



Issue | September 2023



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

In September, we had 373 new notifications in the Safefood-Online database. The evaluations can be found as usual under point 1.

Point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants" informs about new developments regarding bisphenol A and glyphosate. In addition, we are presenting 4 regulations with new or amended maximum levels for pesticide residues.

For news around food safety and food fraud please see point 3.

There are currently posts in the social networks about the consumption of particularly spicy tortilla chips (Hot Chip Challenge). In Germany the "Sueddeutsche Zeitung", among others, reported under the title "This chili chip takes children their breath away" about this "test of courage". Recently **Forbes** reported a case in which a fourteen-year-old boy died after eating extremely hot chips.

In this context, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) published a **communication** on September 7, 2023, titled: "Trial by fire: Extremely spicy foods can be harmful especially to children's health."

The German BfR recommends labelling chili and other seasoning sauces as well as products with a content of more than 100 mg

Capsaicin/ kg food and providing the packaging with child-resistant closures. Furthermore, the authorities are recommended to check whether foods with a capsaicin content greater than 6,000 mg/kg can still be considered safe.

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.

Your Safefood-Online Team



source: sweet-vibes.de

1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: September 2023

In the Safefood online database, the number of new notifications decreased slightly compared to August:

- September: 373 notifications
- August: 396 notifications

The notifications are divided into:

- 108 alert notifications
- 132 border rejection notifications
- 133 information notifications

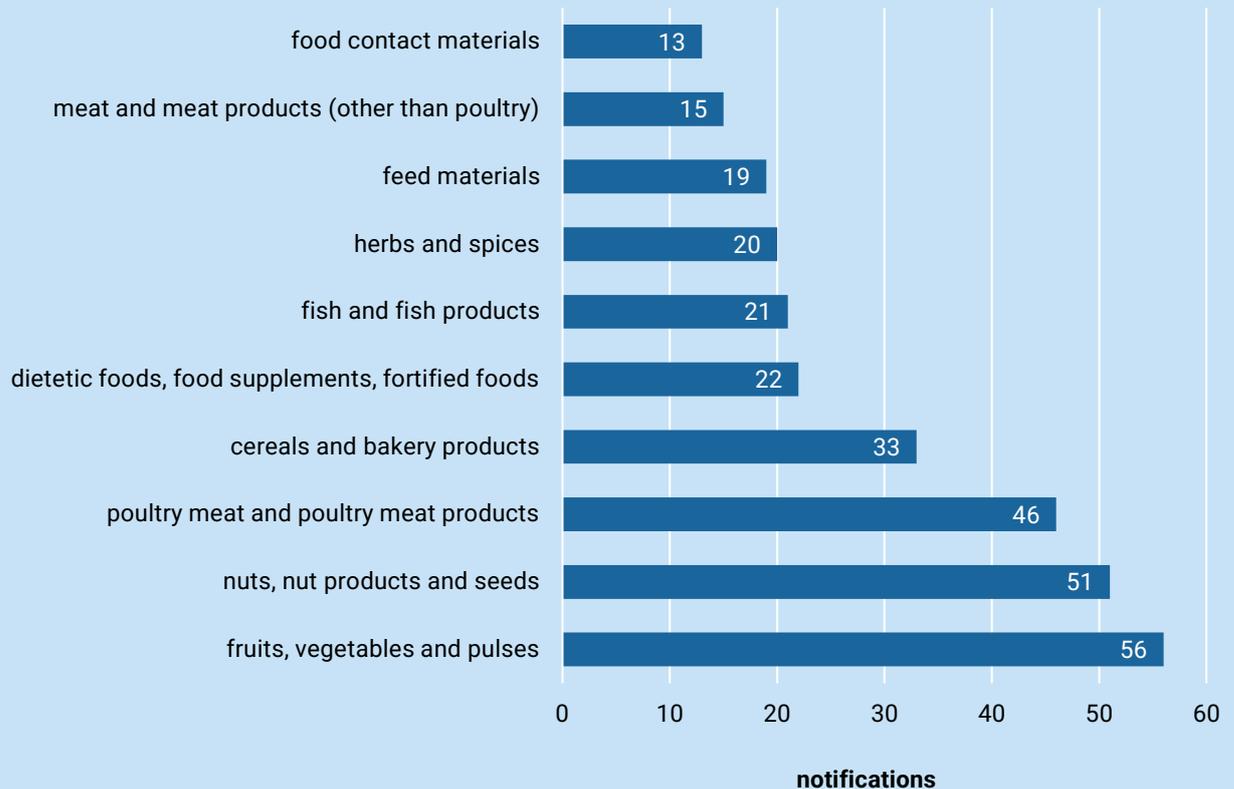


Remark:

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.

As in the previous month, the product category fruits, vegetables and pulses is leading with 56 notifications. The number of notifications in the product group nuts, nut products and seeds is more than doubled (22 notifications in August and 51 notifications in September) This brings this product category to second place. Most of the notifications (28) concerned sesame seeds mainly due to the lack of official certificates (19 cases). The products originated from Nigeria, Sudan and Ethiopia:

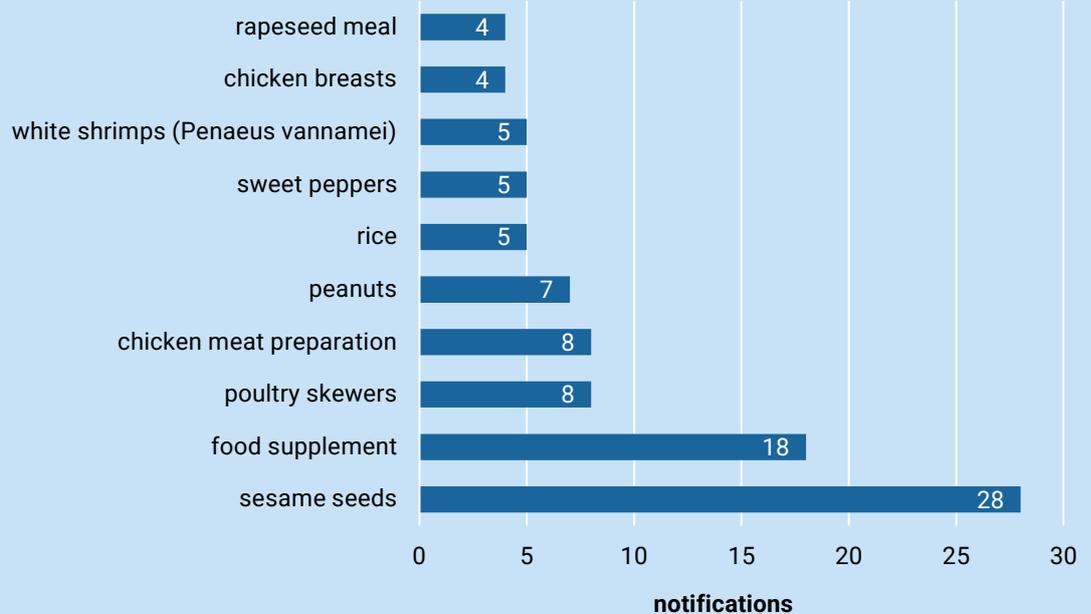
Notifications September 2023: Top 10 product categories



1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: September 2023

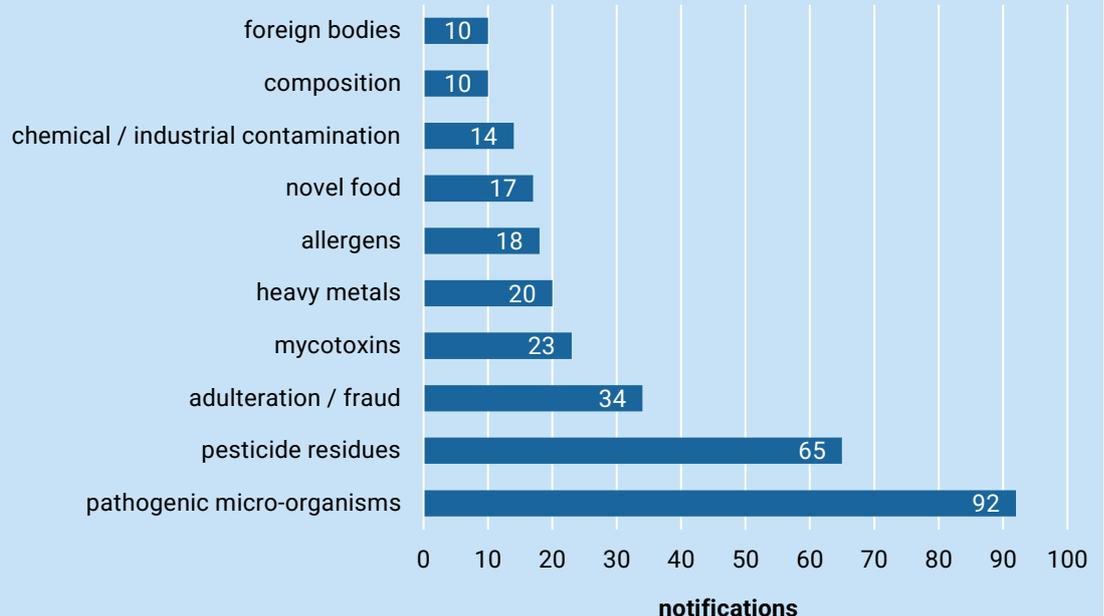
In September, sesame seeds are in first place in the evaluation by products with 28 notifications. As already mentioned, missing official certificates were the reason for the notifications in 19 cases. This is followed by food supplements with 18 notifications and poultry meat skewers with 8 notifications. Here, all 8 notifications were due to salmonella findings:

Notifications September 2023: Top 10 products



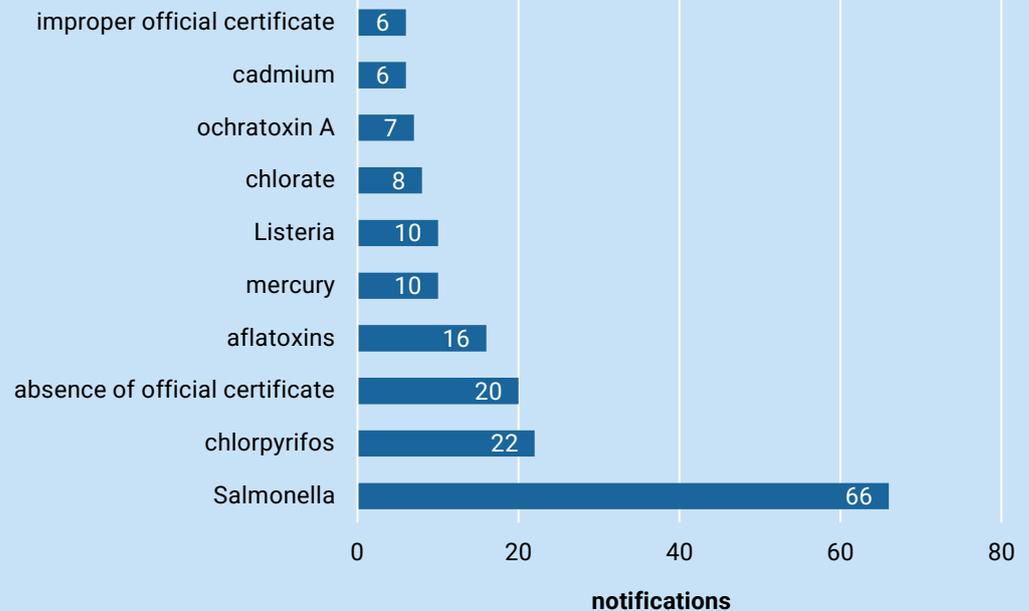
In the evaluation of the notifications according to hazard categories, pathogenic micro-organisms were again in first place in September with 92 notifications, followed by pesticides with 65 notifications (including 22 notifications on chlorpyrifos) and adulteration/ fraud with 28 notifications (note: in Safefood Online, the absence of official certificates is assigned to the hazard category adulteration/ fraud):

Notifications September 2023: Top 10 hazard categories



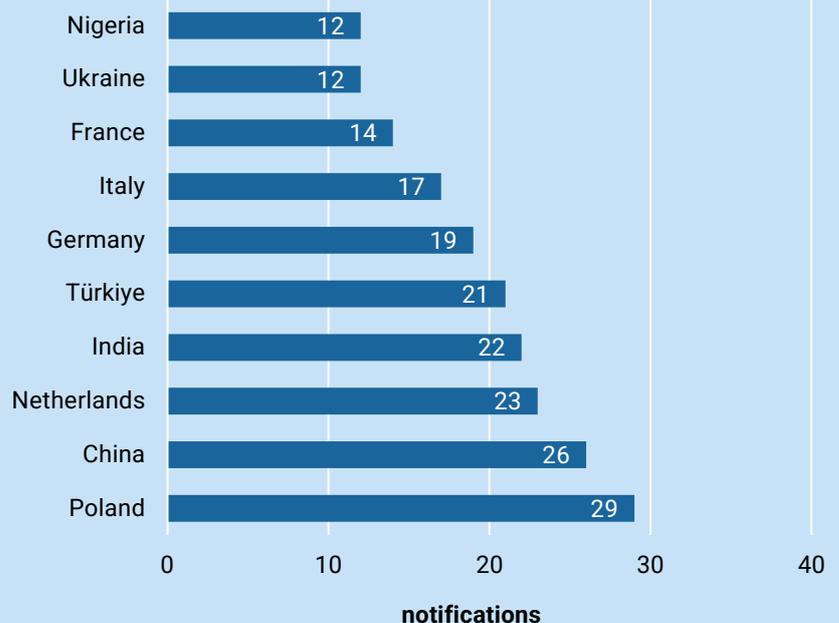
In the evaluation by hazards, notifications due to salmonella are again in first place with 65 notifications, followed by chlorpyrifos with 22 notifications and the absence of official certificates with 20 notifications:

Notifications September 2023: Top 10 hazards



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

Notifications September 2023: Top 10 countries of origin



The highest number of product notifications in September came from Poland (29 notifications). This is followed by China with 26 notifications and the Netherlands with 23 notifications..

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



Bisphenol A

The European Environment Agency released a [briefing on bisphenol A](#) on Sept. 14, concluding that "Current research data show that public exposure to bisphenol A (BPA), which is used in Europe from plastic and metal food containers to reusable water bottles and drinking water pipes, is well above safe levels and presents a potential health risk to millions of people.

The Key messages from the bisphenol A briefing are as follows:

- BPA is used all over the world. As a result, people are continuously exposed to BPA released from food containers and other everyday products.
- BPA can harm human health because it is an endocrine disruptor that can alter how the hormone system functions. It can harm the reproductive system and negatively affect the immune system.
- A recent Horizon 2020 research initiative (HBM4EU) measured chemicals in the bodies of people in Europe and detected BPA in the urine of 92% of adult participants from 11 European countries.
- The levels of BPA measured in people's urine also exceed recently revised European safety limits, raising long-term health concerns for everyone.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published a [re-evaluation of bisphenol A](#) in April. (see also the SFO Newsletter from April 2023). As stated in the April newsletter, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is not supporting the TDI level of 0.2 ng per kg body weight per day set by EFSA and has proposed a TDI level of 0.2 nanograms per kg body weight per day.

In the context of the EEA briefing, it should be noted that the BPA exposure levels measured in the adult population from the HBM4EU studies are below the human biomonitoring guidance based on the transient tolerable daily intake (TDI) of 4 µg/kg body



weight/day. If the new EFSA proposal from April 2023 for the TDI (0,2 ng per kg body weight per day) is taken into account, all measured values are far above of the HBM guidance value derived from this new TDI (see also the [statement of the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative \(HBM4EU\)](#)).

Glyphosate-Update

On September 20, 2023, the EU Commission presented a [draft regulation](#) regarding glyphosate. According to the annex to this draft regulation, the authorization of glyphosate will be extended for another 10 years, i.e., until 2033 (see also SFO Newsletter July 2023 item 3.3). The vote on the draft regulation is scheduled for October 12, 2023.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants

Regulation (EU) 2023/1719

Regulation (EU) 2023/1719 introduced new or amended maximum residue levels for:

- Isoxaben
- Metaldehyde
- *Metarhizium brunneum* strain Ma 43
- Paclobutrazol

Straight-chain lepidopteran pheromones.

in or on certain foods. For more information, please refer to the linked regulation text.

Regulation (EU) 2023/1783

Regulation (EU) 2023/1783 introduced new or amended maximum residue levels for:

- Denatonium benzoate
- Diuron
- Etoxazole
- Methomyl
- Teflubenzuron

in or on certain foods. For more information, please refer to the linked regulation text.

Regulation (EU) 2023/1030

Regulation (EU) 2023/1030 amended Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 with regard to

- *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain AH2
- *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* IT-45
- *Purpureocillium lilacinum* strain PL11

For more information, please refer to the linked regulation text.

Regulation (EU) 2023/1719

Regulation (EU) 2023/1753 introduced new or amended maximum residue levels for:

- Pyriproxyfen

in or on certain products have been introduced. For further information please refer to the linked regulation text.



Food Safety

- 🕒 Mycotoxins in cereal-based products and their impacts on the health of humans, livestock animals and pets
- 🕒 UK: The government has confirmed a further delay to post-Brexit border controls on animal and plant products coming from the EU
- 🕒 China: Dangerous antibiotic-resistant bacteria found in China's ready to eat foods
- 🕒 Australia: Rise in Listeria infections - Public health officials in an Australian state are warning people
- 🕒 Netherlands: Significant increase in the number of outbreaks sickened people in 2022
- 🕒 WHO/ FAO: Prevention and control of microbiological hazards in fresh fruits and vegetables
- 🕒 Hundreds sickened in Spain by water contaminated with parasite
- 🕒 Spain records Salmonella and Yersinia increases in 2022



- 🕒 Australia: Food Fraud is on the rise
- 🕒 New Analysis Tools for Detecting Food Fraud
- 🕒 Ireland: In terms of food fraud, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) was involved in 59 investigations, resulting in closure orders, compliance notices, and seizures of various products

Food Fraud

- 🕒 Australia: Food fraud is a big money spinner paid by consumers' trust and health
- 🕒 11 of the most faked foods in the world
- 🕒 China: Replacing beef, lamb with duck meat raises concerns
- 🕒 Pakistan: Food authority seizes over 3000 kg harmful tea leaves
- 🕒 Spain: 28 tons of food seized after alleged changing of shelf-life dates
- 🕒 Italy: How the Italian mafia makes millions from tinned tomatoes
- 🕒 Laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS) to detect Food Fraud
- 🕒 India: Food Fraud contaminating Indian food ecosystem
- 🕒 Authenticity tests in wheat flour

4. Topic of the month

Food Allergy Research and Resource Program (FARRP)



Established in 1995, the FARRP (Food Allergy Research and Resource Program) is a collaborative project between the University of Nebraska and industry. More information on the goals and objectives of FARRP can be found [here](#).

FARRP provides extensive information on allergens on its website.

- [Consumer Information](#)

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- [FARRP Database](#)

The FARRP database contains information on the allergic potential of foods and was created jointly by the Institute of Food Research and FARRP and is based on the EU project [Informall](#).

- ["AllergenOnline" database"](#)

The AllergenOnline database contains an allergen list or sequence searchable database to identify proteins that may pose a risk for allergenic cross-reaction.

- [General Information on Food Allergies and Sensitivities](#)

- [Thresholds for Allergenic Foods](#)

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- [Regulatory Foods](#)

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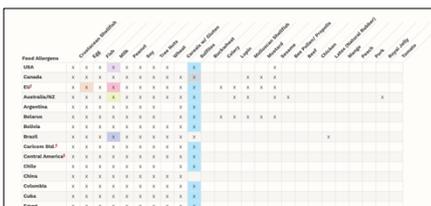
- [FARRP Publications](#)

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- [Food Allergy Links](#)

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- [Allergen Control in the Food Industry](#)

The image shows a table with 'Food Allergens' listed in the first column and various countries in the subsequent columns. The countries listed include USA, Canada, EU, Australia/NZ, Argentina, Bahrain, Bolivia, Canada/Mex, Central America, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Egypt. The table cells contain 'x' marks, indicating the presence of regulations for specific allergens in those countries. The allergens listed in the first column are: Milk, Eggs, Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Soy, Wheat, Sesame, Mustard, Lupine, Fish, Shellfish, and Other.

Of particular interest is the [overview of international regulations on allergen labelling](#) under "Legal regulations on allergen labelling". By clicking on the corresponding allergens, you can see on a world map in which countries there are regulations for the selected allergen. Next to this, FARRP displays in a table sorted by country, which allergens have to be labelled in the respective country.

Remark:

This information can only provide a first orienting overview. In individual cases, the legal regulations of the respective country should always be consulted.

Feedback

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



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