



Issue | August 2023

# NEWS LETTER

## Dear Safefood-Online users,

With this issue, the Safefood-Online Newsletter is coming with a new, more modern layout. The main focus was on better legibility.

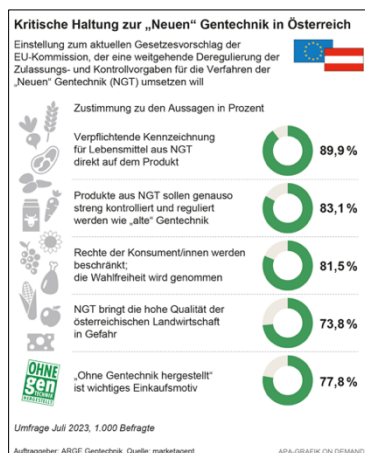
In August we had 396 new notifications in the Safefood-Online database. The evaluation please find under point 1.

Point 2 "Update on pesticides and contaminations" informs about an annual report for 2021 regarding official food analysis of pesticide residues published by the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BfR) and new activities around glyphosate.

The latest media news about Food Safety and Food Fraud you can find under point 3.

On 05 July, the European Commission presented a [proposal to regulate certain genome-edited plants](#). In Austria, ARGE "non-GMO" carried out

a [survey](#) on this topic in July 2023. The results are showing that



consumers in Austria want clear controlling and labelling of such products.

It should be noted that, besides other questions, it was asked whether there should be a mandatory labelling on the product for food from NGT. The proposal of the EU Commission defines 2 categories of NGT plants: Only NGT-1 plants (equivalent to conventional plants and meeting certain requirements) would no longer

be subject to GMO- law and thus would not need to be labelled.

We hope that this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter will also find your interest and we are of course looking forward to your opinion, especially regarding the new layout.

Your Safefood-Online Team

## 1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: August 2023

The Safefood online database recorded 396 notifications for August (July: 410 notifications), of which 102 were warning notifications, 117 were border rejections and 177 information messages

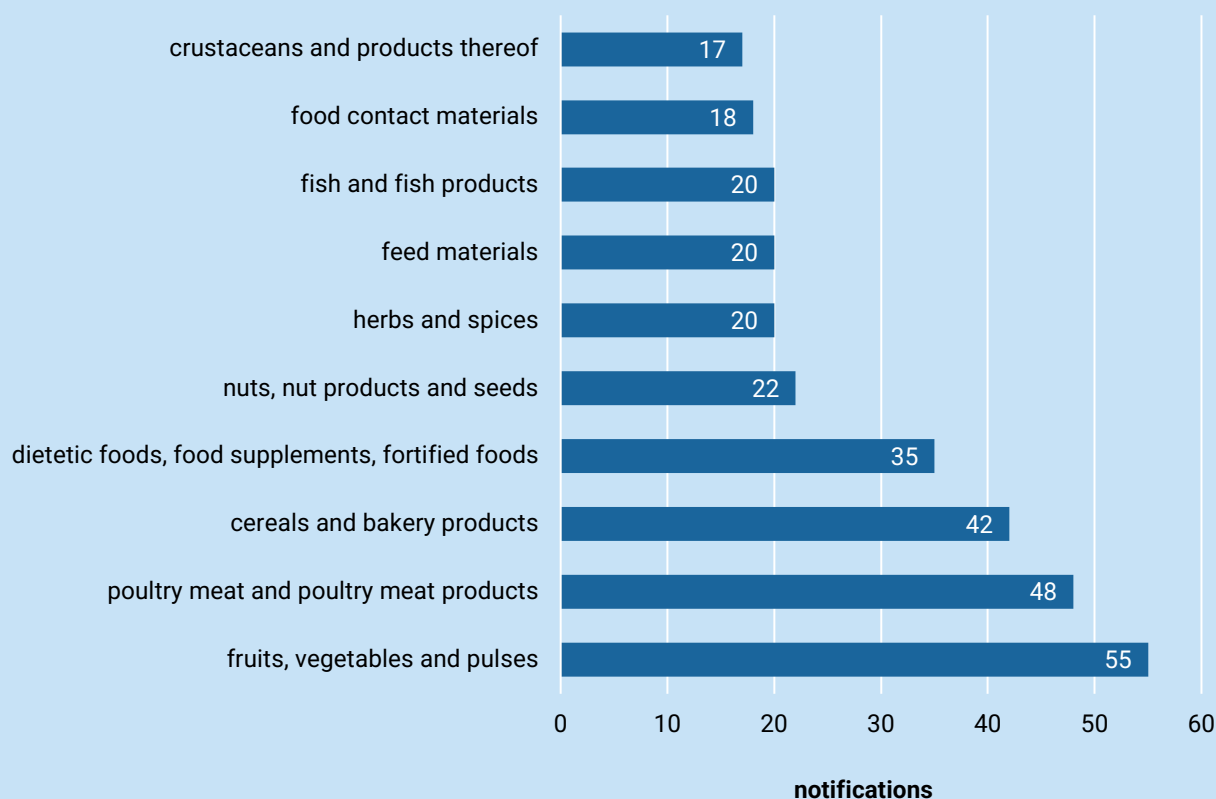
### Remark:

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



The product category fruit, vegetables and legumes is in first place with 55 notifications in the evaluation by product category. 41 notifications are due to pesticides. Compared to July (27 notifications), there were significantly fewer notifications (17) concerning chlorpyrifos. In second place is the product group poultry meat and poultry meat products with 48 notifications (including 34 notifications due to salmonella), followed by the product group cereals and bakery products with 42 notifications:

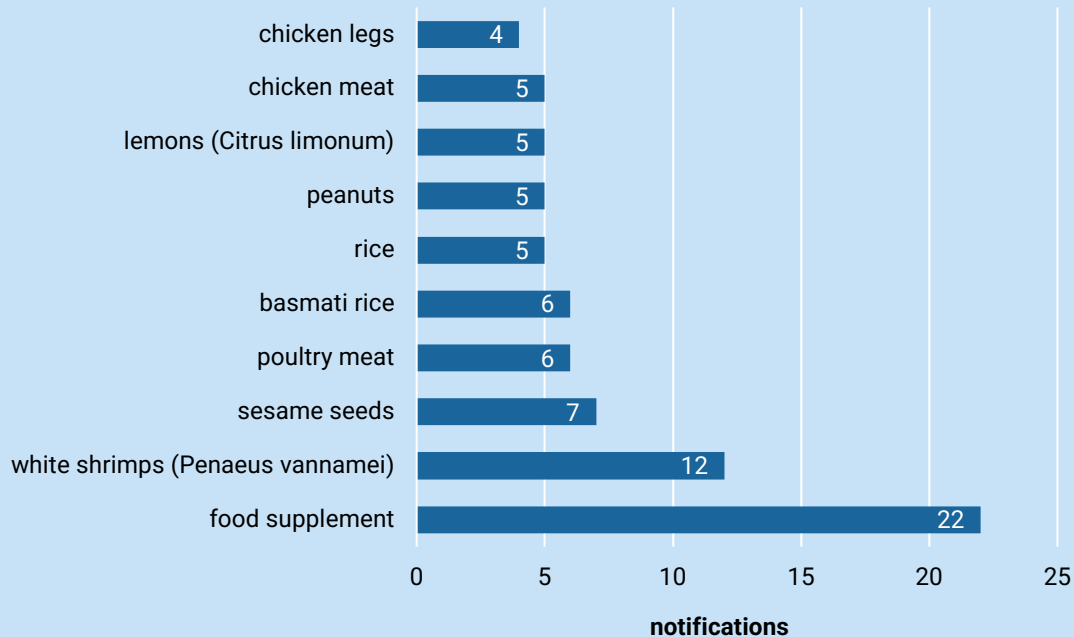
### Notifications August 2023: Top 10 product categories



## 1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: August 2023

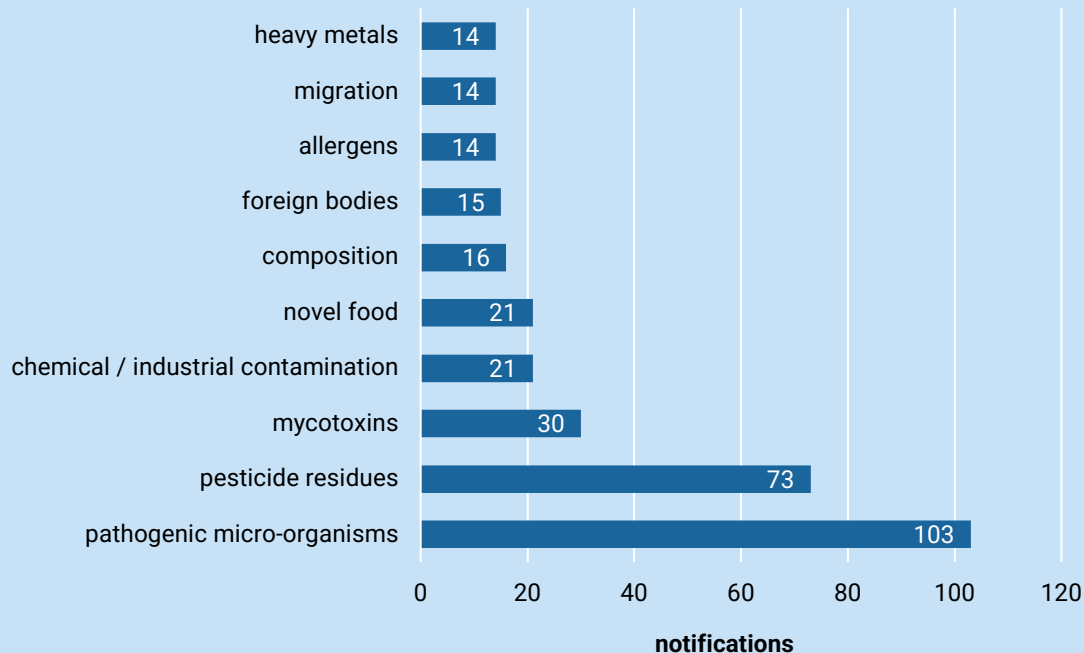
With 22 notifications dietary supplements are ranking first in the August evaluation by product, followed by white tiger shrimps (*Panaeus vannamei*). Of the 12 notifications, 9 were due to *Vibrio cholerae*. In 3rd place were sesame seeds with 7 notifications, 5 due to Salmonella:

### Notifications August 2023: Top 10 products



In the evaluation of the notifications according to hazard categories, pathogenic micro-organisms are again in first place with 103 notifications, followed by pesticides with 73 notifications and mycotoxins with 30 notifications. Around one third (25 notifications) of the pesticide notifications are due to chlorpyrifos residues:

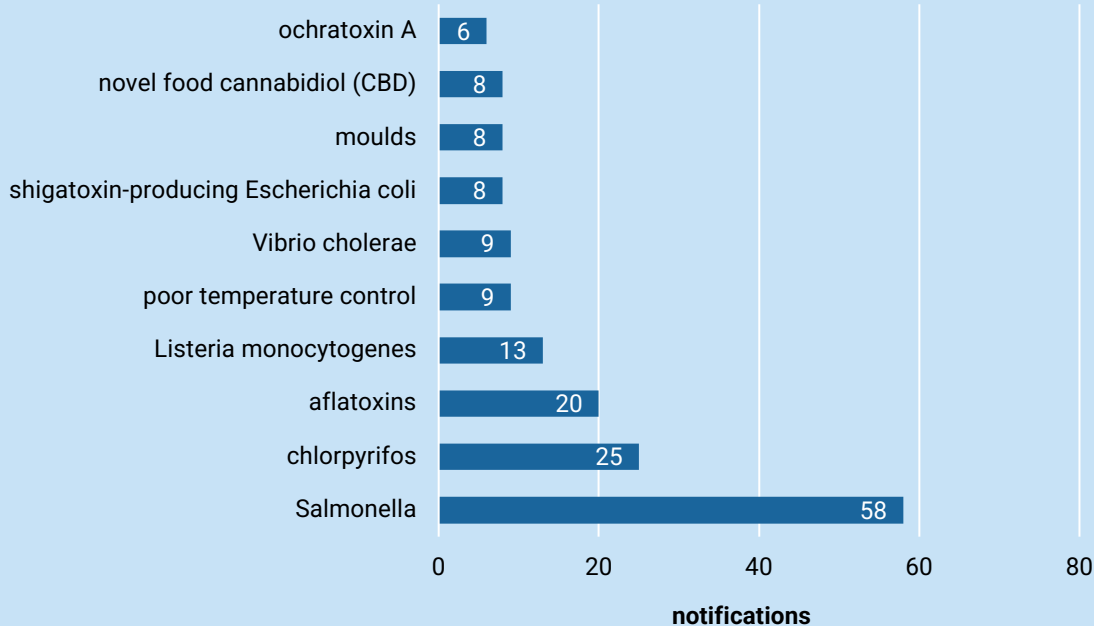
### Notifications August 2023: Top 10 hazard categories



## 1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: August 2023

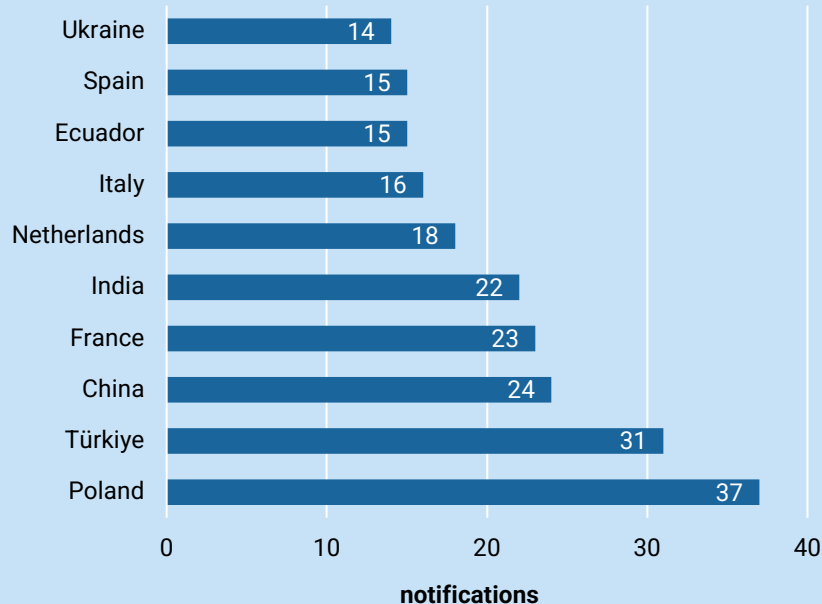
In the evaluation by hazards, there were only minor shifts compared to the previous month: in August, notifications on salmonella are again in first place with 58 notifications, followed by chlorpyrifos (25 notifications) and aflatoxins (20 notifications):

### Notifications August 2023: Top 10 hazards



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

### Notifications August 2023: Top 10 countries of origin



With 37 notifications, Poland ranks first in the evaluation of notifications by country of origin. 24 notifications concerned poultry meat or poultry meat products, 22 of which were due to Salmonella. Products from Turkey (31 notifications) and China (24 notifications) follow in second and third place.

## 2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



### Glyphosate: Update

Bayer has launched a petition to the German Bundestag with the aim of getting the German government to support an extension of glyphosate's approval.

See also [agrarheute](#):

**"Glyphosate approval: Bayer**

**launches online petition for extension".**



### Reports on pesticide residues from the German Federal Office on Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)

The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety publishes the results of official food monitoring on pesticide residues every year. The **2021 annual** report was published on January 13, 2023.



In addition, **quarterly reports** of the results are published and can be found on the BVL website. Actually, the results for the 1st quarter of 2023 have been published (March 1 - to May 31, 2023). The data are available both as an Excel-sheet and in PDF-format. The tables show for the individual foodstuffs, separated by origin (Germany, EU + Iceland and Norway as well as third countries), the number of samples as well as the number of results without or with residues as well as the number of samples with exceedance of the maximum residue limit (MRL) according to EU Regulation 396/2005.





## Food Safety

- 🕒 EU-Commission: Consumer are well informed about insect-based foods
- 🕒 Belgium: The number of outbreaks and people who fell ill was higher in 2022 than in the years before
- 🕒 WHO: Risk assessment of *Listeria monocytogenes* in foods
- 🕒 EFSA: Scientific opinion on the tolerable upper intake level for vitamin D
- 🕒 ECDC: Annual Epidemiological report for 2021 regarding botulism
- 🕒 Edible insects. a historical and cultural perspective on entomophagy with a focus on western societies
- 🕒 U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA): Final rule for revocation of uses of partially hydrogenated oils in foods
- 🕒 France: an outbreak of *Campylobacter* was caused by raw milk cheese
- 🕒 Portugal: Warning issued after "broa de milho" is linked to nearly 200 illnesses
- 🕒 Canada: The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) discovers novel seafood toxin that causes ciguatera poisoning
- 🕒 German BfR: Foods and food supplements containing soy: health aspects
- 🕒 EFSA-Campaign: #Planthelath4Life
- 🕒 Austria: Three *Salmonella* outbreaks have been linked to chicken meat from Poland
- 🕒 DG Sante: Official controls on the production and harvesting of live bivalve molluscs for human consumption in the European Union
- 🕒 Spain: *E. coli* and *Listeria* infections rise in 2022
- 🕒 UK: Register of risk analysis issues published by Food Standard Agency
- 🕒 Kanada: Rückruf von Energy-Drinks wegen Gehaltes an L-Dopa

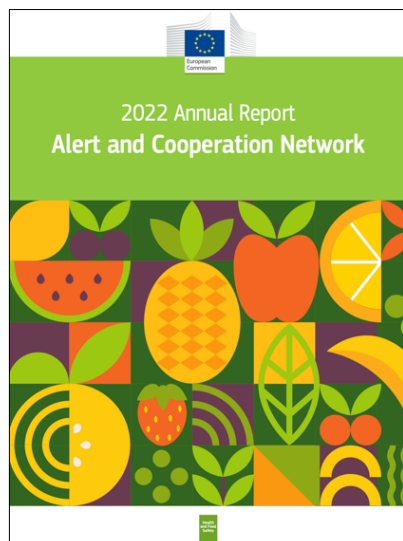


- 🕒 India: 4.970 kg adulterated paneer have been seized and destroyed
- 🕒 Pakistan: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized 405 substandard chilies adulterated with dying colours

## Food Fraud

- 🕒 Food Standard Scotland: Food crime risk profiling tool
- 🕒 Italy: Fight against fake cheese goes high-tech with microtransponders on Parmesan
- 🕒 Pakistan: Punjab authorities (PFA) 5 disposed 5 tones adulterated milk
- 🕒 Spain: 34 tons of food with expired and/ or changed dates have been seized
- 🕒 A new food “fingerprint” technique is sensitive enough to distinguish between foods made from the same ingredients, but in different locations
- 🕒 India: Police nab man selling drug-laced chocolate to students
- 🕒 A business in New Zealand has been fined for the illegal sale of home-kill meat through butcher shop
- 🕒 Pakistan: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) unearthed a fake beverage manufacturing unit producing carbonated drinks of different popular brands in Jameel Town. 18.000 drinks have been disposed

### Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN): Annual Report 2022



At European level, the Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN) is used to exchange information on official controls in the food sector.

The ACN consists of 3 sub-networks:

- Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed network (RASFF).
- Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system network (AAC)
- Agri-Food Fraud network (FFN)

Data exchange has been carried out since 2021 using the iRASFF online platform.

#### **RASFF:**

Serves to exchange information with risks to health regarding food, food contact materials or feed and serious risks to animal health and the environment from feed.

#### **AAC:**

Notifications in case of non-compliance with food or feed law that do not pose a risk to health ("non-compliance").

#### **FFN:**

Food Fraud Notifications (FFN) are generated when a violation is suspected to be fraudulent, i.e., an intentional act by companies or individuals for economic gain. The iRASFF system enables an easy flow of information. For example, it is possible to add food fraud elements to a RASFF report and share them (in a confidential manner) within the FFN. Also, an AAC report can be converted to a RASFF report should more details about health concerns become known.

Within iRASFF, the **RASFF Window** provides public access to RASFF notifications. The Safefood Online database contains all RASFF notifications since 1979.

Currently, there is (unfortunately) no public access to the notifications of the AAC or FFN network.

The **2022 annual report of the Alert and Cooperation Network** contains a summary of all 3 sub-networks (RASFF, AAC and FFN).

#### **RASFF notifications:**

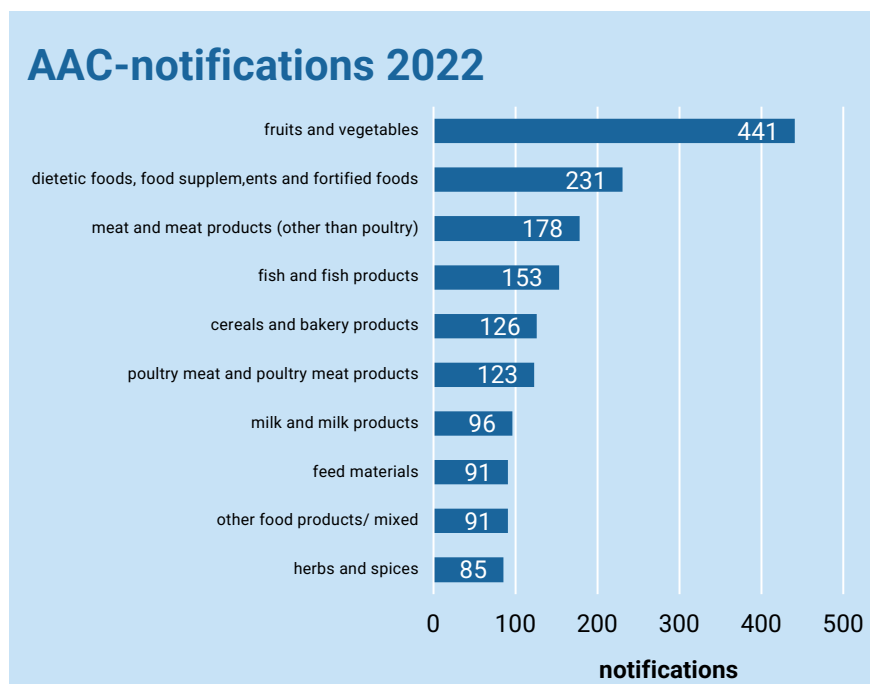
The summary of RASFF notifications can be found in section 3.1 of the annual report. At this point we would also like to refer to the annual evaluation of the notifications in the Safefood Online database in the **December issue of the Safefood Online Newsletter**.



### AAC (non-compliance) notifications:

In 2002, there were a total of 2554 reports of "non-compliance" notifications. Most of the notifications (35.3%) were submitted by Germany. 65.5% of the notifications concerned products originating within the EU, 33.9% originated outside the EU and for 0.5% the origin was unknown.

Below are the 2022 AAC notifications by product category:



The most frequent reason for notifications were violations of the food information regulation (35.2%). In second place with 33.3% were notifications on composition with a focus on pesticide residues (without health risk). Missing or incomplete documentation (commercial documents, health certificates) was the reason for notification in 12.65% of cases. This concerned in particular animal products and live animals. 10.2% of the notifications were due to faulty production or storage conditions.

### Food Fraud Notifications (FFN):

With 600 notifications, there was a significant increase in food fraud notifications compared to 2021 (407). In particular, the EU-wide actions on adulteration of honey and illegal trade in feed contributed to the increase in notifications.

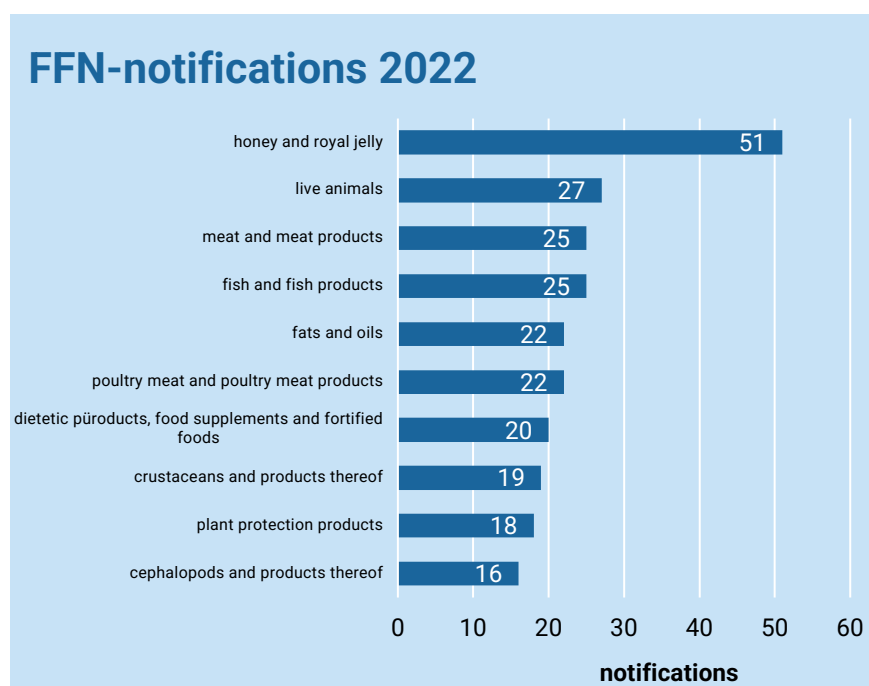
As in previous years, the majority of notifications came from Germany (26.5%), Belgium (21%) and France (13.3%).

72.7% of the notifications concerned products originating within the EU and 26.5% originated outside the EU. In 0.6% of the notifications, the origin was not known.

## 4. Topic of the month

Most notifications originating within the EU came from Spain (15.4%), mainly notifications concerning octopus and olive oil, and the Netherlands (12.9%), mainly false declarations and smuggling of live animals. Of the cases originating outside the EU, 21% of the products came from China. Here, notifications on honey and false declarations on fish and fish products were the main ones.

Below are the FFN notifications 2022 by product category:



### Feedback

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



**Safefood-Online GmbH**  
Birkenweg 18  
D-68723 Schwetzingen

Phone: +49 (0) 62 02 / 923 697  
Fax: +49 (0) 62 02 / 923 696  
E-Mail: [info@safefood-online.de](mailto:info@safefood-online.de)  
Internet: [www.safefood-online.de](http://www.safefood-online.de)

Personally liable partner:  
Dr. Bernhard Müller

Registered Office: Schwetzingen  
Commercial Register: Amtsgericht Mannheim,  
HRB 710365

Sales tax identification number according to § 27a  
sales tax law: DE 274 106 454

Responsible according to § 55 paragraph 2 RStV:  
Dr. Bernhard Müller

**Disclaimer:** Despite careful content control we assume no liability for the content of external links. For the content of linked pages their operators are responsible.

#### General use policies:

1. The company safefood-online GmbH (in the following "safefood-online" called), Birkenweg.18 business address, D-68723 Schwetzingen, operates under the Internet address [www.safefood-online.de](http://www.safefood-online.de) a website on the Internet, that provides information and communication. The object of the enterprise is the maintenance of an Internet database for the representation of risk assessment and food safety.
2. As a provider of a teleservice safefood-online personal information (details about personal or factual circumstances of an identified or identifiable person) will collect only so much or use as is necessary to execute the teleservice (stock data). The processing and use of inventory data for other purposes only if you as the user grant your express consent. Neither of us using the website is considered as consent, nor is the use of safefood-online-site of the issuance of your agreement.
3. You have the right to have your consent to the storage, processing and use of your data at any time to revoke, effective for the future. The withdrawal may be made in writing or electronically. Do you want to withdraw your consent, please send an e-mail to [info@safefood-online.de](mailto:info@safefood-online.de)
4. **Responsibility for Content**
  - a. safefood-online is to its own website content according to general laws.

- b. For third-party content that is hosted in the website to use, safefood-online is only responsible, it is aware of the contents and the technical and reasonable possibility exists to prevent its use.
- c. Liability for external content, which is only accessible from our safefood-online, is excluded. The automatic and temporary storage of external content due to user query is regarded as access mediation. We assume no liability or guarantee for the content of Internet sites to which our website refers directly or indirectly. Visitors follow links to other websites and homepages at their own risk and use them in accordance with the terms and conditions of those sites.
- d. Obligations to restrict the usage of illicit content according to general laws remains unaffected if safefood-online, while maintaining the secrecy of telecommunications pursuant to § 88 TKG of such contents and the bar is technically possible and reasonable.

#### 5. Legal Notices

The company safefood-online strives to provide on this website is accurate and complete information available. However, it assumes no liability or guarantee for the topicality, correctness and completeness of the information provided. We reserve the right, without prior notice, changes or additions to the information provided.

#### 6. Copyrights

The content of this website is protected by copyright. Safefood-online visitors, however, granted the right to store on this website in whole or text and reproduce. For copyright reasons, the storage and reproduction of images or graphics on this site is prohibited.