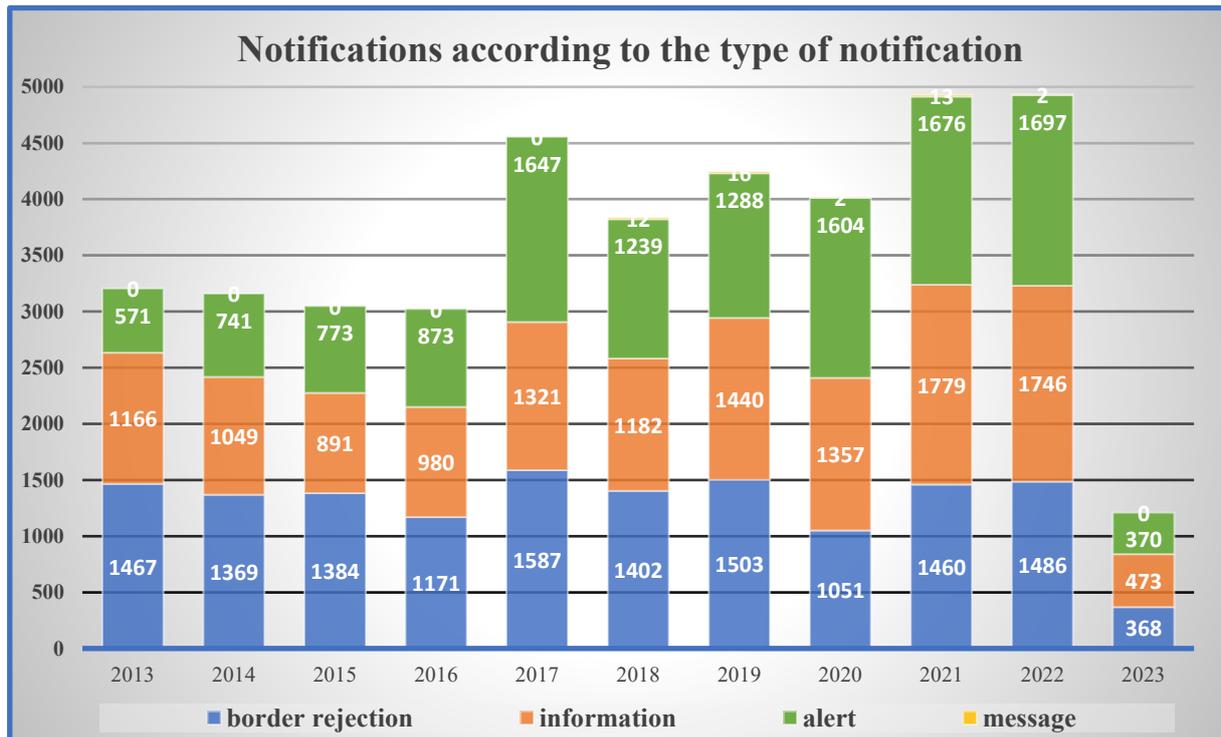
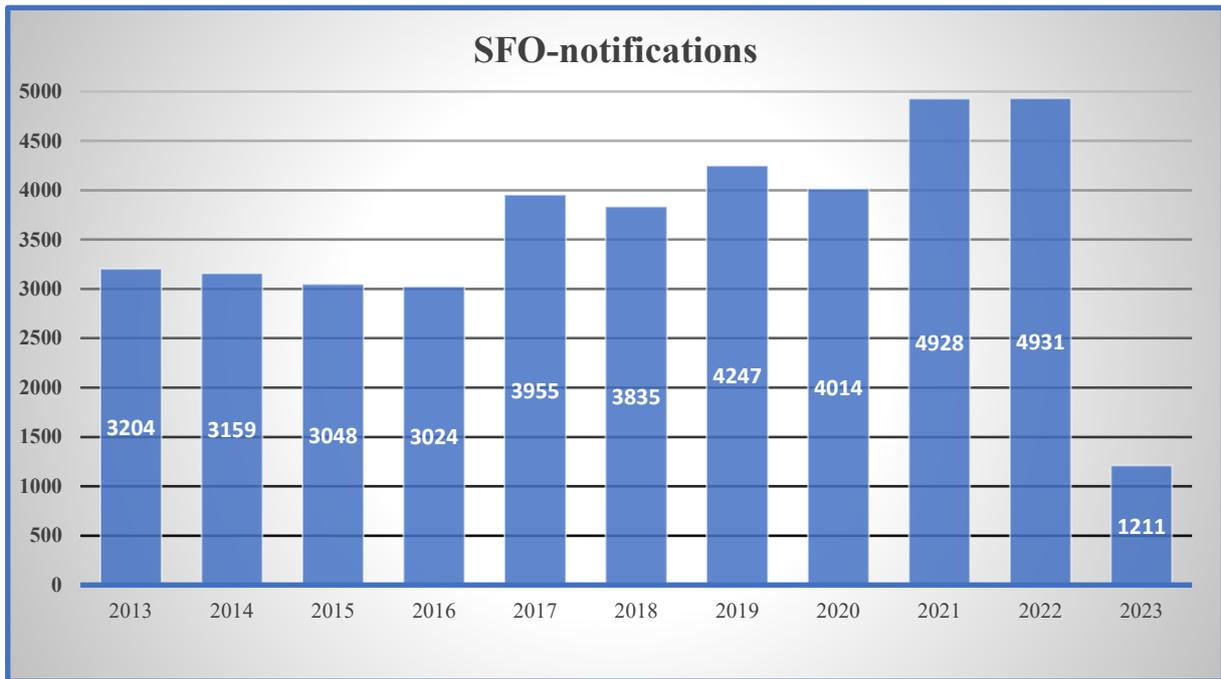
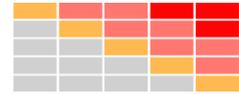


Safefood-Online Newsletter





Dear Safefood-Online users,

In March 2023 we had in Safefood-Online 432 new notifications (compared with 382 notifications in February). Under point 1 you can find the monthly evaluation.

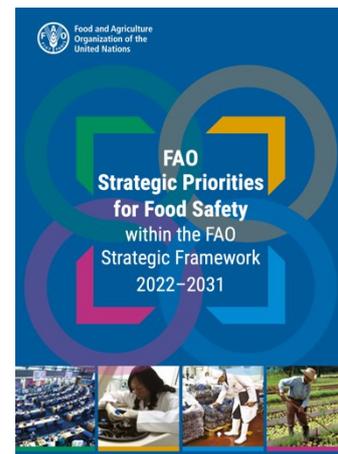
Point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants" provides information about 4 EU regulations with amended or new maximum levels for residues of pesticides well as new maximum levels for arsenic and about the changes regarding the use and maximum levels for residues of bifenazate. We also inform about a new opinion of EFSA on nitrosamines.

Under points 3 and 4 we have again summarized the latest news from the media on the topics of Food Safety and Food Fraud.

In its [communication of March 24, 2023](#), the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) summarizes the current state of knowledge on the health assessment of glutamic acid and glutamates (E 620 - E 625) as additives.

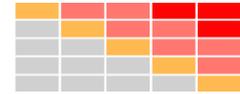
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has published [Strategic Priorities for Food Security 2022 to 2031](#) at the request of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG). They focus on four areas: Governance, scientific advice to support food safety decisions, strengthening national food control systems, and promoting public and private stakeholder collaboration throughout agrifood systems.

"We hope this document will help spur investment and secure adequate human and financial resources for FAO to successfully implement its food safety program," said Corinna Hawkes, FAO Director of the Food Systems and Food Safety Division



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 Notifications in Safefood Online: March 2023

After 316 and 382 new notifications in January and February, the number of notifications increased to 432 in March.

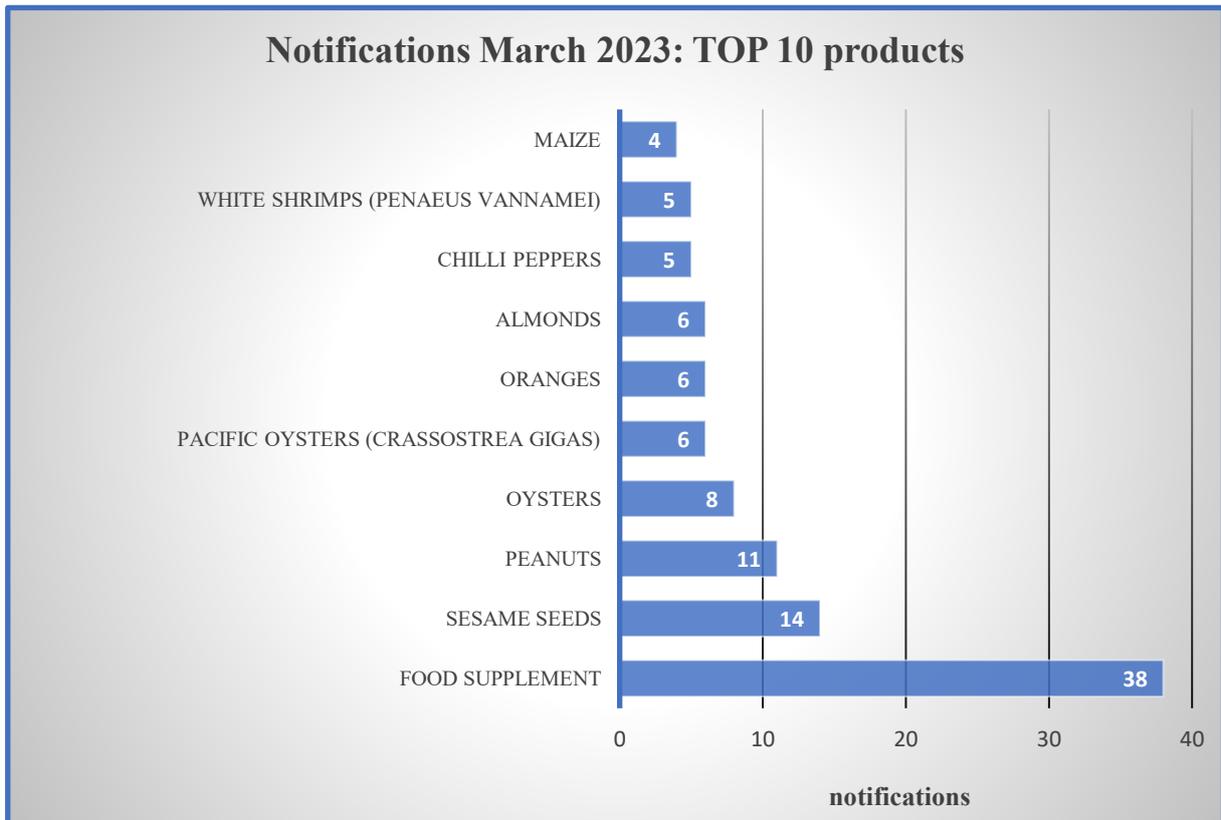
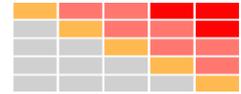
Note: Only the RASFF reports are included in the comparison, as the reports from the EU Monthly Food Fraud Summary Report are not published until the middle of the following month.

Fruits, vegetables and pulses again ranked first with 71 notifications, followed by the product group dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods (47 notifications) and nuts, nut products and seeds with 43 notifications:



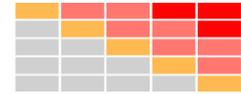
In the product group fruits, vegetables and legumes, 19 notifications were due to findings of chlorpyrifos (together with ethyl chlorpyrifos and methyl chlorpyrifos). About half (10 notifications) were related to lemons, mandarins and oranges. In the product group dietetic foods, dietary supplements and fortified foods, there were 7 notifications on cannabidiol and withania somnifera (ashwaghandha or sleeping berry). 26 notifications in the product group nuts, nut products and seeds were due to aflatoxins.

As in previous months, food supplements were in March in first place in the evaluation of notifications by product with 38 notifications, followed by sesame seeds and peanuts. 9 of the 14 notifications for sesame seeds were due to findings of Salmonella. In the case of peanuts, all reports were caused by aflatoxins:

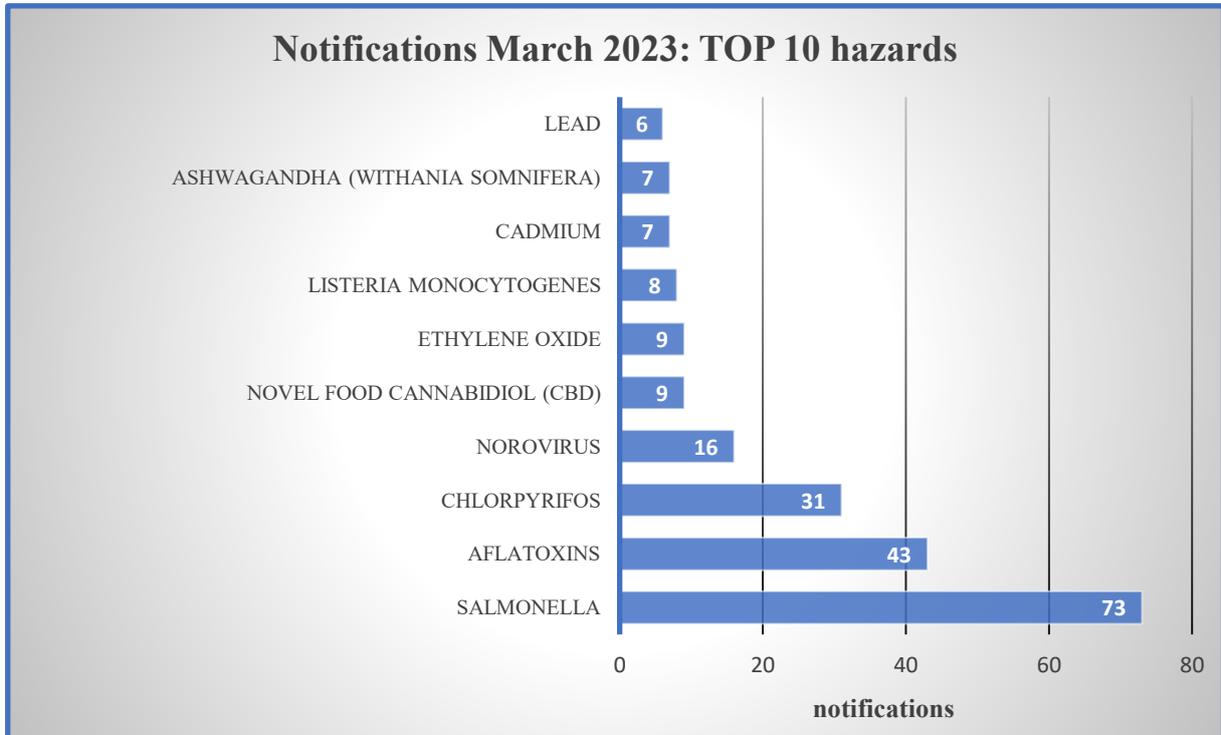


In the evaluation of the notifications according to hazard categories, in March the pathogenic microorganisms are in the lead with 115 notifications, followed by pesticides (76 notifications) and mycotoxins (53 notifications):

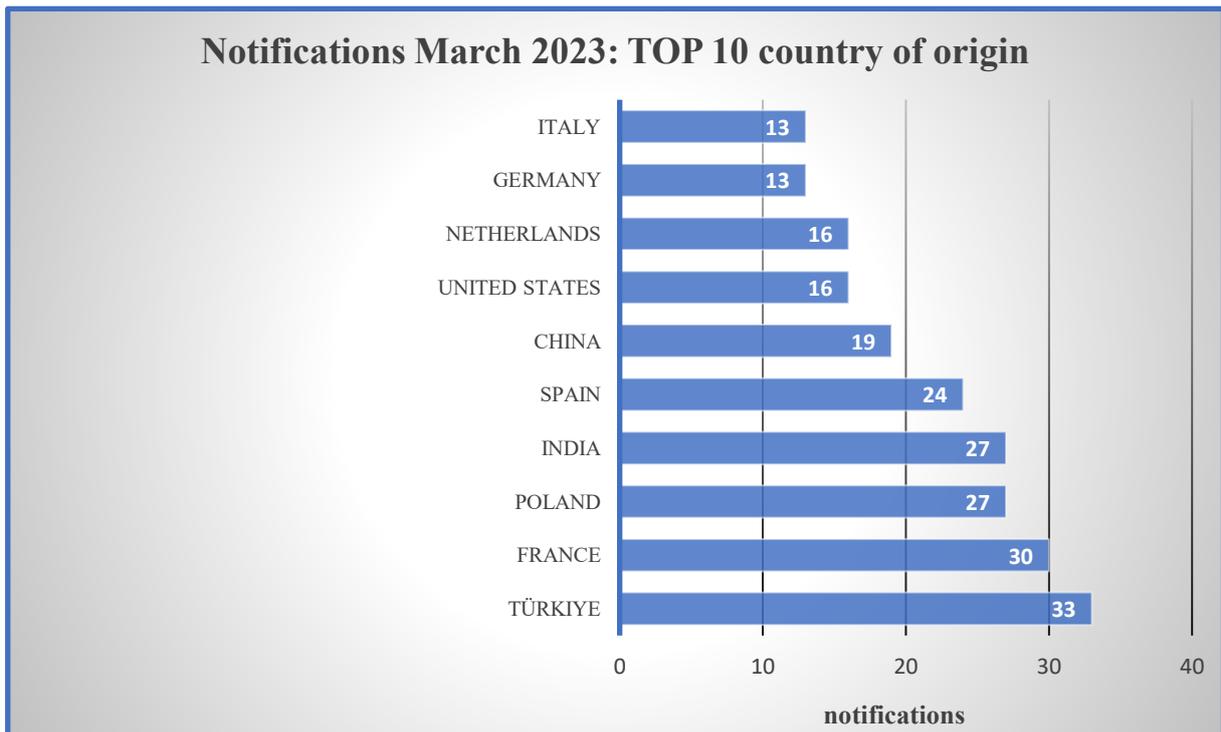


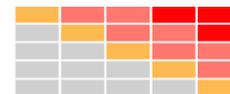


In the evaluation according to hazards, salmonella (73 notifications) is followed by aflatoxins and chlorpyrifos with 43 and 31 notifications:



Finally, the evaluation of the notifications according to the country of origin of the products. Most products came from Türkiye (33 notifications), France (30 notifications) and Poland (27 notifications). One third (10 notifications) originating from France concerned oysters due to noroviruses:





2 Update on pesticides and contaminants

2.1 Regulation (EU) 2023/466

With [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/466](#) of March 3, 2023, Annexes II, III and V of Regulation (EC) 396/2005 were amended with regard to the maximum residue levels of:

- ⇒ isoxaben,
- ⇒ novaluron
- ⇒ tetraconazole

in or on certain products. The new regulations will apply from September 26, 2023. Information on the new maximum levels can be found in the linked regulation text.

2.2 Regulation (EU) 2023/465

With [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/465](#), the European Commission has tightened the rules for arsenic content in food. The permitted concentration of arsenic in white rice has been lowered, while there are new limits for arsenic in some foods on rice basis, infant formula, baby food, fruit juices and salt. The new regulation enters into force on March 26 and applies immediately. Foodstuffs that were lawfully placed on the market before the entry into force of this Regulation may remain on the market until their date of minimum durability or use-by date. For more information on the new maximum levels, please refer to the linked regulation text

2.3 Regulation (EU) 2023/679

On March 24, 2023, [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/679](#) amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005 as regards maximum residue levels of

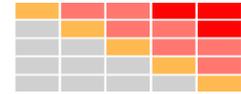
- ⇒ pyridaben
- ⇒ pyridate
- ⇒ pyriproxyfen
- ⇒ triclopyr

in or on certain commodities. The Regulation will enter into force on April 13, 2023 and will apply immediately. For more information on the new maximum levels, please refer to the linked regulation text.

2.4 Regulation (EU) 2023/710

[Regulation \(EU\) 2023/710](#) amending Annexes II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 as regards maximum residue levels of:

- ⇒ bromopropylate
- ⇒ chloridazon
- ⇒ fenpropimorph
- ⇒ imazaquin



⇒ tralkoxydim

in or on certain products was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on March 31 and will apply from October 21, 2023. For details of the new rules, please refer to the linked regulation text.

2.5 Reduction of maximum levels for bifenazate

With the [implementing regulation \(EU\) 2022/698](#), the approval for the active ingredient bifenazate was renewed at EU level. The use of bifenazate-containing plant protection products was restricted to non-edible crops in the greenhouse. For bifenazate-containing plant protection products that were approved for use on crops intended for human consumption, the sell-by and use-by period ends on December 31, 2023.

In the next step, the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for bifenazate are to be lowered to the limit of determination in all products. The European Commission plans to vote on such a regulation in September 2023, with a transition period of 3 months after the regulation enters into force (expected in January/February 2024).

2.6 EFSA scientific opinion regarding nitrosamines

The exposure to nitrosamines in foods during their preparation and processing "raises health concerns," the European Food Safety Authority said in its [scientific opinion](#) published March 28, 2023. The assessment concludes "that dietary exposure to nitrosamines is most likely above the level that is of health concern for all age groups."

3 NEWS – Food Safety

[US: CDC declares Salmonella outbreak linked to sprouts over](#)

[Belgium: Belgian authorities recorded 240 complaints in 2022 about the sale of food products online, according to a new report](#)

[EFSA: Risks for human health related to the presence of grayanotoxins in honey](#)

[EU-Audits show Hungary and Bulgaria have to improve controls](#)

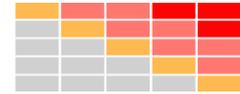
[US: Recall of products containing strawberries over Hepatitis A contamination](#)

[Ireland: increase in food poisoning complaints](#)

[Canada: Food packaging found to contain PFAS](#)

[France: Nestlé to close factory linked to deadly E. coli outbreak](#)

[ECDC: Multi-country outbreak of Salmonella Virchow St16 infections linked to the consumption of meat products containing chicken meat](#)



4 NEWS – Food Fraud

India: 600 kg adulterated spices sealed and factory sealed
Canada: Food Fraud Annual Report: Authorities are preventing more than 100.000 kg of misrepresented food from being sold in Canada
Detection of Vegetable Oil Adulteration in Pre-Grated Bovine Hard Cheeses via 1H NMR Spectroscopy
Portugal: Authorities have seized a number of food products in recent months including meat, fish, food supplement and olive oil
Canada: FOOD FRAUD: Found most often in expensive oils and honey
EU: (No) sugar for my honey: OLAF investigates honey fraud
Journal of Natural Products: Botanical Ingredient Forensics: Detection of Attempts to Deceive Commonly Used Analytical Methods for Authenticating Herbal Dietary and Food Ingredients and Supplements
EU Authorities' Sweet Investigation into Honey Fraud

5 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): AR 6 Synthesis Report 2023

So far, the IPCC has published 5 Assessment Reports, the 5th Assessment Report in 2014. The 6th Assessment Report consists of the results of 3 working groups:

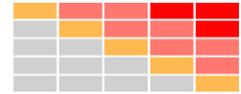
- WG I: [The physical science basis](#)
- WG II: [Impacts, Adaption and vulnerability](#)
- WG III: [Mitigation of climate change](#)

as well as the special reports:

- [Global Warming of 1.5°C](#)
- [Ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate](#)
- [Climate Change and Land](#)

On March 20, the IPCC released the Synthesis Report (AR 6 SYR). The report highlights the catastrophic impacts that climate change could have on the world's near-term food supply. Approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in environments that are highly vulnerable to climate change. Increasing weather and climate extremes have reduced food security and impacted water security.





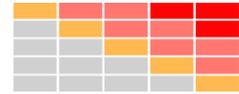
Here are some more links on the topic:

[FoodNavigator Europe](#)

[Civil Eats](#)

[FAO](#)

Pease forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:
info@safefood-online.de



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