

Issue | May 2026



# NEWS LETTER

## Dear Safefood-Online users,

In May 2026, the EU Rapid Alert System recorded 467 new notifications. The evaluation can be found under point 1 in this newsletter.

“Latest news on residues and contaminants” (point 2), informs about the AGRINFO guidelines on the use of antimicrobials in farmed animals and the European Commission’s report on the handling of unauthorised substances in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation.

Last month, a regulation and a proposed regulation on new maximum levels for pesticides were also published.

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

The topic of the month (point 4) is the EU-Report 2024 regarding pesticide residues in food.

### **German court rules on shrinkflation practices**

Following our article in the April issue of the Safefood Online newsletter, in which we outlined the Austrian Anti-Deception Act that came into force on April 1, 2026, a German Court issued what may prove to be a landmark ruling on this topic (Case No. 12 O 118/25 of May 13, 2026). In this case, the court regarded the reduction in net content with virtually unchanged packaging as a “relative” misleading packaging and thus as deceptive. In the court’s view, a clear indication – at least for a certain period – on the packaging would have been required. The ruling is not yet final, so an appeal may still be possible.

Particularly noteworthy is the court’s recognition that consumers purchasing established branded products are entitled to rely on their legitimate expectations arising from prior purchasing experience and long-standing product presentation.

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

The number of new RASFF-notifications in April was slightly higher than in the previous two months:

- **May 2026:** 467
- April 2026: 528
- March 2026: 487

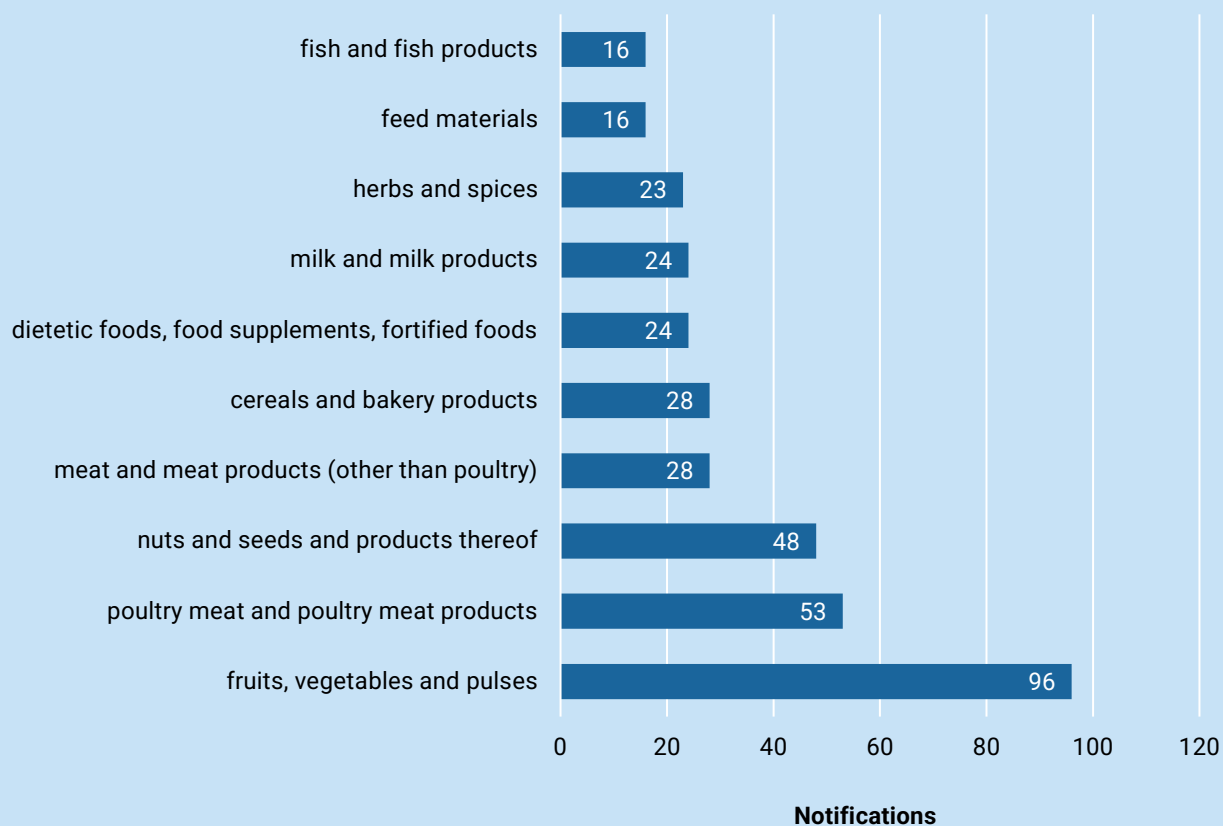
The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 138
- Border rejections: 103
- Information messages: 225
- Information for attention: 1



Fruit, vegetables and pulses top the list with 96 notifications in the evaluation by product category, followed by the product categories poultry meat and poultry meat products, and nuts, seeds and products made thereof with 53 and 48 notifications, in second and third place:

### RASFF-Notifications May 2026: Top 10 Product categories



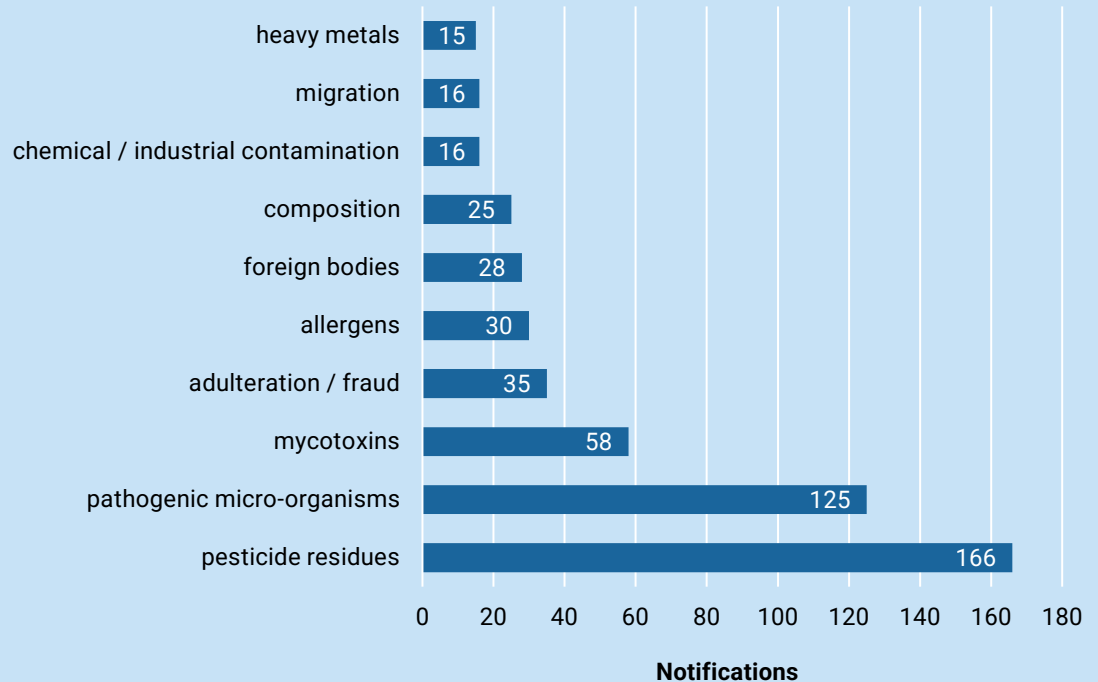
By product category, food supplements top the list with 17 notifications. Sesame seeds with 11 notifications and peanuts with 10 notifications are in second and third place:

### RASFF-Notifications May 2026: Top 10 Products



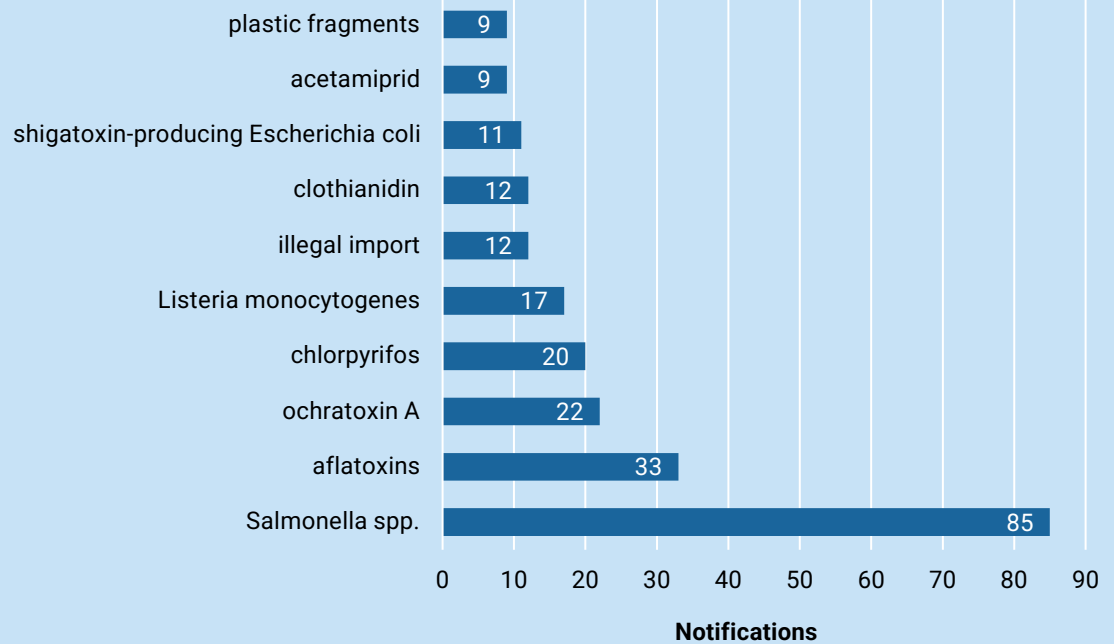
When analysed by hazard category, pesticides top the list with 166 cases of maximum residue limits being exceeded or unauthorised pesticides being detected. Twenty-seven notifications concerned ground cumin from Egypt and India. Pathogenic micro-organisms are following in second place with 125 cases, and mycotoxins in third place with 58 cases:

### RASFF-Notifications May 2026: Top 10 hazard categories



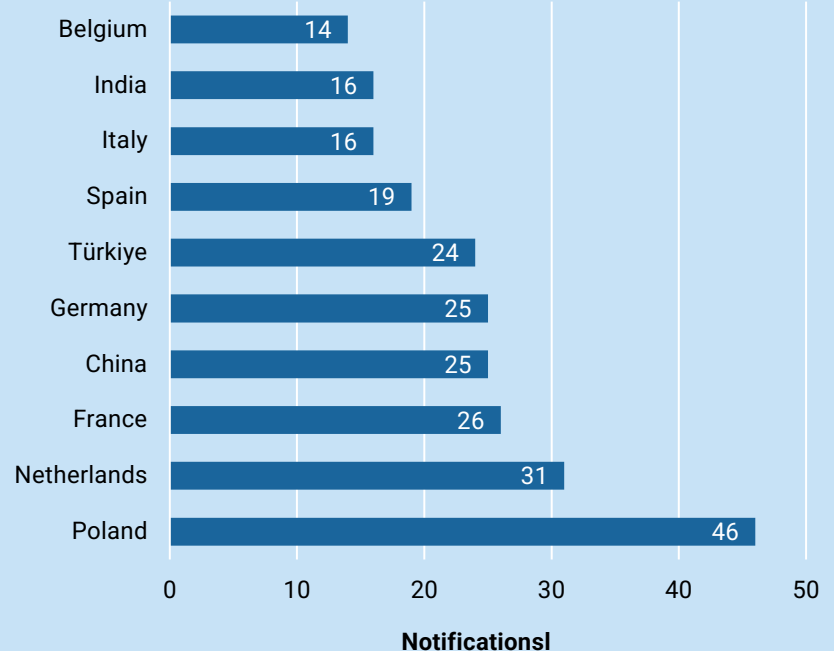
In terms of hazards, Salmonella are ranking first with 85 notifications, followed by aflatoxins and ochratoxin A with 33 and 22 notifications:

### RASFF-Notifications May 2026: Top 10 hazards



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

### RASFF-Notifications May 2026: Top 10 countries of origin



46 of the notifications concerned products from Poland. The Netherlands and France are following with 31 and 26 notifications.

## 2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



### AGRINFO GUIDANCE for the use of antimicrobials in farmed animals in the food supply chain

New **EU Regulations** on the use of antimicrobials (antibiotics, antivirals and antiprotozoals) in farm animals and animal products intended for human consumption (including aquaculture) and intended for export to the EU will come into force on September 3, 2026. AGRINFO has published a **guidance** on this topic.

### Handling of unauthorised substances in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation

**Report** from the EU-Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 (“Organic Regulation”) concerning the presence of products and substances not authorised under the first subparagraph of Article 9 (3) of that Regulation. A **working paper** has been published on this subject, containing the results of the investigation regarding 21 substances.

### Regulation (EU) 2026/849

**Regulation (EU) 2026/840** of April 15, 2026 amended Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 with regard to the maximum levels of residues of copper compounds in or on certain products. For further information, please refer to the linked text of the Regulation.

### Proposal for a Regulation regarding Maximum levels for pesticides

The EU intends to amend the maximum residue levels for the following pesticides:

- Carbofuran
- Imazalil
- Manidpropamid
- Propaquizafop
- Quizalofop-P-ethyl
- Quizalofop-P-tefuryl

The new maximum levels are to apply from September 2027. For further information on the proposed maximum levels, please refer to the **draft regulation** and the associated annexes:

- Annex V** (Carbofuran)
- Annex II** (Imazalil, Manidpropamid, Propaquizafop, Quizalofop-P-ethyl, Quizalofop-P-tefuryl)



- 🕒 European food retailers are calling for the labelling and traceability of new GMOs, as well as protection against patent claims
- 🕒 German BfR: Lugol's solution is not a solution for improving the iodine status
- 🕒 EU-banned pesticides found in rice, tea and spices
- 🕒 Salmonella egg outbreak sickens 230 in Belgium
- 🕒 German BfR: Focus on mycotoxins 47th Mycotoxin Workshop to be held at the BfR

## Food Safety

- 🕒 Austria arrests suspect after rat poison found in baby food jars
- 🕒 Officials in a Swedish region have received more than 300 reports of suspected food poisoning after eating at local restaurants
- 🕒 Food Standards Australien (FSANZ) FSANZ collects and reports annual, 5 and 10-year data on Australian food recalls. The data presents the reasons for food recalls and the types of foods recalled, as well as detailed analysis of causes (e.g. allergens and contaminants) and corrective actions taken by food businesses.
- 🕒 A Salmonella outbreak in Denmark has been linked to school meals
- 🕒 Open Letter to Members of the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI), regarding the compromise proposal for the Regulation of New Genomic Techniques (NGT)



## Food Fraud

- 🕒 Thailand: Food fraud involving tinned fish – tilapia instead of mackerel
- 🕒 Food adulteration is becoming a very common problem in Bangladesh
- 🕒 FAO: Fraud in aquatic foods is real, but we have the tools to fight it
- 🕒 India: Oil in milk, chemically ripened mangoes: 33 arrests in a raid by the Maharashtra Food Authority targeting gutkha and food adulteration

## The 2024 EU-Report on pesticide residues in food

According to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), compliance with EU maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides remains high. This assessment is based on the results of more than 125,000 food samples collected across Europe. EFSA's latest **report** confirms—just as in previous years—that the risk to human health from pesticide residues in food remains low.

The EFSA report analyses data from three monitoring programs:

- EU-coordinated control program (EU MACP)
- national control programs (MANCP)
- sampling carried out under reinforced border control measures

### ▪ EU MACP

Each year, EU Member States, together with Norway and Iceland, collect and report thousands of samples from a group of commonly consumed foods to EFSA in order to obtain a representative picture of the EU market. In 2024, the following products were included:

- Aubergines
- Bananas
- Broccoli
- Cultivated fungi
- Grapefruits
- Melons
- Sweet peppers
- Table grapes
- Virgin olive oil
- Wheat
- Bovine fat
- Chicken eggs

Of these samples, 98.8% complied with EU regulations. This result is broadly consistent with the 98.7% recorded in 2021, when the same product group was analysed.

No measurable pesticide residues were found in 43.1% of the samples, while 54.5% contained one or more residues within the permitted maximum residue levels (MRLs). MRLs were exceeded in 2.4% of samples, of which 1.2% were classified as non-compliant.

### ▪ EU MANCP

Most of the samples included in the current report originated from the multi-annual national control programs (MANCP). Of the 86,449 samples analysed, 98.2% complied with EU maximum residue levels—a rate comparable to previous years, including 98.0% in 2023 and 97.8% in 2022.

In nearly 60% of these samples (58.4%), no measurable pesticide residues were detected, while only 38.3% contained one or more residues within the permitted limits. The legal limits were exceeded in 3.3% of samples, of which 1.8% were considered non-compliant.

▪ Reinforced Import Controls

For the first time, the EFSA report explicitly distinguishes the results of samples taken under specific EU legislation on reinforced import controls. In previous years, these samples were included within the MANCP results.

These controls are carried out at the EU's external borders and focus on specific risks (e.g., pesticides or microbiological contamination), particular food products, and countries of origin identified by Member States as requiring enhanced monitoring.

In such cases, consignments are held at the border until laboratory results become available. Products are released onto the EU market only if laboratory analyses confirm compliance with EU requirements.

Of the 39,433 imported food samples analysed under these controls:

- 38.3% contained no quantifiable residues,
- 56.2% contained pesticide residues within the legally permitted limits,
- approximately 5.5% exceeded EU maximum residue limits,
- of which 3.6% were classified as non-compliant.

The results of the investigations are available through [EFSA's data visualization tool](#), which provides extensive options for analysis and evaluation.



## Feedback

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

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