



Food
Standards
Agency
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Using different
sources to monitor
food imported from
the EU

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What is the early warning system?

This notification is to update you of the recent results from our Early Warning System (EWS) for food and feed. This system is based primarily (but not exclusively) on analysis of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) information issued by EU Member States for imports of food and feed. The frequency of notifications for particular hazards and commodities from specific third countries also allows us to see how they might influence the Commission's consideration for changes to Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 (as amended) and other sampling legislation.

You may wish to be aware of our findings below and consider these in relation to your sampling programmes. They are presented in the following tables – please note that these are now more compact and contain only essential information, so your **feedback about these changes** is very welcome:

- General commodities, non-EU (food/feed not of animal origin only)
- Food and feed from the EU
- Food supplements (Official sensitive)
- Other sources

Early warning system for imported food & feed						
General commodities – Foods not of animal origin (FNAO) only						
Period covered: October 2018 to September 2019						
Product	Country of origin	Hazard	RASFFs issued during the last:			Issued by / EU risk rating: (S) = serious risk (UD) = undecided
			1 year	6 months	1 month	
High priority						
Almonds	USA	Aflatoxin B1	15	9	1	Spain (S)
Medium priority						
Rice (brown, parboiled)	Myanmar	Aflatoxin B1	2	2	1	Poland (S)

Where does the information come from?

- RASFF – global
- Fera – global
- FSA surveillance tools – global
- PHE – UK inland sampling (micro)

Early warning system for food & feed from the EU						
Period covered: April 2019 to September 2019						
			RASFFs issued during last:			
Product	Country of origin	Hazard	6 months	1 month	Issued by / EU risk rating: (S) = serious (UD)=undecided	Ready-to-eat
Medium priority						
Sausages (poultry)	Poland	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	3	2	France & Poland, both (S)	?
Lower priority						
Poultry meat	Poland	<i>Salmonella</i>	2	2	Both Poland (S) & (NS)	No
Mackerel	France	Parasitic infestation Anisakis	8	5	All Italy, all (NS)	?
Rapeseed meal (feed)	Germany	<i>Salmonella</i>	6	2	Germany & Finland, both (NS)	n/a

PHE

Imported food issues – September 2019

477 samples tested from 29 countries (5 EU and 24 non-EU countries) – of these, the following gave cause for concern:

Product	Country of origin	No. of samples	Organism	Result
Betel leaves	Malaysia	5	<i>E. coli</i>	10 ² to >10 ³ cfu/g
Betel leaves	India	1	<i>E. coli</i>	>10 ⁴ cfu/g
Soft cheese	Italy	1	<i>Listeria</i> species (not <i>L. monocytogenes</i>)	>10 ⁷ cfu/g
Soft cheese	France	1	<i>Listeria</i> species (not <i>L. monocytogenes</i>)	>10 ³ cfu/g



Which emerging food risks are included?

What issues are there with food imported from the EU?

Oct 2018-Sept 2019
RASFF

Product	Country of origin	Issue
Poultry sausages	Poland	Listeria monocytogenes
Poultry meat	Poland	Salmonella
Duck	Poland	Salmonella
Turkey	Poland	Salmonella
Wafer rolls with cream	Poland	Allergens (peanuts)
Beef	Poland	Salmonella
Clams	Italy	Norovirus and E coli
Tuna sandwiches	Italy	Listeria monocytogenes
Chilli peppers	Italy	Pesticides
Sunflower cake	Italy	Salmonella
Mackerel	France	Parasites (anisakis)
Monkfish	France	Parasites (anisakis)
Oysters	France	Norovirus
Swordfish	Spain	Mercury
Mussels	Spain	Salmonella and E coli
Chicken	Netherlands	Salmonella
Cheese	Netherlands	Listeria monocytogenes
Rapeseed meal	Germany	Salmonella
Chicken	Belgium	Salmonella
Chicken	Czechia	Salmonella
Duck	Hungary	Salmonella
Smoked salmon	Estonia	Listeria monocytogenes
Salmon	Denmark	Listeria monocytogenes
Smoked salmon	Latvia	Listeria monocytogenes
Steak tartare	Ireland	Listeria monocytogenes
Beef	Belgium	Salmonella

What issues are there with food imported from the EU?

- October 2018-September 2019 PHE

Product	Country of origin	Organism
Sweetcorn, frozen	Belgium	Listeria monocytogenes
Sweetcorn, frozen	Belgium	Listeria monocytogenes
Mixed vegetables, frozen	Belgium	Listeria monocytogenes
Duck breast	France	Campylobacter
Egg white	France	Salmonella
Soft cheese	France	Listeria species (not L. monocytogenes)
Sweetcorn	Hungary	Listeria
Sweetcorn	Hungary	Listeria monocytogenes
Sweetcorn (frozen)	Hungary	Listeria monocytogenes
Soft cheese	Italy	Listeria species (not L. monocytogenes)
Cooked smoked meat roll	Lithuania	Listeria monocytogenes
Mushrooms (frozen)	Netherlands	Listeria monocytogenes
Soft cheese	Romania	E. coli
Sour cream	Romania	E. coli
Buttermilk	Romania	E. coli



What is the information used for?