

Issue | December 2025



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

We hope you had a peaceful and restful Christmas holiday season and have had a good start to the new year. We wish you good health and every success for the year ahead.

Safefood-Online registered 6,583 notifications for the year 2025. With this newsletter, you will receive the corresponding annual evaluation.

Under "Latest news on residues and contaminants" (point 2), we report on planned changes to the maximum levels of pesticides, the EFSA's update of the risk assessment of dioxins, and new publications around the topic on "trifluoroacetic acid in cereals".

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

New genomic techniques: Council agrees negotiating mandate

After the European Council reached a **provisional agreement** with the EU-Parliament on December 4, 2025 on a set of rules establishing a legal framework for new genome editing technologies (NGTs), a majority of EU Member States **approved the provisional trilogue agreement** on the deregulation of genetically modified plants at the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 19 December, 2025.

As expected, the reactions of the various interest groups are different: the **German Research Foundation**, among others, welcomes the compromise reached, while the **German Federation of Organic Agriculture**, for example, has expressed its disagreement regarding the deregulation.

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.

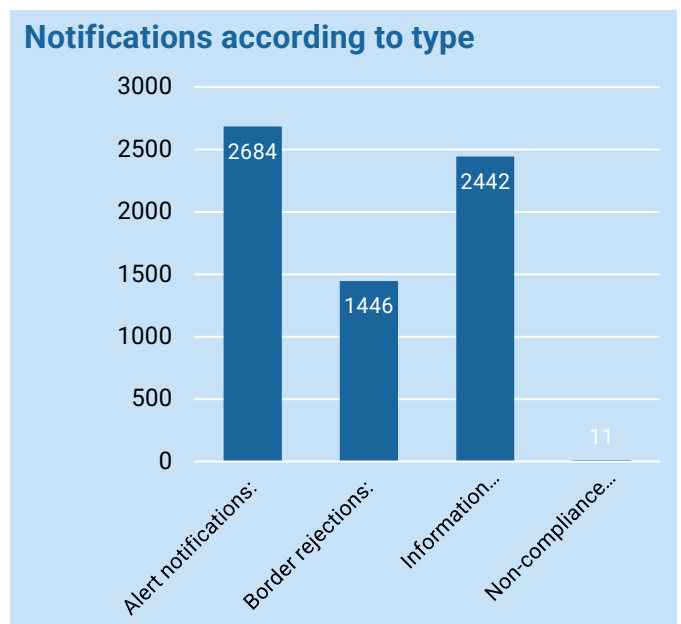
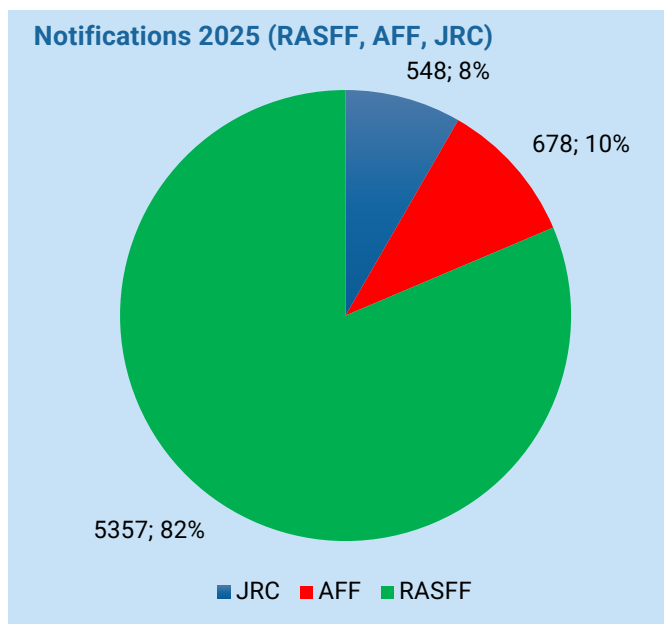
Your Safefood-Online Team

1. Notifications 2025 in Safefood-Online

As of 31 December, Safefood Online recorded a total of 6,583 new notifications for 2025, originating from both the EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) and the (monthly Food Fraud Summary Reports (JRC) and the monthly reports on suspected cases of Agri-Food Fraud (AFF).

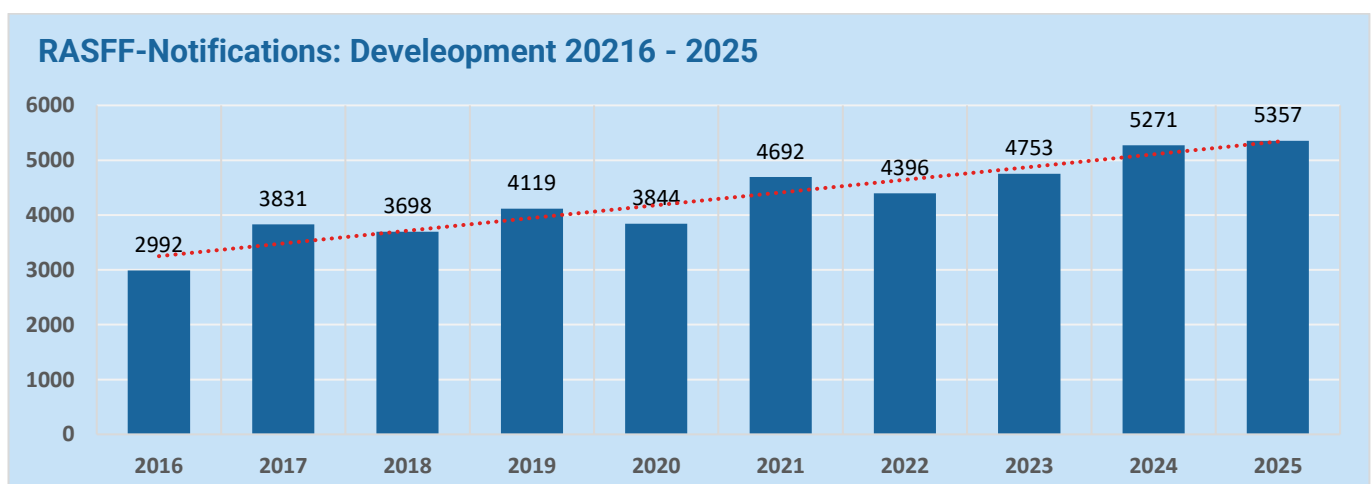


The following diagrams show the number of notifications by origin (RASFF, AFF or JRC) and by type:



1.1 RASFF-notifications 2025

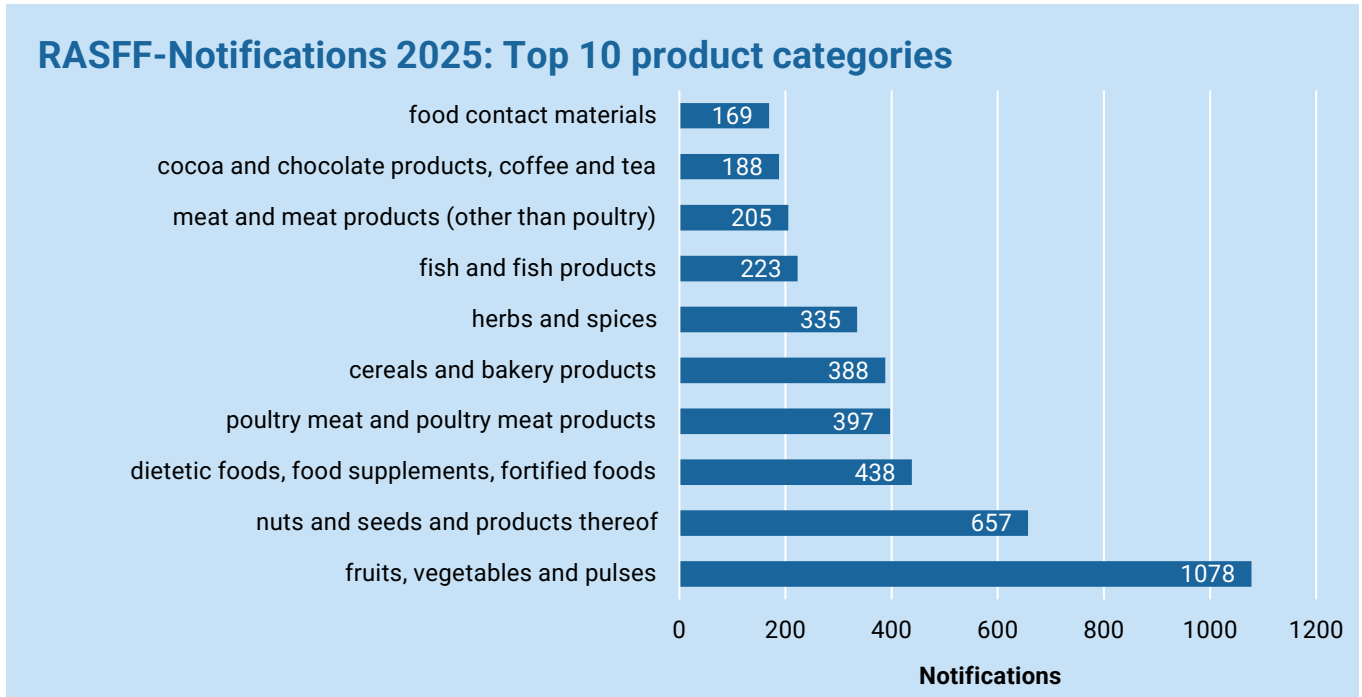
Compared to 2016 with 2,992 RASFF notifications, the number increased to 5,357 in 2025. This represents an increase of around 80%:



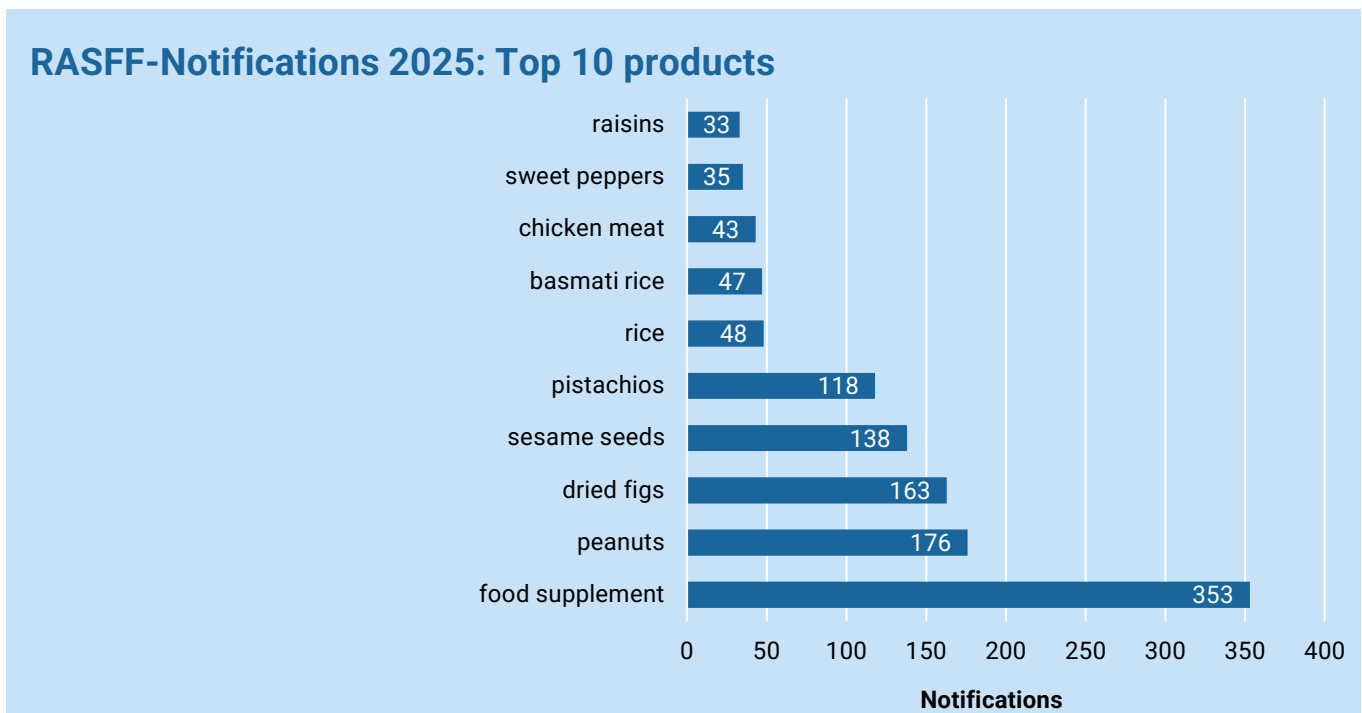
1. Notifications 2025 in Safefood-Online

1.2 Evaluation RASFF-notifications 2025

As in previous years, most notifications in 2025 (1,078 cases) related to the product category fruit, vegetables and legumes. The product group nuts, seeds and products thereof ranked second with 657 notifications, followed by the product category dietary foods, food supplements and fortified foods in third place with 438 notifications.



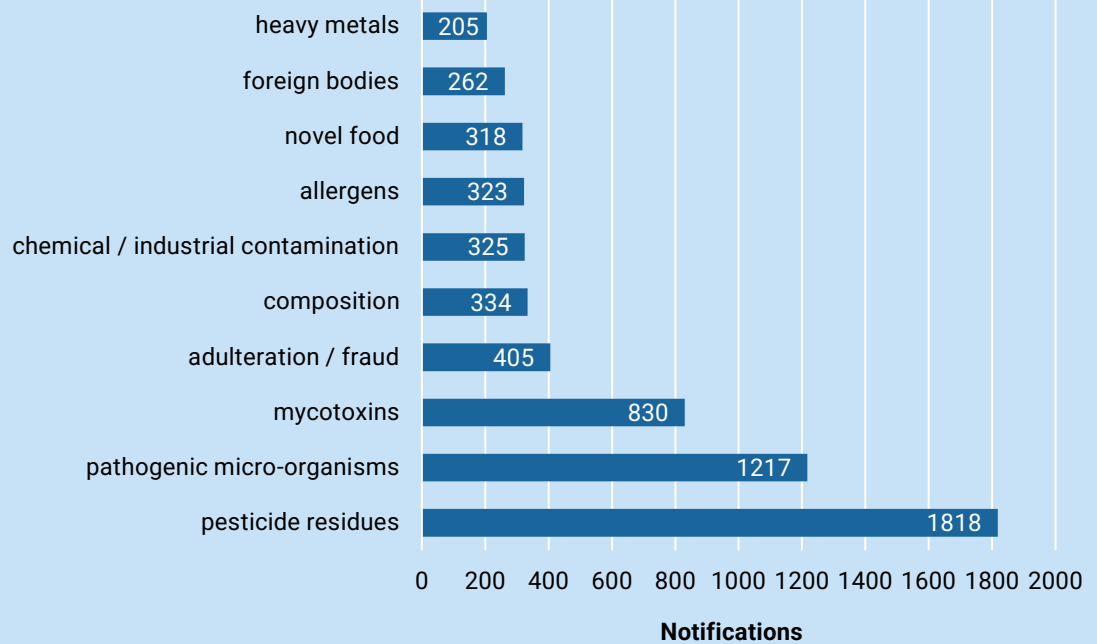
As in 2024, food supplements top the list of products with 353 notifications. In 125 cases, the composition was the reason for the notification, and in 115 cases, it was the use of novel foods not authorised in the EU. Peanuts and dried figs follow with 176 and 163 notifications:



1. Notifications 2025 in Safefood-Online

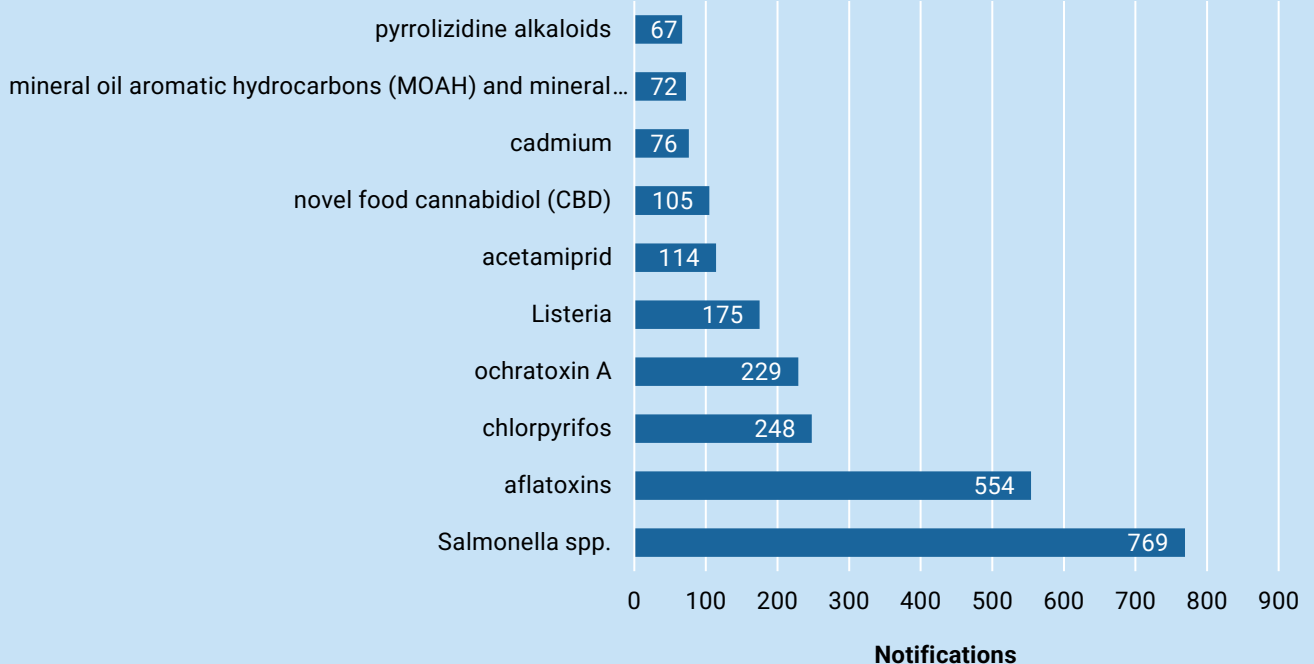
When evaluated by hazard category, pesticides rank first with 1,818 cases of maximum levels being exceeded or unauthorised pesticides being found. Pathogenic micro-organisms are following in second place with 1,217 cases and mycotoxins in third place with 830 cases:

RASFF-Notifications 2025: Top 10 hazard categories



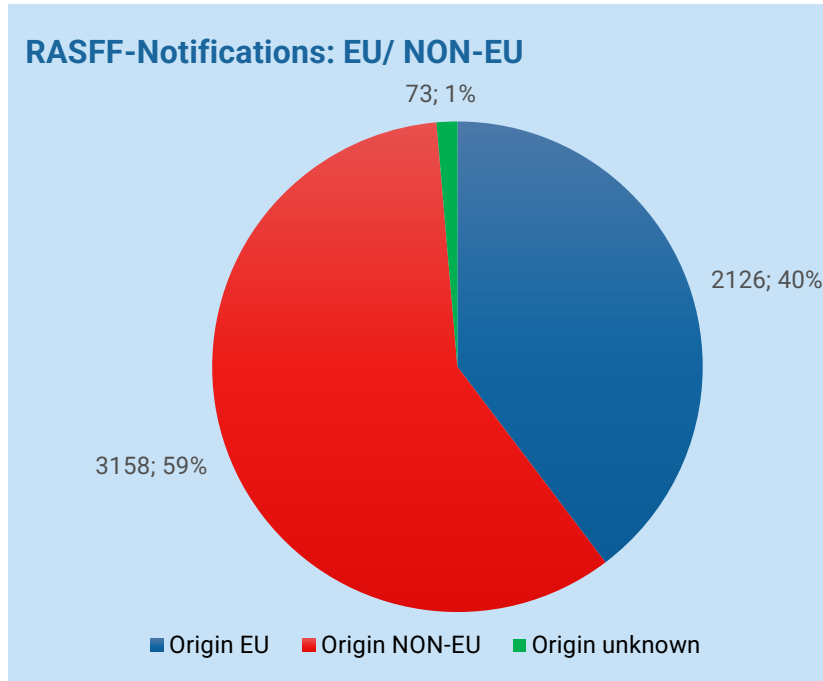
In terms of hazards, salmonella are on top with 769 cases, followed by aflatoxins with 554 cases and chlorpyrifos with 248 cases:

RASFF-Notifications 2025: Top 10 hazards



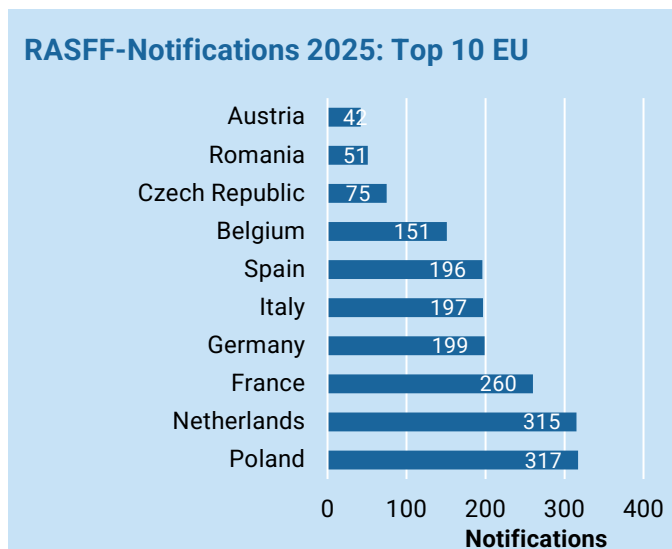
1. Notifications 2025 in Safefood-Online

Around 40% (2,126 notifications) of the 5,357 RASFF notifications concerned products from EU Member States and 59% from non-EU Member States. For 73 RASFF notifications, the origin was unknown or not specified:



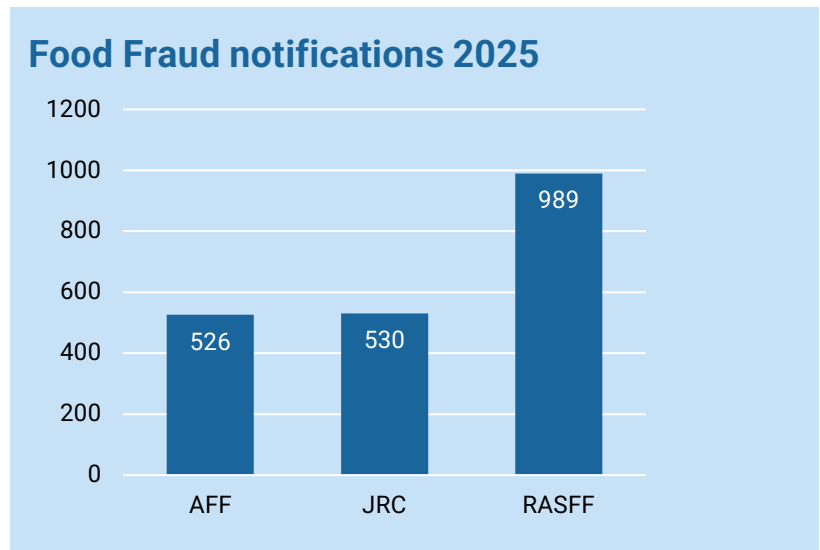
As in the previous year, Poland ranks first among EU Member States with 317 notifications. The Netherlands ranks second with 315 notifications, followed by France with 260 notifications.

In the ranking of non-EU Member States, Türkiye is in first place with 481 notifications, followed by China and India with 337 and 286 notifications:

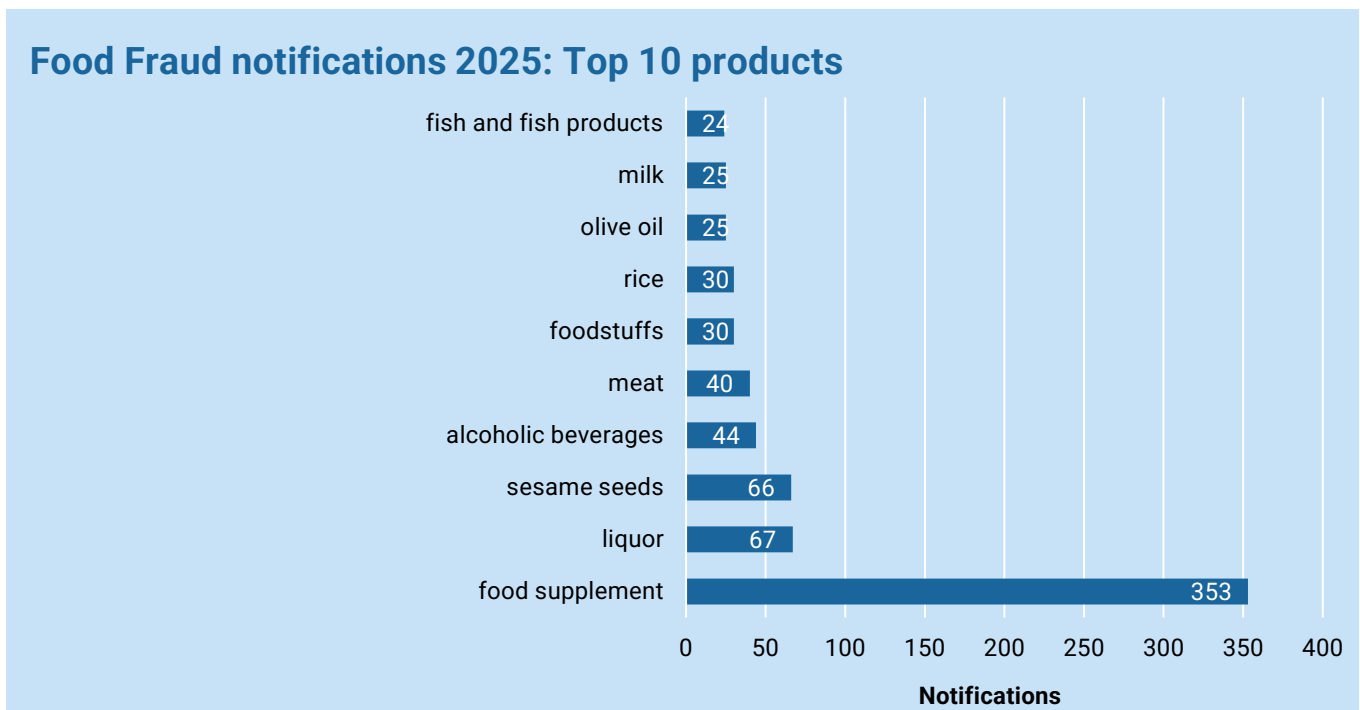


1.3 Food Fraud Notifications 2025

As of 31 December 2025, Safefood Online recorded in total 6583 notifications (RASFF, JRC and AFF), with 2045 notifications relating to food fraud or food fraud suspicions. The figure shows food fraud notifications by source (AFF, JRC or RASFF):



Most food fraud notifications concerned food supplements (353 notifications), followed by liquor and sesame seeds with 67 and 66 notifications:



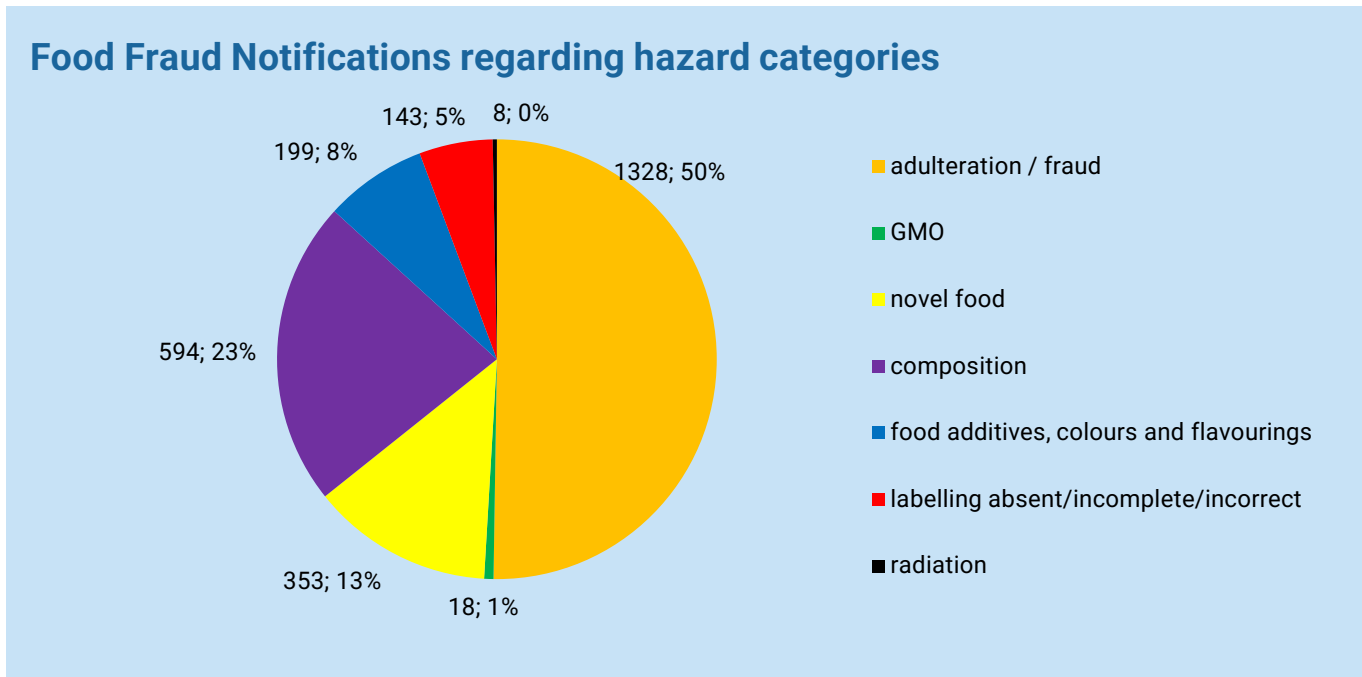
In Safefood-Online, the following notifications are included in the "Food Fraud" query:

- Irradiation (e.g. illegally irradiated food).
- Adulteration/Fraud (e.g. illegal import, fraudulent use of identity marks or brand names)
- Colours (e.g. illegal addition or improperly labelled food)
- GMO (e.g. notifications of genetically modified organisms that are not approved in the EU)
- labelling (e.g. incorrect labelling or falsified health certificates)

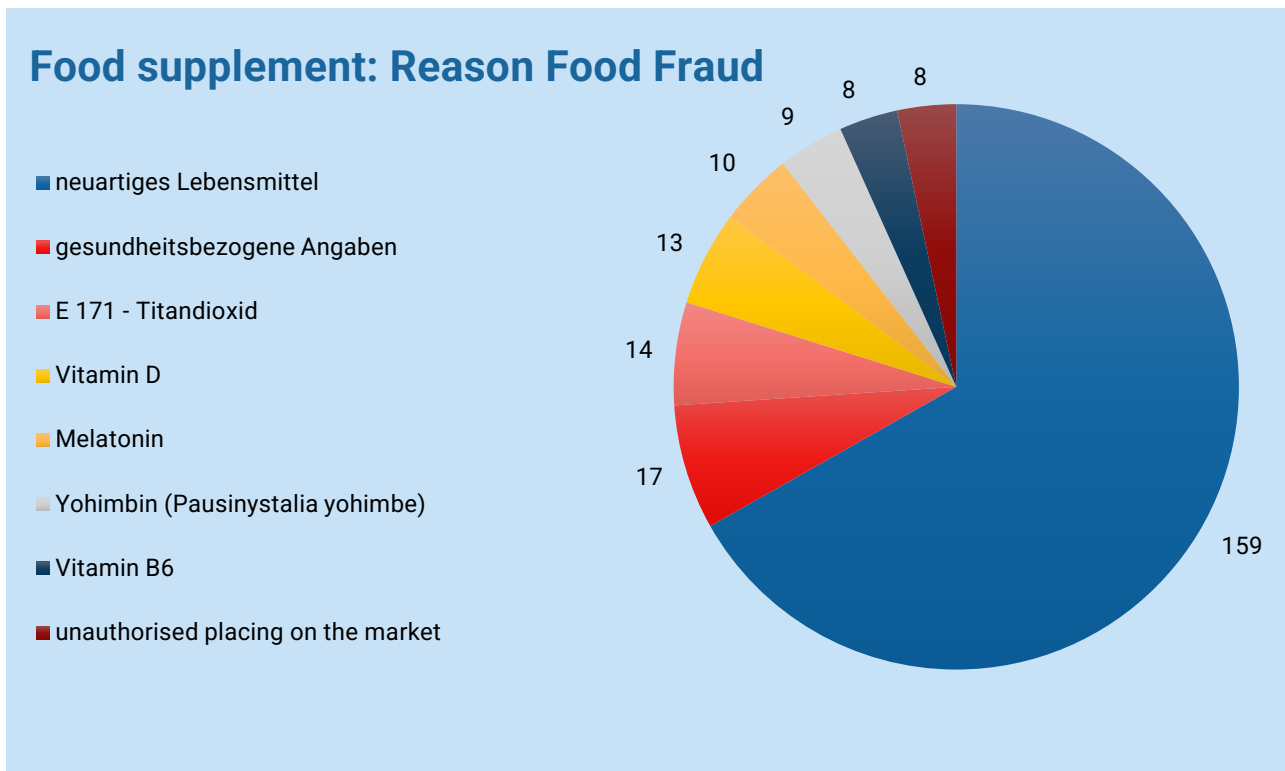
1. Notifications 2025 in Safefood-Online

- novel food (e.g. use of unauthorized novel foods according to Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 (Novel Food Regulation)
- composition (e.g. addition to the formulation or directly to the food).

The food fraud notifications are divided according to the hazard categories as follows:



The following chart shows the eight main reasons why food supplements are reported as food fraud:



Note: As some notifications have multiple causes or complaints, the total number of 'hazard categories or hazards' is higher than the number of notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



Verordnung (EU) 2025/2473

Regulation (EU) 2025/2473 added Betaba-culovirus phoperculellae and elemental iron, for which no specific maximum residue levels had previously been set and for which the "default value of 0.01 mg/kg" therefore applied, to Annex IV (list of active substances for which no maximum residue levels are required) of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. The active substance rapeseed oil had already been provisionally included in Annex IV. This restriction has now been deleted from Annex IV.

The EU specifies five active substances for which no maximum residue limits are required

The European Commission has presented a **draft regulation** to add five substances to the list of pesticides for which no MRLs are required:

- Allium fistulosum, processed;
- lysate of Willaertia magna;
- magnesium hydroxide E528;
- Onobrychis viciifolia (sainfoin) dried pellets
- Vitis vinifera L. seed extract (grape seed extract)

in or on certain products. For further information, please refer to the linked text of the regulation.

EFSA: Draft updated risk assessment of dioxins

EFSA has reduced the tolerable weekly intake (TWI) from 2 picograms to 0.6 picograms per kg of body weight in its **updated opinion** on dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (dl-PCBs). The opinion was made available for public consultation on November 27.

On 1 December, the BfR published a **communication** with background information on this topic.

Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in cereal products

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe has conducted a **study** on trifluoroacetic acid in cereal products. It reports that 54 of the 66 products tested were found to have high levels of TFA: the average TFA content was 78.9 µg/kg, with peak values of up to 360 µg/kg.

Against this background, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) published a **statement** on December 10, concluding that "a person weighing 60 kilograms (kg) would have to eat at least eight kg of muesli per day to exceed the acceptable daily intake (ADI) of TFA of 0.05 mg per kg of body weight, based on the highest level found.



- 🕒 US: According to the authorities, oysters are responsible for an outbreak of salmonella infections that has caused people from the west to the east coast to fall ill.
- 🕒 Supermarket food trends: What's driving consumer purchasing decisions
- 🕒 EFSA: introduction of bird flu from US dairy cattle to Europe very unlikely, but vigilance urged
- 🕒 EFSA: Literature review on antimony concentrations in foodstuffs and consumer risk assessment

Food Safety

- 🕒 DG Health and Food Safety: Health and food audits and analysis programme 2026
- 🕒 BVL-Report: Zoonosis-Monitoring 2024
- 🕒 German BfR: Microplastics - Discrepancy between scientific knowledge and public perception
- 🕒 Ad-hoc-Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation in Risk Assessment of Food Allergens - reference dose(s) for cereal containing gluten or gluten
- 🕒 EFSA: Exposure Assessment in Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)
- 🕒 EU-Commission announces reinforcement of controls on products imported into the EU
- 🕒 Update of the EFSA pesticides genotoxicity database
- 🕒 Major food companies urge EU to ban caged animal farming
- 🕒 Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package – December 2025



- 🕒 Portugal: Warning over 'fake' olive oil as 2,425 litres seized
- 🕒 Auramine in Indian food: why a banned dye keeps re-
turning

Food Fraud

- 🕒 Italy: Oil without indication of origin, massive seizure of 3,6 tons
- 🕒 The authorities in Ukraine have exposed an organised crime ring involved in the production of counterfeit food products mimicking well-known brands
- 🕒 Huge food fraud detected in Palma and 20 tons of seafood in bad condition removed
- 🕒 Canada: The agency's food fraud report found that 24 per cent of olive oil and 45 per cent of grated hard cheese was fraudulent



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