

Issue | January 2024



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

in January 2024 Safefood-Online recorded 389 new notifications. You can find the evaluations under point1.

Point 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants" provides information on 4 regulations with new or amended maximum levels of pesticides and on the EFSA opinion on inorganic arsenic in food.

News on the topics of Food Safety and Food Fraud can be found under points 3 and 4.

From the end of September 2023 to mid-January 2024, the first Citizens' Assembly of the German Bundestag dealt with the topic of "Nutrition in transition between a private matter and state tasks" and presented the following recommendations:

- What do citizens expect from the state in terms of nutrition policy? Where should it become active and where not? What should the state enable or facilitate?
- What do consumers want to know about their food and its origin? What is included in transparent labelling of social conditions, environmental and climate compatibility and animal welfare standards? How detailed should such information be so that it is helpful and not confusing?
- What do citizens think is necessary for the development of a well-founded knowledge in society as a whole about the connections between nutrition and health? What is the role of schools, for example? What measures should be taken to protect particularly vulnerable consumers?
- How can citizens be better supported in their purchasing decisions with regard to healthy nutrition?
- What fiscal framework should the state set for the pricing of food?
- How can food waste be stopped and what can the state do about it?

Further information on the legacies of the Citizens' Assembly can be found [here](#).

Background information about the Citizen deliberation in Germany (lessons from the "Buergerat Demokratie") can be found [here](#).

We hope that also this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter is interesting for you and we are of course looking forward to your opinion.

Your Safefood-Online Team

1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: January 2024

In January 2024, the number of new notifications slightly decreased compared to December 2023:

- **January 2024:** 389
- December 2023: 398
- November 2023: 432

The notifications from January 2024 are split as follows:

- Alert notifications: 101
- Border rejections: 126
- Information messages: 162

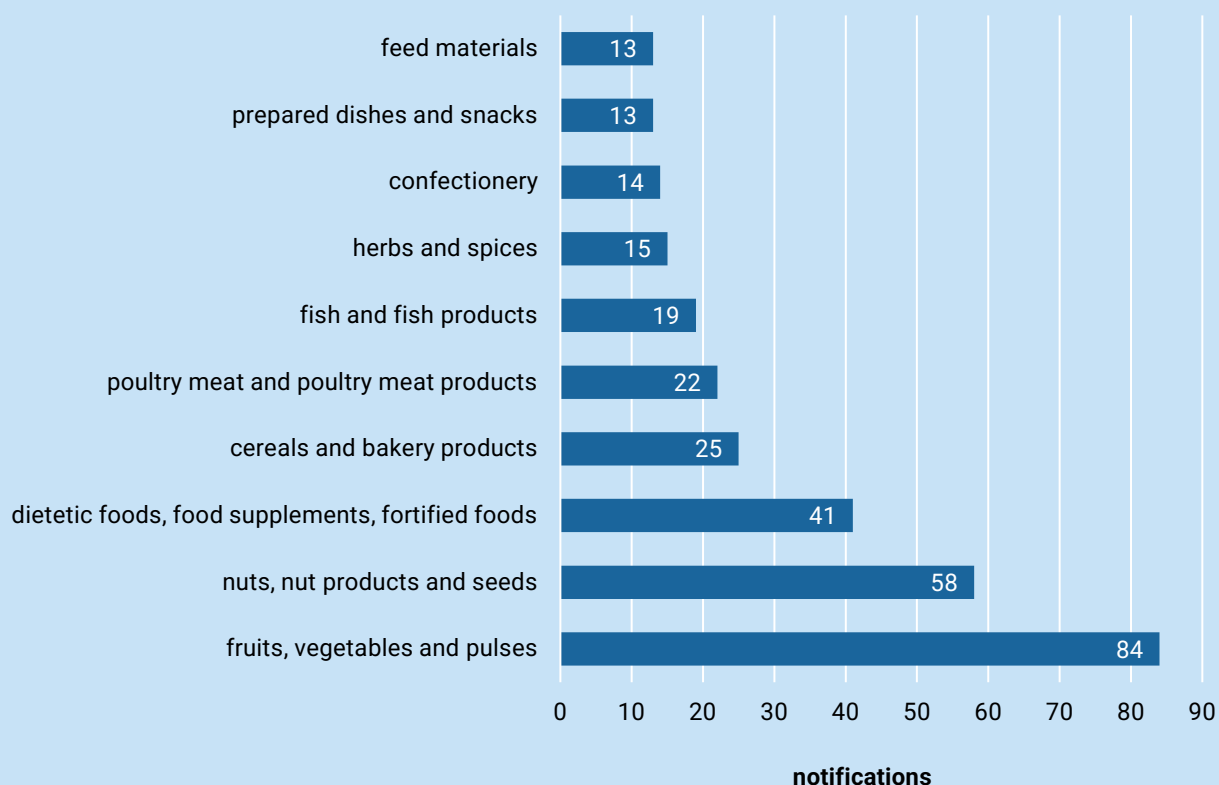


Note:

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.

With 84 notifications the product category fruit, vegetables and pulses is in first place in the evaluation by product category. 52 notifications concerned findings of pesticide. 19 cases related to chlorpyrifos. The product category nuts, nut products and seeds followed in second place with 58 notifications. 44 notifications were due to aflatoxins. The product category dietary foods, food supplements and fortified foods follows in third place with 41 notifications:

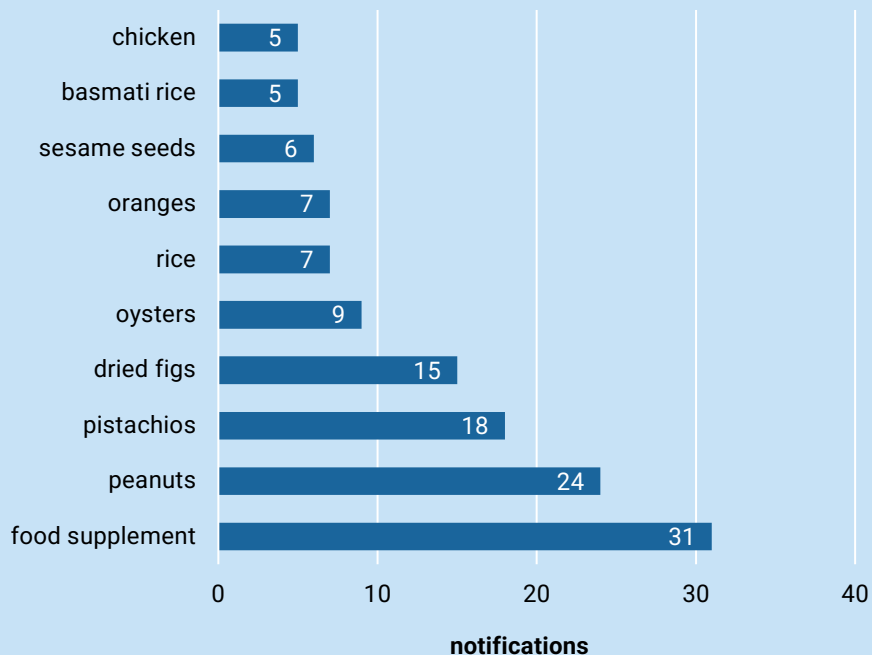
Notifications January 2024: Top 10 product categories



1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: January 2024

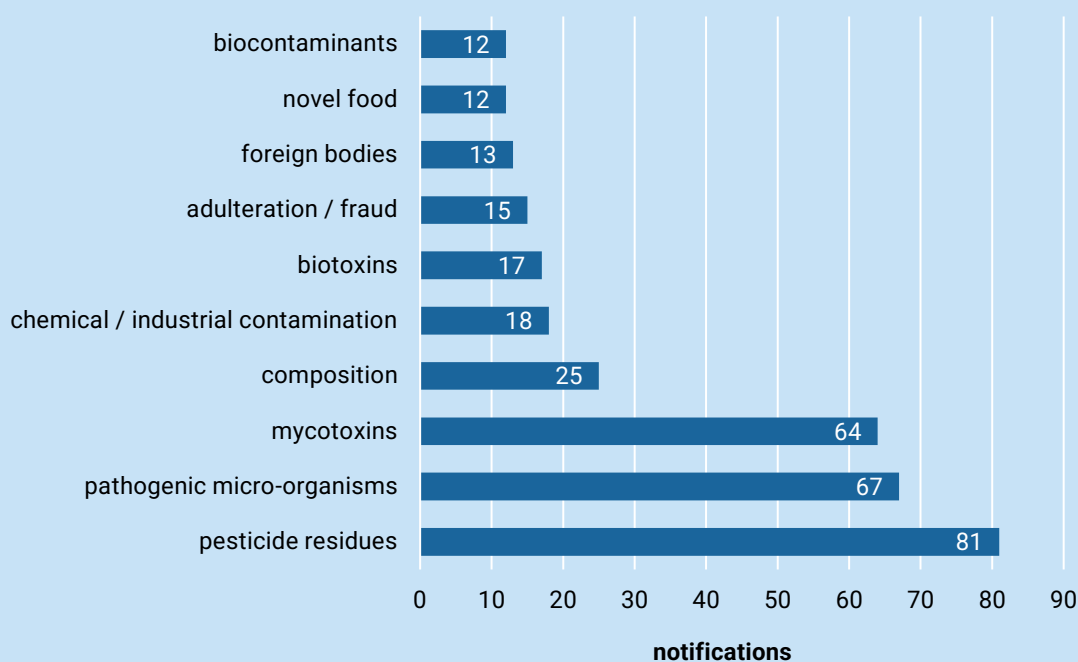
With 31 notifications, food supplements ranked first in the evaluation by product, followed by peanuts with 24 notifications (included 22 notifications due to aflatoxins). All notifications (18) concerning pistachios were also due to aflatoxins:

Notifications January 2024: Top 10 products



In the evaluation of notifications by hazard category, pesticides are in first place with 81 notifications. 32 notifications (40%) concerned chlorpyrifos. Pathogenic micro-organisms and mycotoxins followed with 67 and 64 notifications:

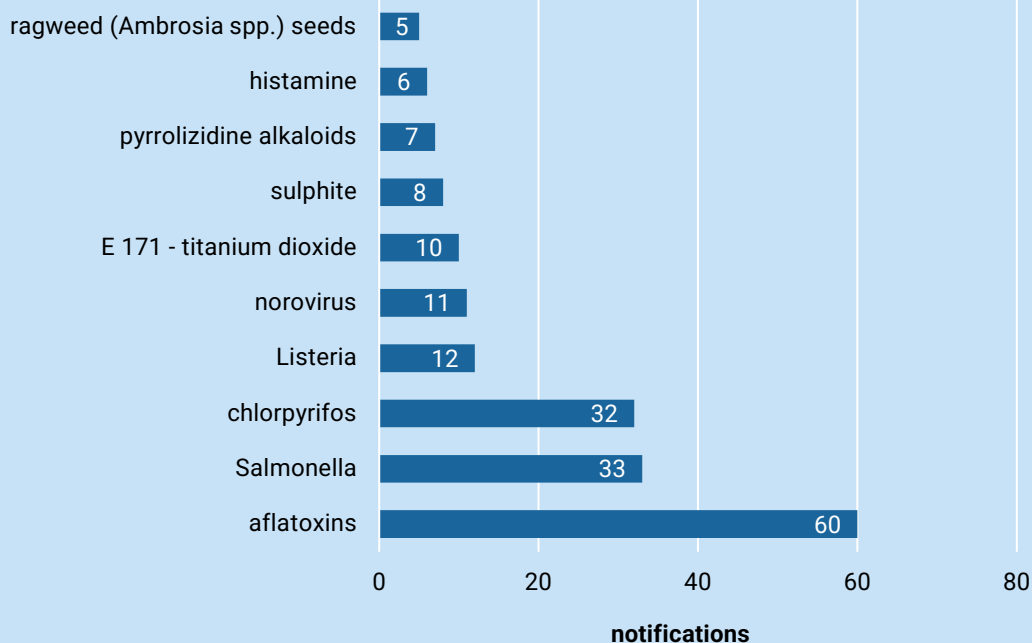
Notifications January 2024: Top 10 hazard categories



1. Notifications in Safefood-Online: January 2024

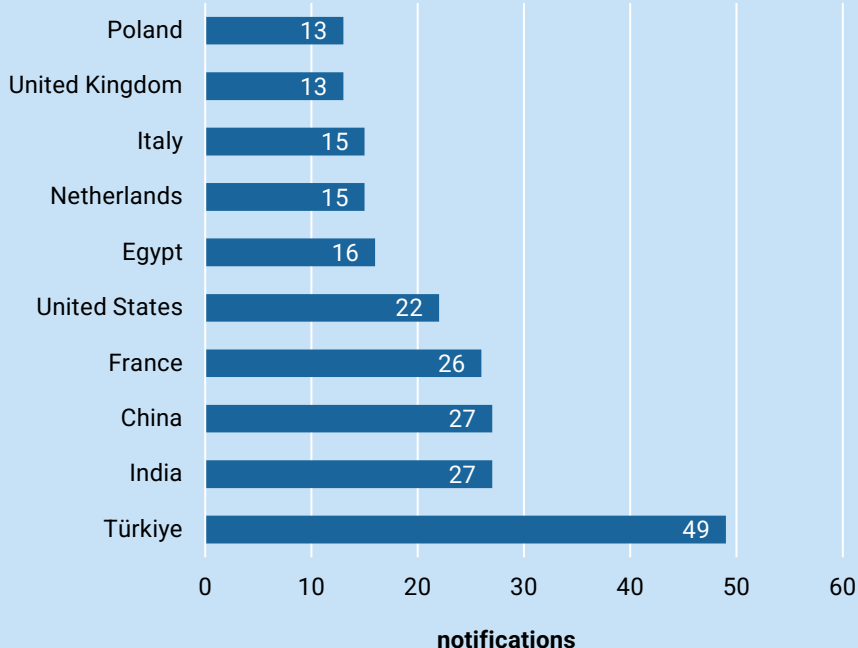
In terms of hazards, in January the highest number of notifications were for aflatoxins (60). This was followed by notifications concerning salmonella (33 notifications) and chlorpyrifos (32 notifications):

Notifications January 2024: Top 10 hazards



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

Notifications January 2024: top 10 countries of origin



The highest number of notifications (49) was for products from Türkiye, including 13 notifications for figs and 9 notifications for pistachios due to mycotoxins. India and China are in second and third place with 27 notifications each.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



Regulation (EU) 2024/246

For:

- *Pythium oligundrum* strain M1
- *Trichoderma atroviride* strain AGR2
- *Trichoderma atroviride* strain AT10

no specific maximum residue levels have been set in Regulation (EC) 396/2005. Therefore, the "default value" of 0.01 mg/kg was set for these active substances in accordance with Article 18(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) 396/2005. In the course of the Per-Review of the risk assessment, EFSA came to the conclusion that it is not necessary to set maximum residue levels for these plant protection active substances.

With **Regulation (EU) 246/2024** of 16 January 2024, these substances were therefore included in Annex IV of Regulation (EC) 396/2005 (List of active substances of plant protection products evaluated in accordance with Directive 91/414/EEC and for which no MRLs are required under Article 5(1)).

Regulation (EU) 2024/331

Regulation (EU) 2024/331 amended Annexes II and V to Regulation (EC) 396/2005 with regard to the maximum residue levels of:

- Oxamyl

in or on certain products were amended. For further information, please refer to the linked text of the regulation.

Regulation (EU) 2024/342

On 23 January 2024, **Regulation (EU) 2024/342** amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) 396/2005 as regards maximum residue levels of:

- Cyflumetofen
- Oxathiapiprolin
- pyraclostrobin

has been published. For further information, please refer to the linked text of the regulation.

Regulation (EU) 2024/344

With Regulation (EU) 2024/344a Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 was mending and correcting the maximum residue levels for:

- mandipropamid

in or on certain product. For further information, please refer to the linked text of the regulation.

EFSA: Update of the risk assessment of inorganic arsenic in food

Following a request from the European Commission, EFSA has updated its **assessment of inorganic arsenic in food** from 2009. The long-term intake of arsenic is also associated with some cancers, in particular skin cancer.

The **Margin of Exposure (MOE)** for adults is low, ranging between 2 and 0.4 for average consumers and between 0.9 and 0.2 for consumers with high intakes. According to EFSA, this gives rise to health concerns.



- 🕒 EFSA: Risks for animal health related to the presence of ergot alkaloids in feed
- 🕒 UK: FSA Reports on Risks Posed by Labor Shortages to Food Safety, Security
- 🕒 EU Parliament gives first green light to new rules for gene-edited plants
- 🕒 A 10-year analysis of RASFF notifications for mycotoxins in nuts. Trend in key mycotoxins and impacted countries

Food Safety

- 🕒 German BfR: Escherichia coli in flour - Second expert discussion on sources, health risks and prevention
- 🕒 German BfR: Escherichia coli in flour and dough - What is important for enjoyment without remorse?
- 🕒 German BfR: Food supplements for children - (not) a good idea?!
- 🕒 DG Sante audits show Austria, Slovakia can improve raw milk controls
- 🕒 Canada: infant formula recalled in Canada over possible Cronobacter contamination
- 🕒 DG Sante: Audit-Report regarding the system of official controls relating to microbial safety of food of non-animal origin
- 🕒 Exposure of U.S. adults to microplastics from commonly-consumed proteins
- 🕒 2023 in EU agri policy: A year of jams and roadblocks
- 🕒 USA: International Food Information Council (IFIC): 2023 Food and Health Survey



Food Fraud

- 🕒 Pakistan: 500 litres adulterated milk wasted
- 🕒 Pakistan: Food authority cracks down on sale of sub-standard meat
- 🕒 US: Investigation of Elevated Lead & Chromium Levels: Cinnamon Applesauce Pouches
- 🕒 India: Food inspectors crack down on adulterated products - 56 tons of sugar confiscated
- 🕒 Spain: The Guardia Civils' investigation, aided by Euro-pol and the Italian Carabinieri, led to the seizure of 120,000 cans of tuna and 45,000 litres of oil
- 🕒 US: FDA issues warning about certain supplements with toxic yellow oleander

German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL): "Pesticide residues": National reporting 2022



The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety has published the evaluation of the official food monitoring test results from 2022 on residues of plant protection products in food: **"Pesticide residues" National reporting on plant protection product residues in food 2022**.

According to the report, a total of 21,601 samples were analyzed for pesticide residues in 2022 (of which 6,179 samples were analyzed as part of monitoring and 15,422 samples were analyzed on a risk basis to check compliance with legal regulations).

In summary, the BVL comes to the conclusion that food in Germany is only slightly contaminated with residues of plant protection products.

In addition to the report, we would also like to draw your attention to the **tables with the results of the national reporting on pesticide residues**, which have been published on the BVL website.



Feedback

Please forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:
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