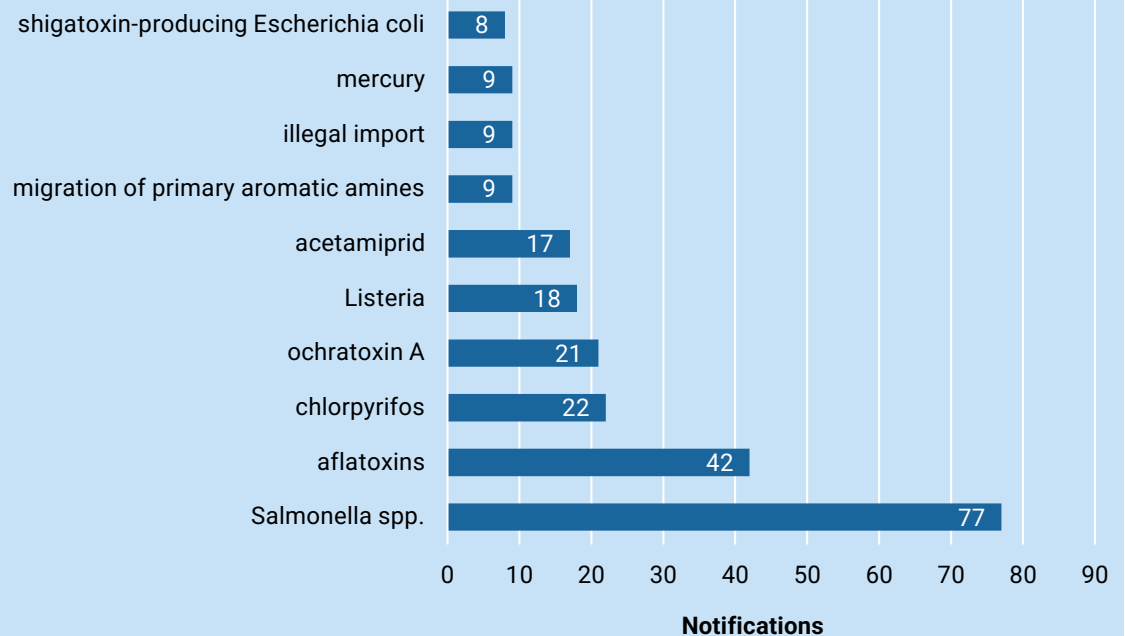
In the evaluation by hazard category, pesticides ranked first in October with 173 cases of maximum levels being exceeded or unauthorised pesticides being found. There were 16 cases being found in a notification concerning jasmine tea from China, and 11 cases in a notification concerning cumin from India. Pathogenic micro-organisms and mycotoxins are following in second and third place with 117 and 68 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications October 2025: Top 10 hazard categories



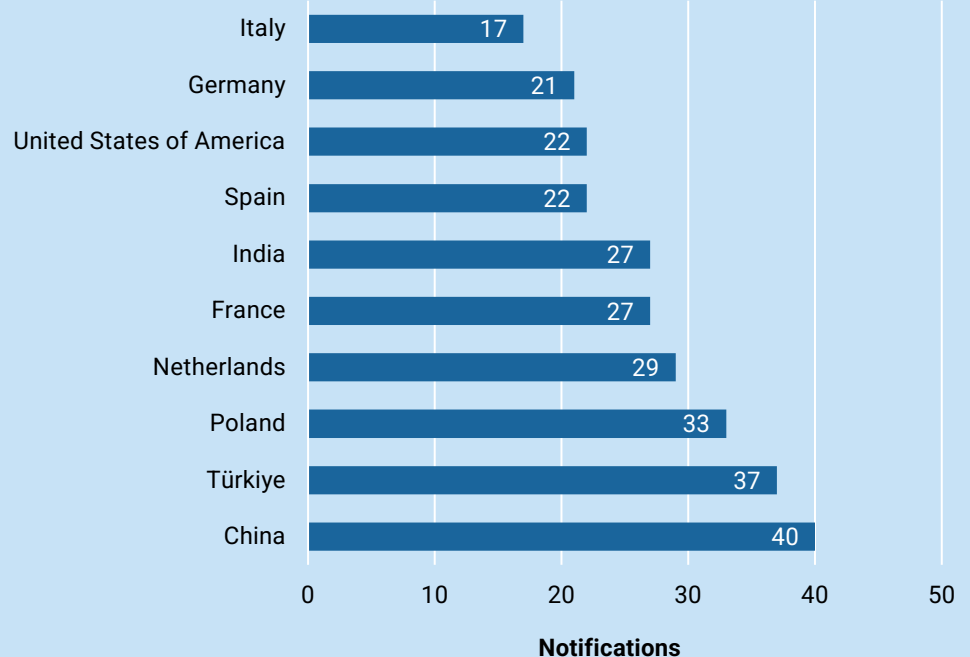
In terms of hazards, salmonella ranks first with 77 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 42 notifications and chlorpyrifos with 22 notifications. Acetamiprid is again among the top 10 hazards in October (17 cases):

RASFF-Notifications October 2025: Top 10 hazards



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

RASFF-Notifications October 2025: Top 10 countries of origin



China is in first place with 40 notifications, followed by Türkiye with 37 and Poland with 33 notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



Maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in fish and other

Early in 2024, the European Food Safety Authority **updated** its **risk assessment from 2021** of chronic exposure to inorganic arsenic in food and concluded that current exposure to inorganic arsenic continues to raise health concerns for consumers. The consumption of fish and certain other seafood contributes to this exposure. The EFSA therefore recommends maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in these products.

In the **Safefood-Online Newsletter from March 2025**, we have already informed about the draft regulation of the European Commission.

With **Regulation (EU) 2025/1891**, the “Contaminants-Regulation” (EU) 2023/915 is amended with regard to maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in fish and seafood. The new regulations came into force on 7 October.

For further information, please refer to the linked regulation.

The European Commission intends to amend the maximum residues levels for several

The EU Commission has presented draft regulations that would change the maximum levels of the following plant protection products:

- **Copper compounds**
- **Difenoconazole**
- **Cypermethrin, alpha-cypermethrin**

A further **draft regulation** proposes changes to the maximum levels for the following pesticides:

- Azocyclotin, Cyhexation
- Cyhexatin
- Chlorfenapyr
- Diazinon
- Dicofol
- Endosulfan
- Fenarimol
- Fenpropathrin
- Profenos

For further information, please refer to the linked draft regulations. We will keep you informed of further developments.



Food Safety

- 🕒 US: FDA increases import requirements on shrimp, spices from Indonesia because of radioactivity
- 🕒 About 20 people have been hospitalized in a region of Sweden with suspected Listeria infections
- 🕒 Netherlands: The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) published the report 2024 on pathogens: the total incidence for 2024 was estimated at 1,891,000 cases. Approximately 39% can be traced back to food as the transmission route
- 🕒 US: Consumers' confidence in food safety in the United States is at an all time low, according to a Gallup Poll
- 🕒 French health authorities have confirmed two cases of botulism following the consumption of a product made in Spain
- 🕒 An E. coli outbreak in Belgium with more than 70 cases and nine deaths has been linked to ground beef
- 🕒 Panel discussion Anuga 2025: Organic and non-GMO advocates are demanding "strong, reliable regulations" for labelling and coexistence for new genetic techniques (NGT) as the EU moves to deregulate them
- 🕒 Are labels for UPF (Ultra-processed foods) coming?
- 🕒 EU is authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize DP51291
- 🕒 Foodborne botulism from consumption of homemade spoiled eggs: a case series and literature review
- 🕒 H5N1 influenza virus stability and transmission risk in raw milk and cheese
- 🕒 ECDC: Salmonellosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2023
- 🕒 CRISPR/Cas-powered electrochemical sensors for food safety detection: Current state of the art, challenges, and future prospects
- 🕒 EFSA: Prolonged multi-country outbreak of Salmonella Strathcona ST2559 linked to consumption of tomatoes in the European Union/European Economic Area – first update
- 🕒 The first new commercial banana in 75 years is coming to the market next year



Food Fraud

- 🕒 Regulators in Belgium have launched an investigation after a local daily newspaper discovered that 20 of 32 olive oil bottles labelled as extra virgin failed to meet the quality standards of the grade. One sample was also found to be adulterated
- 🕒 Rapid detection of the inclusion of cassava starch in food and medicine products using Proofman-ladder shape melting temperature isothermal amplification method
- 🕒 Food fraud risks rise as brands fight economic and environmental headwinds
- 🕒 Denmark tackles meat fraud

Results of the Operation OPSON XIV

Launched in 2011 by Europol and INTERPOL, Operation OPSON was established to tackle the growing problem of food fraud in Europe and across the globe. The name "OPSON," derived from Greek, literally means "food."

The annual operation is coordinated by Europol, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission, as well as by national police, customs, and food safety authorities.

The main goal of OPSON is to remove counterfeit, mislabelled, or unsafe food and beverages from the market and to dismantle the criminal networks behind such illegal activities. Beyond enforcement, OPSON fosters closer information exchange and cooperation between authorities and the private sector and strengthening traceability within food supply chains. As part of the current OPSON Operation XIV:

- 631 individuals were reported to the judicial authorities
- 101 arrest warrants were issued
- 13 organised crime groups were dismantled
- goods worth around 95 million euros were seized
- 31,165 checks and inspections were carried out

OPSON XI also highlighted that organised crime infiltrates waste disposal companies to gain access to expired food for destruction. The criminals are removing the original 'best before' or 'use by' date labels using solvents and print new, counterfeit dates on the packaging. These relabelled products are then reintroduced into the supply chain. Such products are not only of inferior quality, they also often pose a health risk, for example with fish products. Although the relabelling of expired food is not an entirely new practice, it has now reached a previously unseen scale.

In addition, the authorities observed several cases in which meat or meat products were sold to restaurants or consumers even though they had been stored in unhygienic conditions or illegally slaughtered. Similar practices were also observed with seafood (e.g. mussels).

For further information, visit the official websites of [Europol](#).

Feedback

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