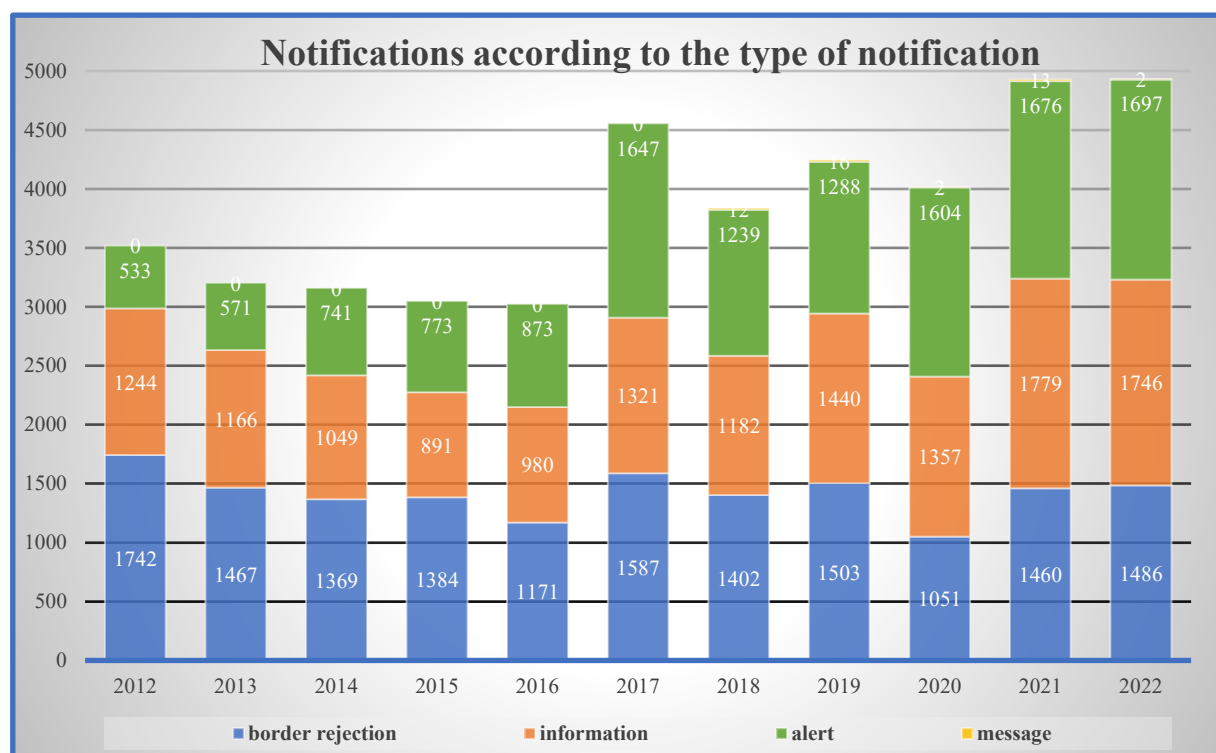
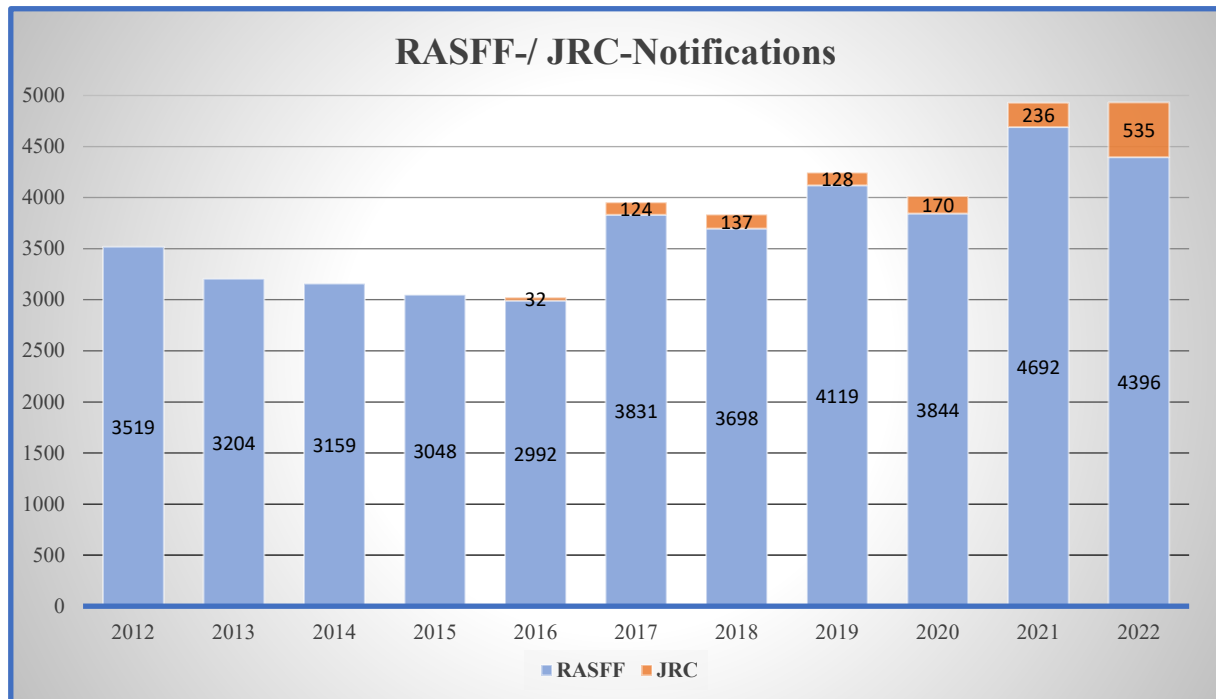
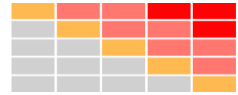


## Safefood-Online Newsletter





Dear Safefood-Online users,

We hope you had a good start into the New Year and we would like to wish you all the best for 2023, especially good health and a lot of success.

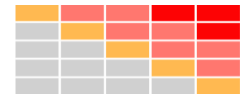
In this last newsletter for the year 2022 you will find, as in 2021, an annual evaluation of the reports posted in Safefood-Online. You will also find the development of Food Fraud notifications for the last years. With 4931 notifications, the number of notifications is at the high level of the previous year (4928 notifications).

As of January 01, 2023, maximum levels for per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) will apply to certain animal foods, see the explanations under point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants".

You will find interesting news on the topics of food safety and food fraud also in this newsletter under items 3 and 4.

We hope that this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter will also be of interest to you and, of course, we welcome your opinion, as this is the only way we can improve.

Your Safefood-Online Team



## 1 Evaluation of the notifications in Safefood Online for 2022

### 1.1 Notifications in total, 2012 - 2022

The total number of notifications in Safefood-Online in 2022 was 4931, the highest level since the beginning of data collection.



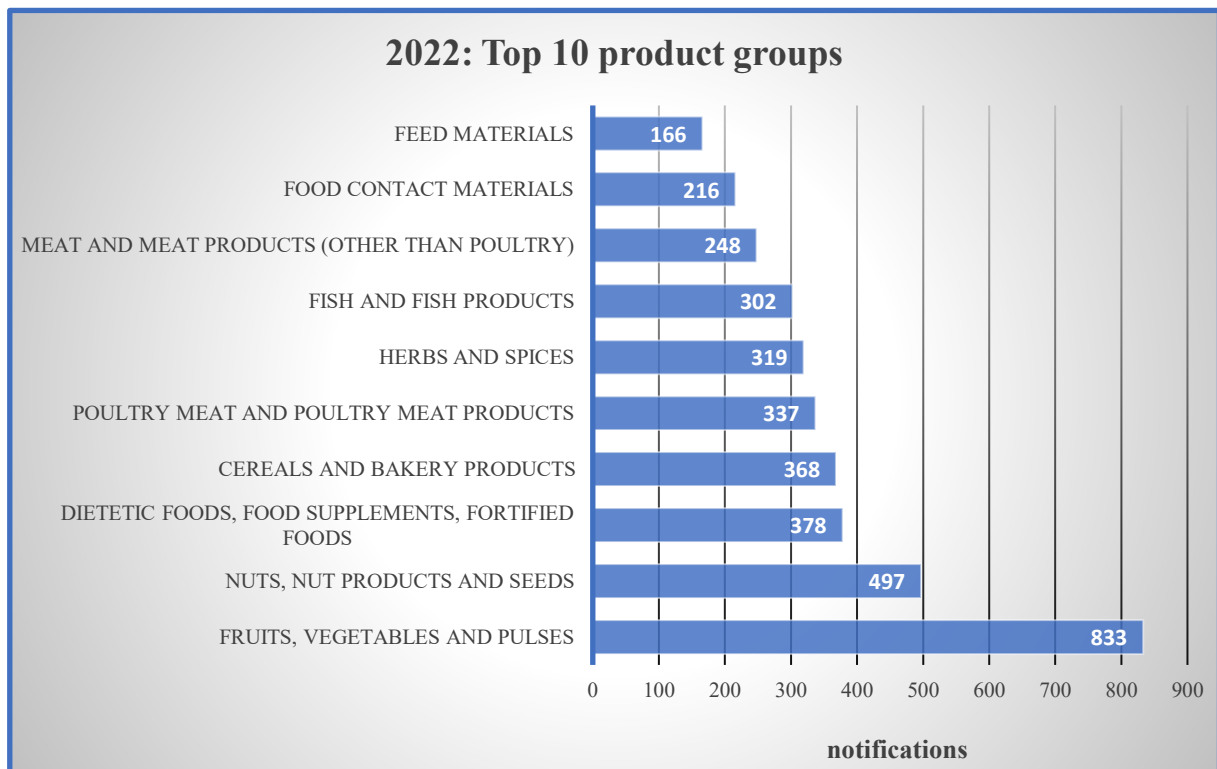
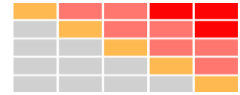
### 1.2 Notifications according to product groups

In 2022, the product groups fruits, vegetables and legumes as well as nuts, nut products and seeds are again at the top of the notifications by product category with 833 and 497 notifications, respectively. The product group dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods follows in third place with 378 notifications.

With 291 notifications, chlorpyrifos (with ethyl- and methyl-chlorpyrifos.) accounted for 35% of all notifications on fruits, vegetables and legumes. In the product group nuts, nut products and seeds, 55% of the notifications are due to aflatoxin findings. The top 5 causes of notifications in the Dietary Foods, Supplements and Fortified Foods product group are:

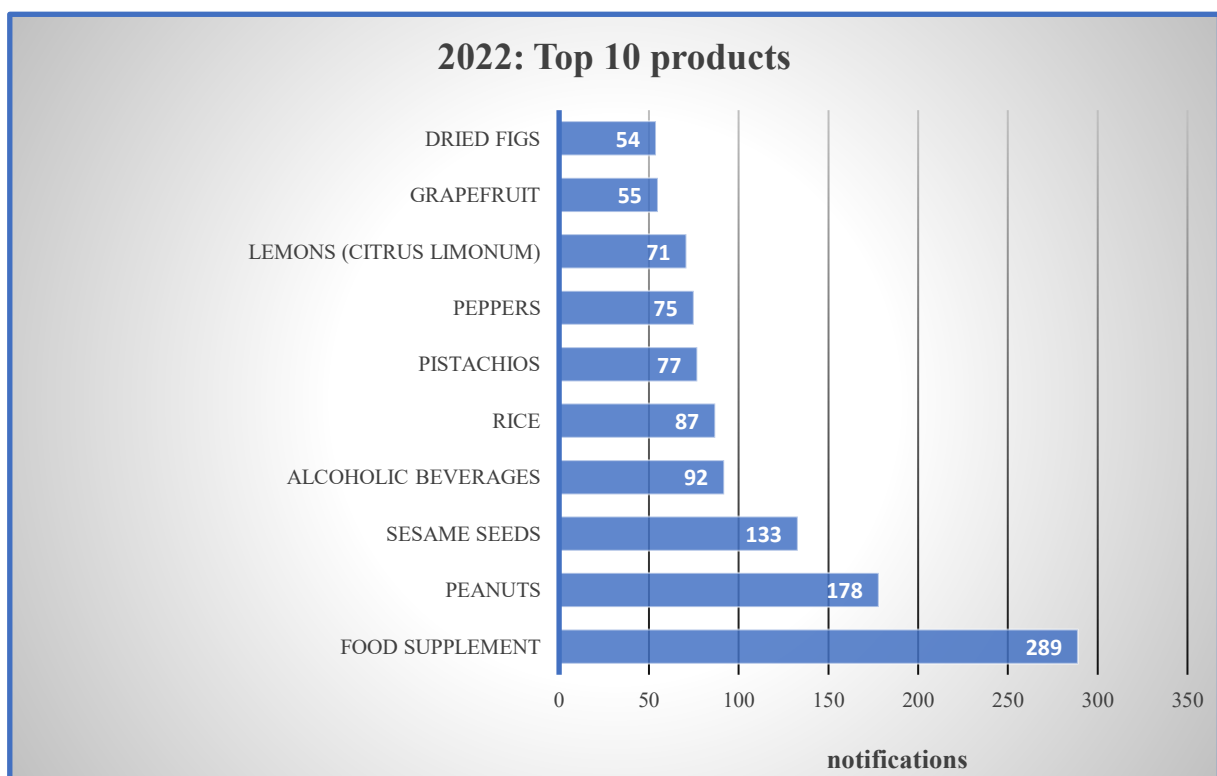
- Ethylene oxide/ -2-chloroethanol (44 notifications)
- Cannabidiol (25 notifications)
- Artemisia annua (17 notifications)
- Yohimbine (14 notifications)
- Sildenafil (12 notifications)

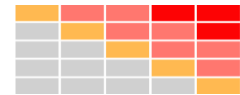
The chart below shows the distribution of the 2022 notification by product group:



## 1.3 Notifications according to products

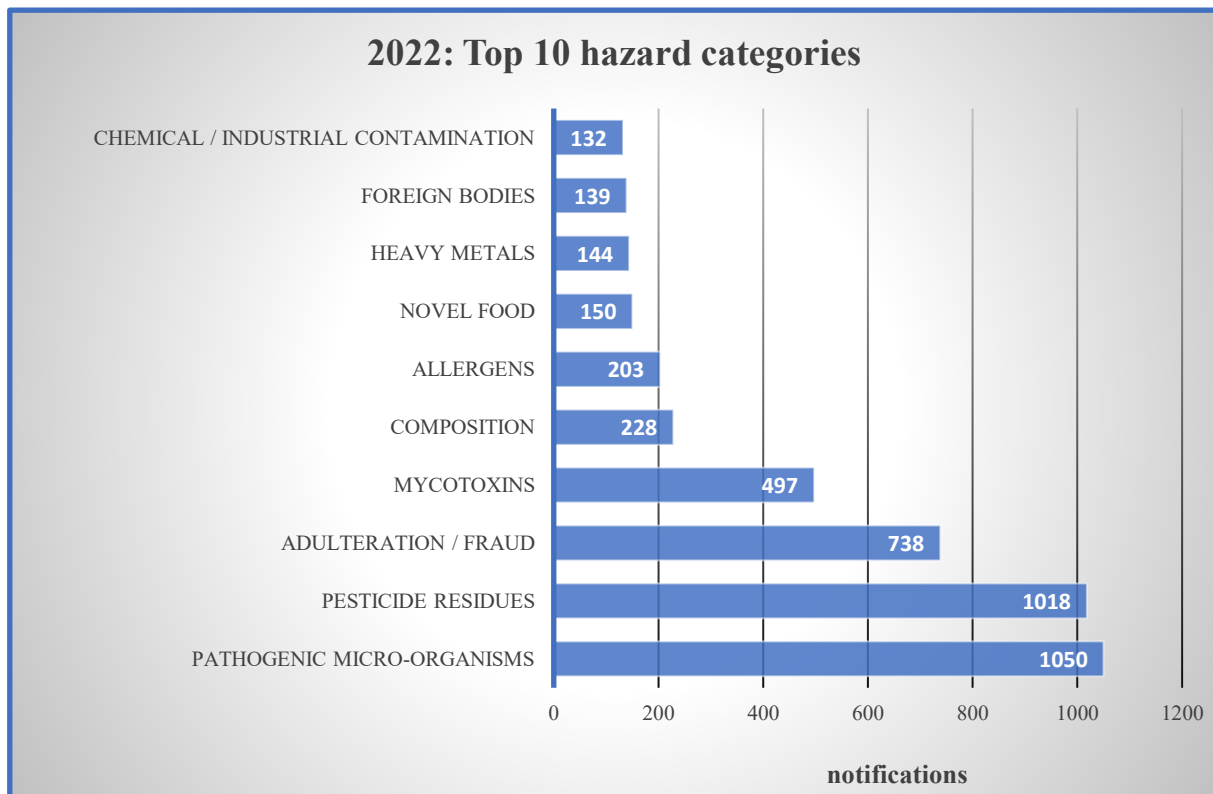
As in 2021 (227 notifications), the highest number of notifications in 2022 was for food supplement products (289 notifications), followed by peanuts with 160 notifications and sesame seeds with 133 notifications:





## 1.4 Notifications according to hazard category

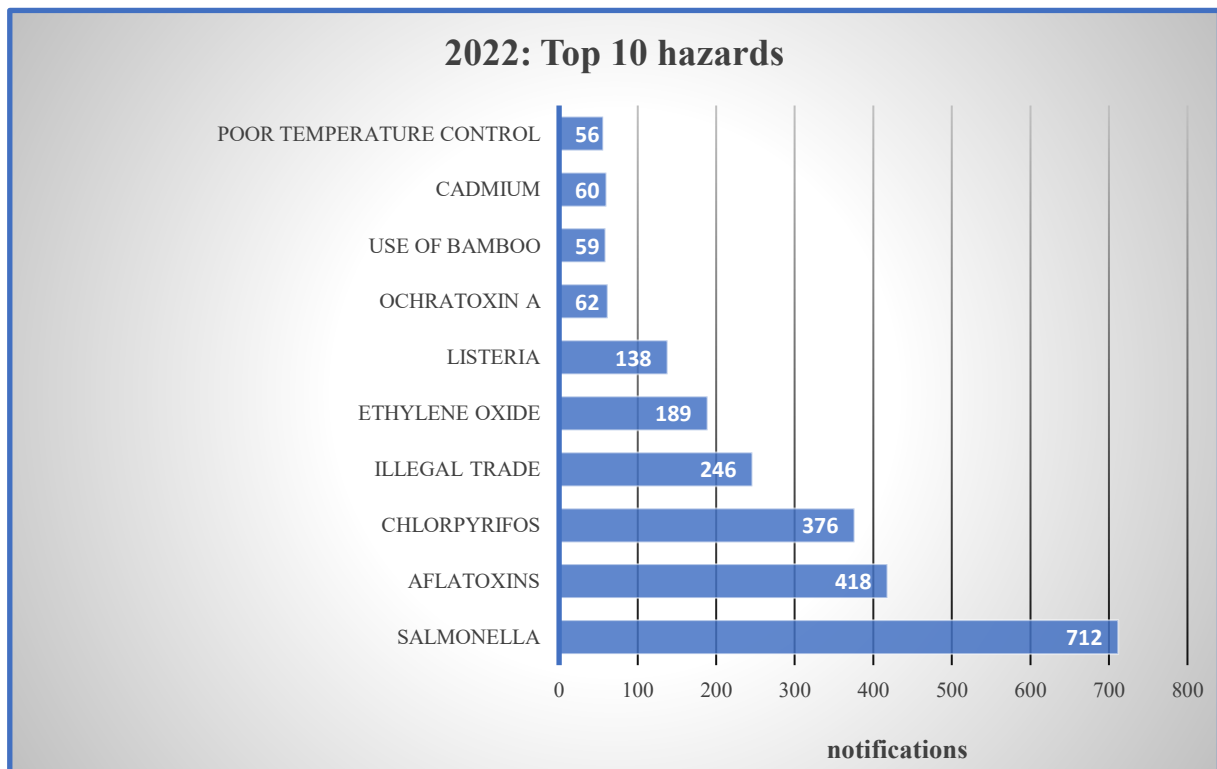
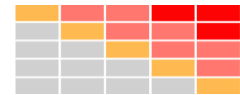
In the ranking of notifications by hazard categories, there were only minor changes in positions 1-5. In 2022, pathogenic germs are at the top with 1050 notifications, followed by pesticides with 1018 notifications and notifications of fraud with 738 notifications:



Salmonella (712 notifications), Listeria (138 notifications) and norovirus (37 notifications) are responsible for most of the notifications in the hazard category pathogenic microorganisms. In the hazard category pesticides, the findings of ethylene oxide/ 2-chloroethanol still account for 56% of all notifications in this hazard category. 246 reports in the hazard category fraud are due to illegal trade, especially in alcoholic beverages, rice and fishery products.

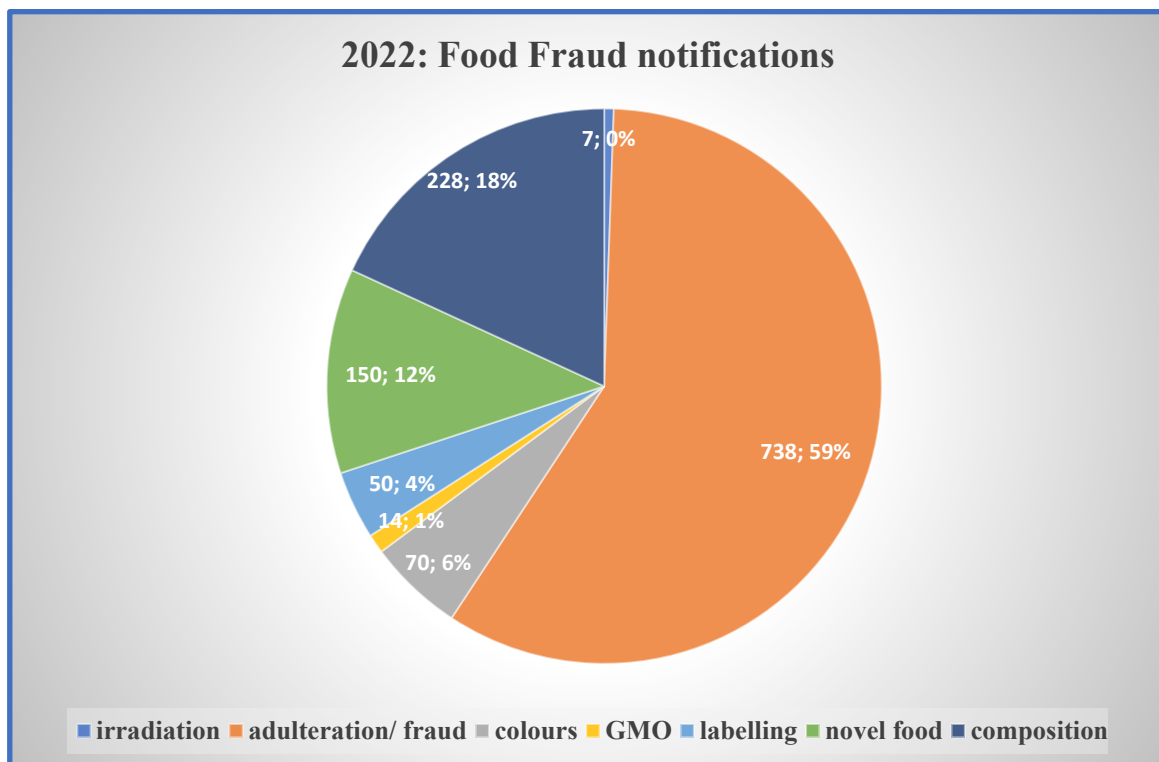
## 1.5 Notifications according to hazards

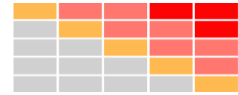
According to hazards there are in 2022 notifications due to salmonella in first place with 712 notifications (747 notifications in 2021). Whereas in 2021, notifications of ethylene oxide and 2-chloroethanol ranked second with 488 notifications, the number for this hazard decreased by more than half to 189 in 2022. In contrast, the notifications due to chlorpyrifos (with ethyl- and methyl-chlorpyrifos) have only slightly decreased: Compared with 403 notifications in 2021, there were still 376 notifications in 2022 (in third place behind aflatoxins with 418 notifications). Most of the chlorpyrifos notifications (291) were in the product group fruits, vegetables and legumes, especially in grapefruits, oranges, lemons and mandarines, as well as peppers and black-eyed beans:



## 1.6 Food Fraud notifications

In 2022, we have seen in total 1257 notifications related to Food Fraud:





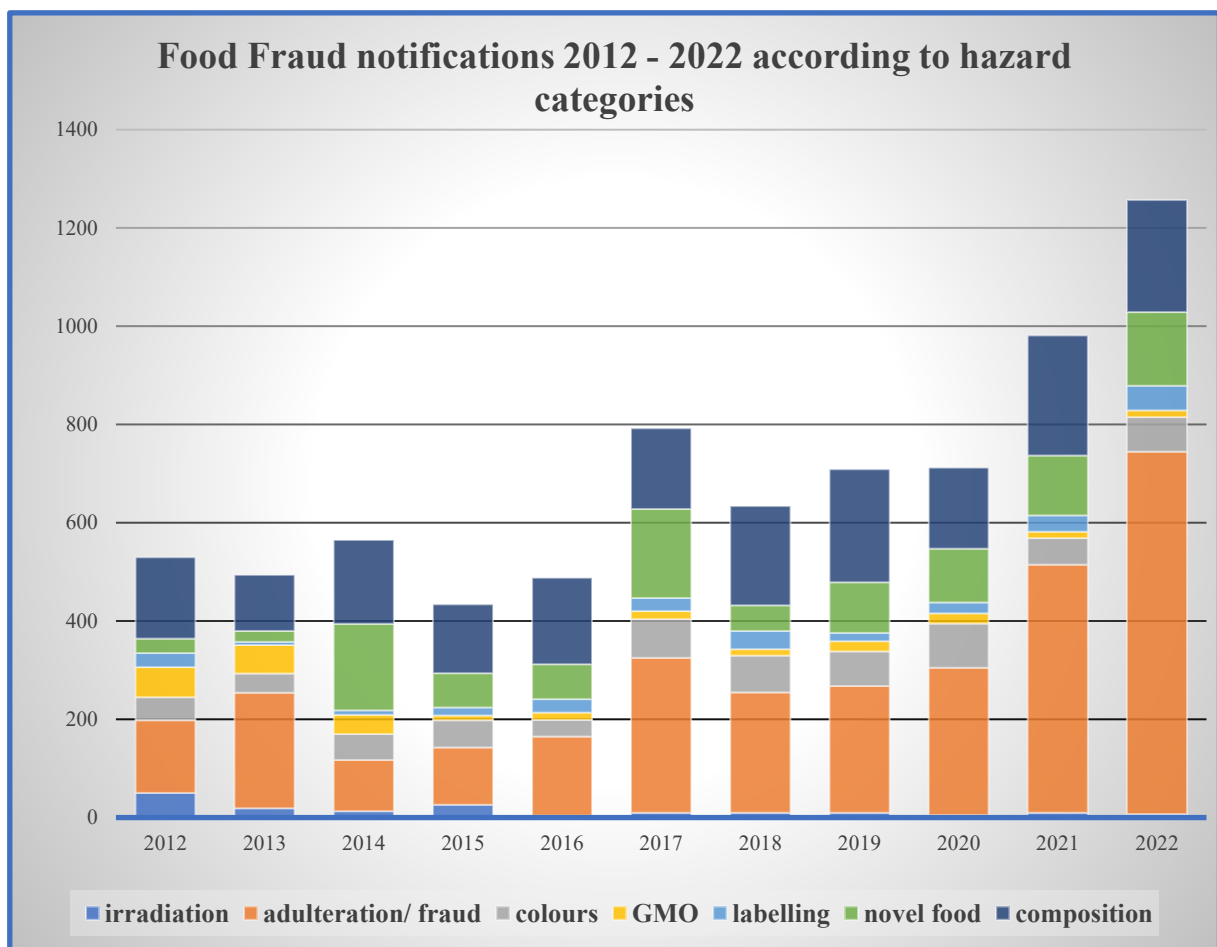
The following notifications are included in the "Food Fraud" query:

- 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)
- 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).

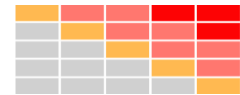
Remark:

In the Safefood Online dashboard (module Evaluation Hazard Category), you can display the notifications on Food Fraud according to your own requirements (period, number, percent).

The following figure shows the development of food fraud notifications since 2012:

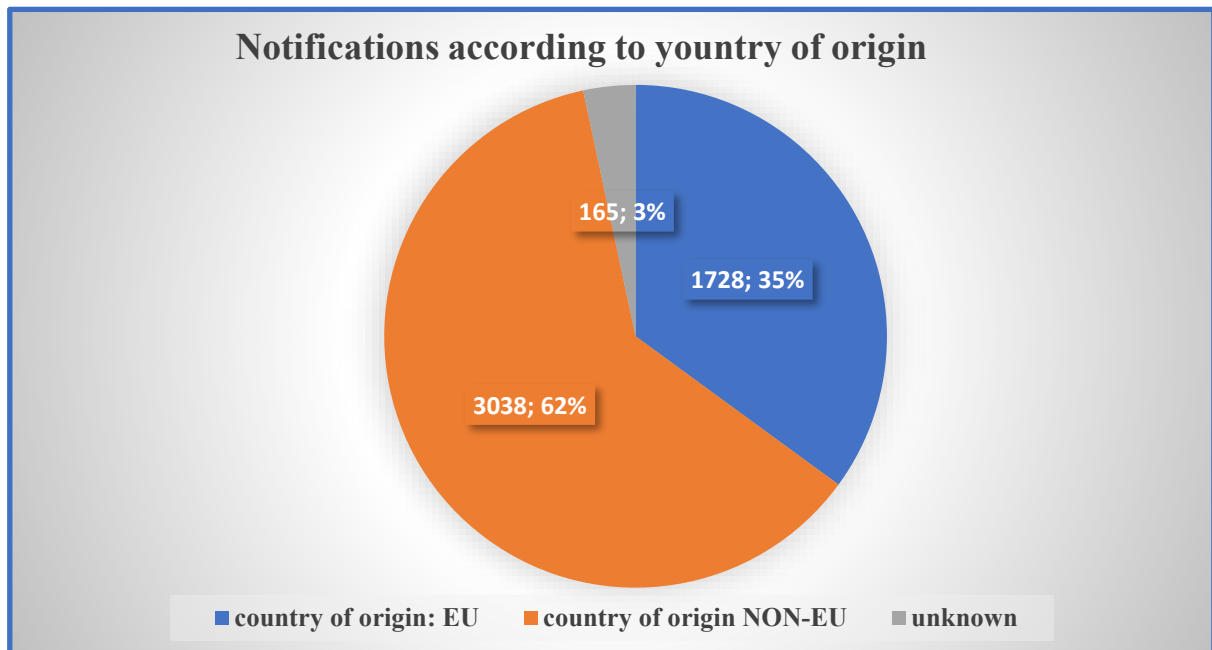


Food fraud notifications have more than doubled since 2012 (from 148 in 2012 to 738 in 2022).



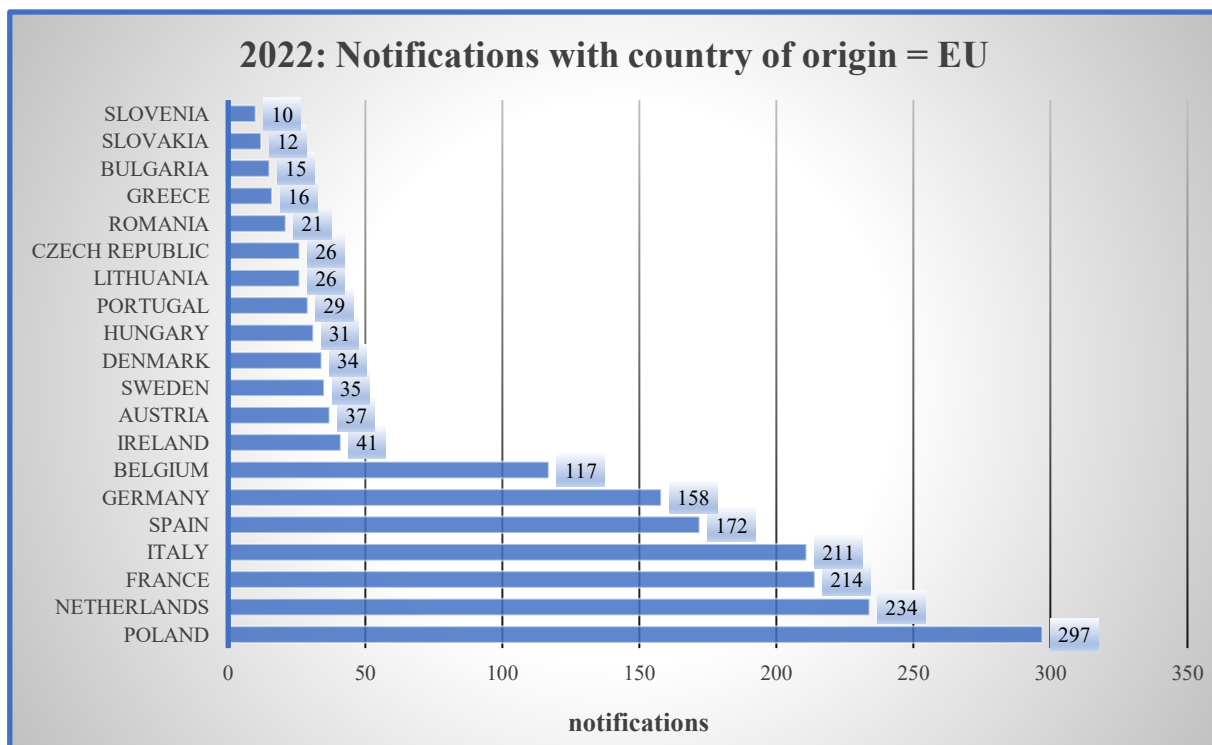
## 1.7 Notifications according to country of origin

Of the 4931 notifications, 35% originate from the EU and 62% from non-EU countries. In 3% of the notifications, the origin of the products is unknown or not specified:

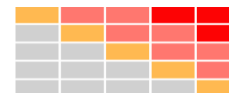


## 1.8 Notifications ( $\geq 10$ ) with country of origin = EU

The countries with more than 100 notifications are identical to the previous year. Poland, the Netherlands and France are on the first three places as the following chart shows:

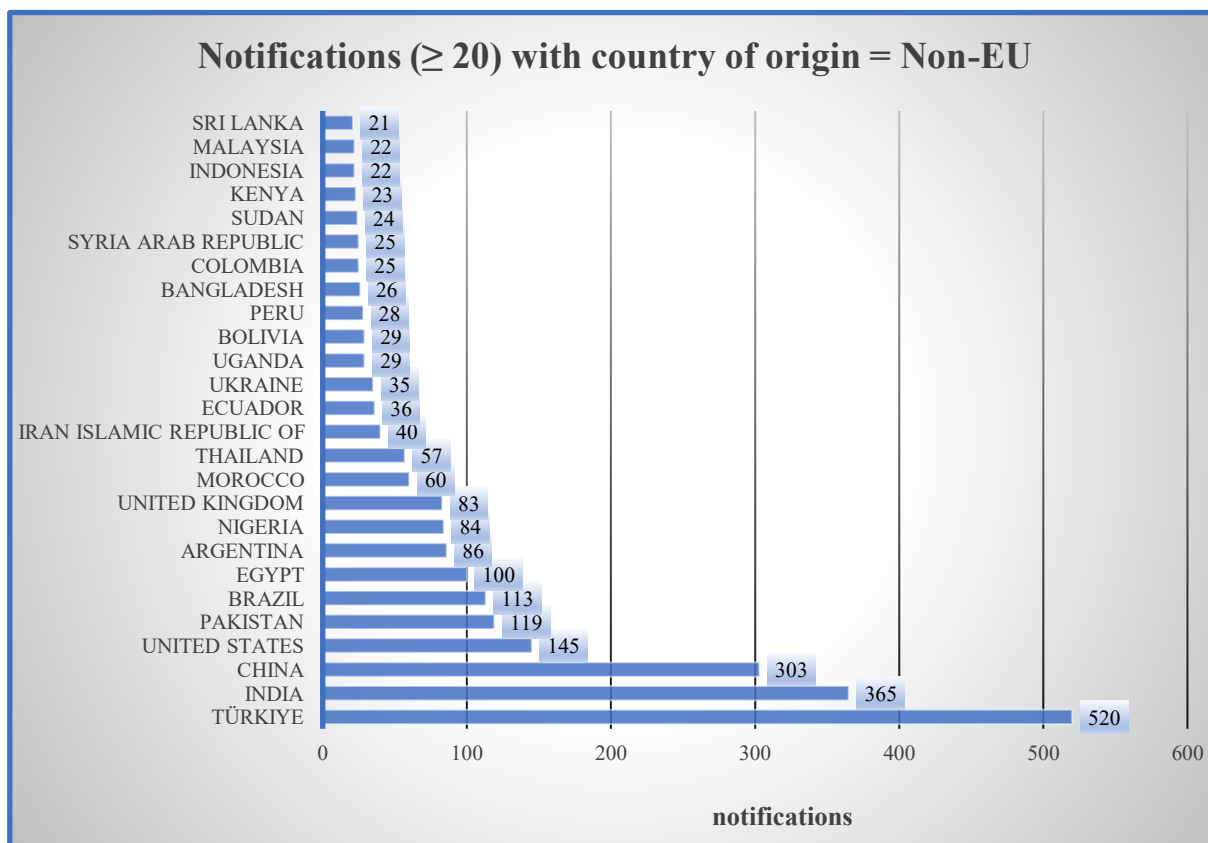




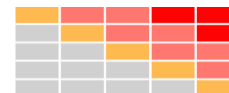


## 1.9 Notifications ( $\geq 20$ ) with country of origin = Non-EU

The distribution of notifications from 2022 by non-EU countries is as follows:



The highest number of notifications were for products from Türkiye with 520 notifications, followed by India with 365 notifications and China with 301 notifications.



## 2 Update on pesticides and contaminants

### 2.1 Maximum levels of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in foodstuffs at EU level

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and represent a large group of fluorinated compounds that are widely used in industry, e.g., as stain- and water-repellent coatings for textiles and carpets, as oil-resistant coatings for paper and cardboard that come into contact with food, in floor care products, in insecticides, in fire-fighting foams and as surfactants (e.g., in mining). Their widespread use and longevity in the environment have also led to contamination of food with these substances.

EFSA already published a [scientific opinion](#) on PFOS, PFOA and their salts on February 21, 2008, in which it stated that further data on the levels of PFAS in food are recommended, in particular with a view to monitoring trends in human exposure: [Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2010/161 on the monitoring of PFAS in food of March 17, 2010](#). At the request of the Commission, EFSA updated its risk assessment ([risk to human health related to the presence of perfluoroalkyl substances in food](#)) on July 9, 2020.

With [Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2388](#) of December 07, 2022, a new "Section 10 perfluoroalkyl substances" with maximum levels for certain (animal) foodstuffs was introduced into Regulation (EC) No. 1881/2006 (Contaminants Regulation). For details, please refer to the linked text of the regulation. The regulation applies from January 1, 2023. Foodstuffs that were lawfully placed on the market before January 1, 2023 may remain on the market until their best-before or use-by date.

## 3 NEWS – Food Safety

[Italy: Italian authorities are investigating a Listeria outbreak that has sickened 22 people and killed one](#)

[EFSA: Annual Report 2022 of the Scientific Network on microbiological risk assessment](#)

[Finland: Frozen tomato cubes were behind a Salmonella Typhimurium outbreak in Finland in 2021, according to a new study](#)

[US: Frozen raspberries recalled after FDA testing finds hepatitis A](#)

[Finland: Checks on spices as part of a food fraud project in Finland didn't find any authenticity issues but did uncover Salmonella contamination](#)

[FoodSafety4EU: paving the way for the food safety system of the future](#)

[EFSA: Innovative in vitro approaches to toxicological investigations of mycotoxin effects](#)

[EFSA: Risk Assessment of food contact materials](#)

[Estonia: improved fish controls after Listeria outbreak](#)

[ECDC: Shigellosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2019](#)

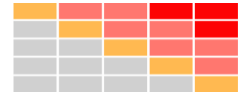
[German BfR: Questions and answers on the health risks of food and feed containing hemp](#)

[ECDC: STEC infection - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2021](#)

[ECDC: Salmonellosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2021](#)

[ECDC: Listeriosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2021](#)

[ECDC: Yersiniosis - Annual Epidemiological Report for 2021](#)



[Norway: A Salmonella outbreak in Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands has been linked to contaminated cucumbers from Spain](#)

[FAO/ WHO: Control measures for Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli \(STEC\) associated with meat and dairy products](#)

[FAO/ WHO: Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat \(RTE\) food: attribution, characterization and monitoring](#)

[China: A Poisoning Outbreak Caused by Anisodus tanguticus](#)

[From outbreaks to MDMA and chemicals: 2022 in review](#)

## 4 NEWS – Food Fraud

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[Pakistan: The Pakistan Food Authority \(PFA\) has uncovered a factory producing adulterated milk. The PFA team seized 7,500 litres of impure milk, 25 kg of skim milk powder, 16 kg of banaspati ghee and a large quantity of chemicals](#)

[European authorities have uncovered a network that sold potentially dangerous horse meat in at least four countries.](#)

[UK: Animal by-products, origin declarations, and potatoes are some of the topics on the radar of the National Food Crime Unit \(NFCU\), according to the agency's annual update.](#)

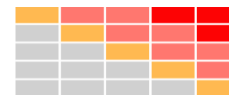
[USA: FDA Food Fraud Testing Finds Adulteration Among 10 Percent of Honey Imports](#)

[The lingering menace of diethylene glycol / ethylene glycol adulteration](#)

[Dietary supplement mislabelling: case study on selected slimming products by developing a green isocratic HPLC method for their quality control](#)

[Photoacoustic Laser System for Food Fraud Detection](#)

Please forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:  
[info@safefood-online.de](mailto:info@safefood-online.de)



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