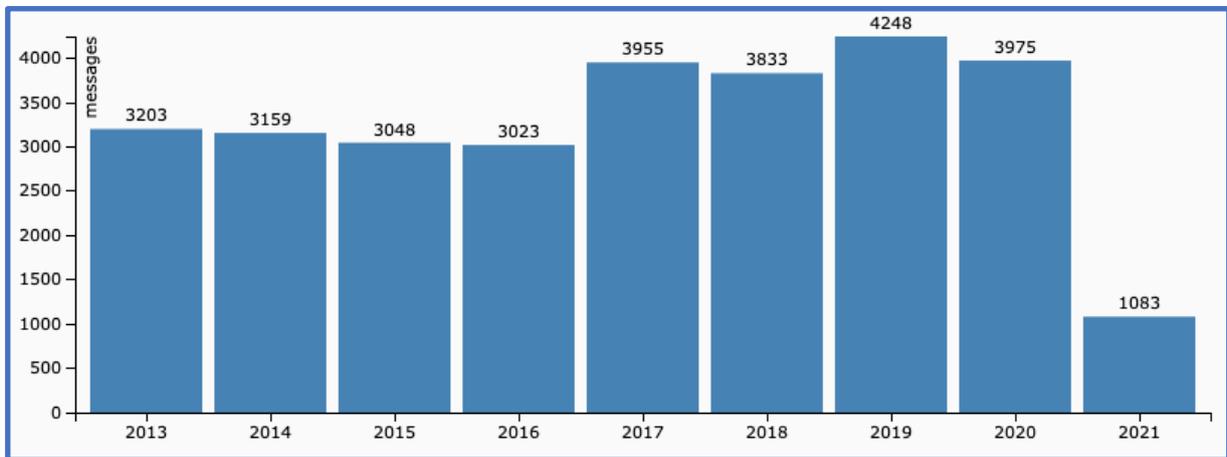
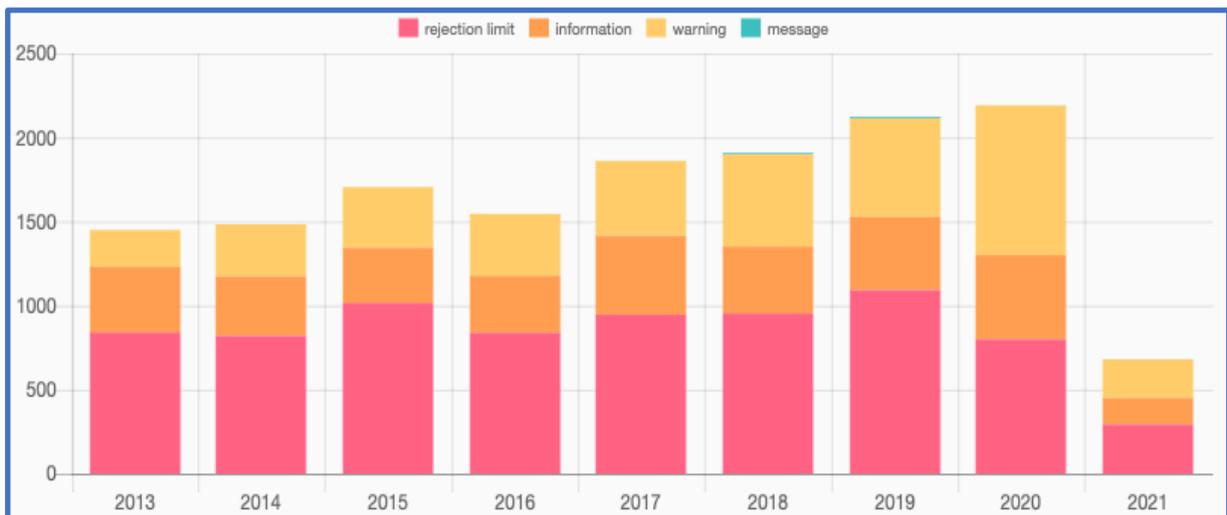


Safefood-Online

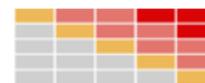
Newsletter



(RASFF notifications and monthly Food Fraud notifications (EU))



(Notifications according to the type of notifications from the Dashboard on www.safefood-online.de.)



Dear Safefood-Online user,

we are pleased to present to you today the first issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter. This newsletter will be published monthly and will summarize and evaluate the RASFF notifications of the previous month with background information on the reasons for the notifications. You will also find information on news about pesticides and contaminants and links on topics around food safety and food fraud.

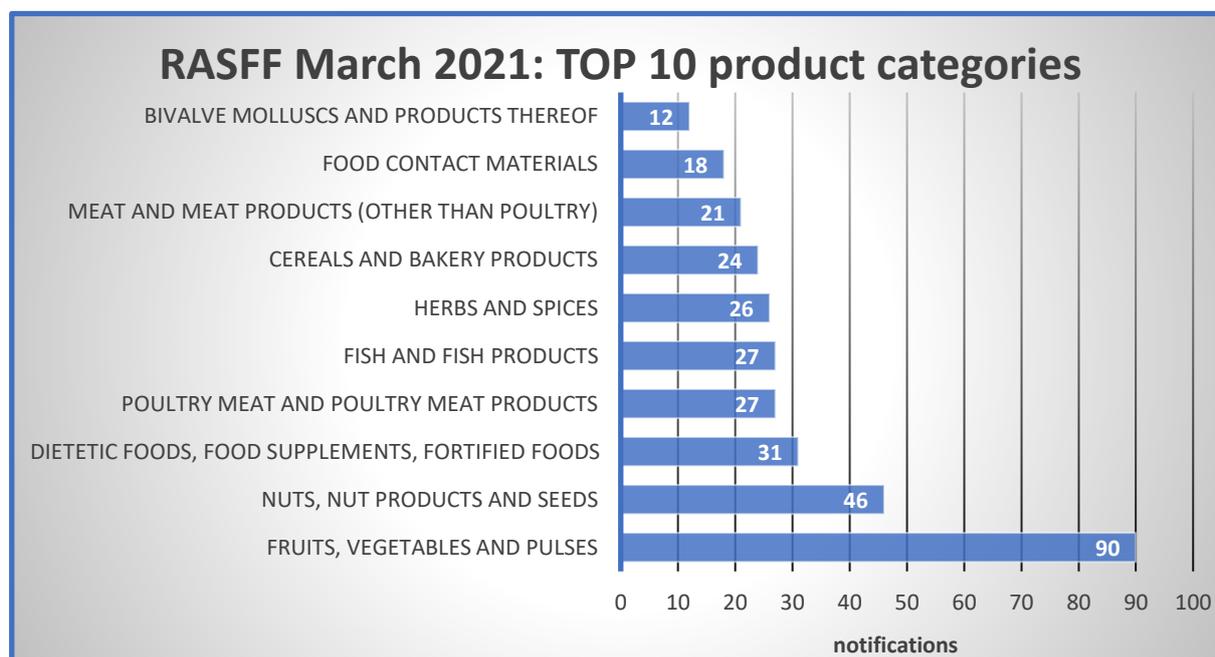
We hope this newsletter will be of interest for you.

Your Safefood-Online Team

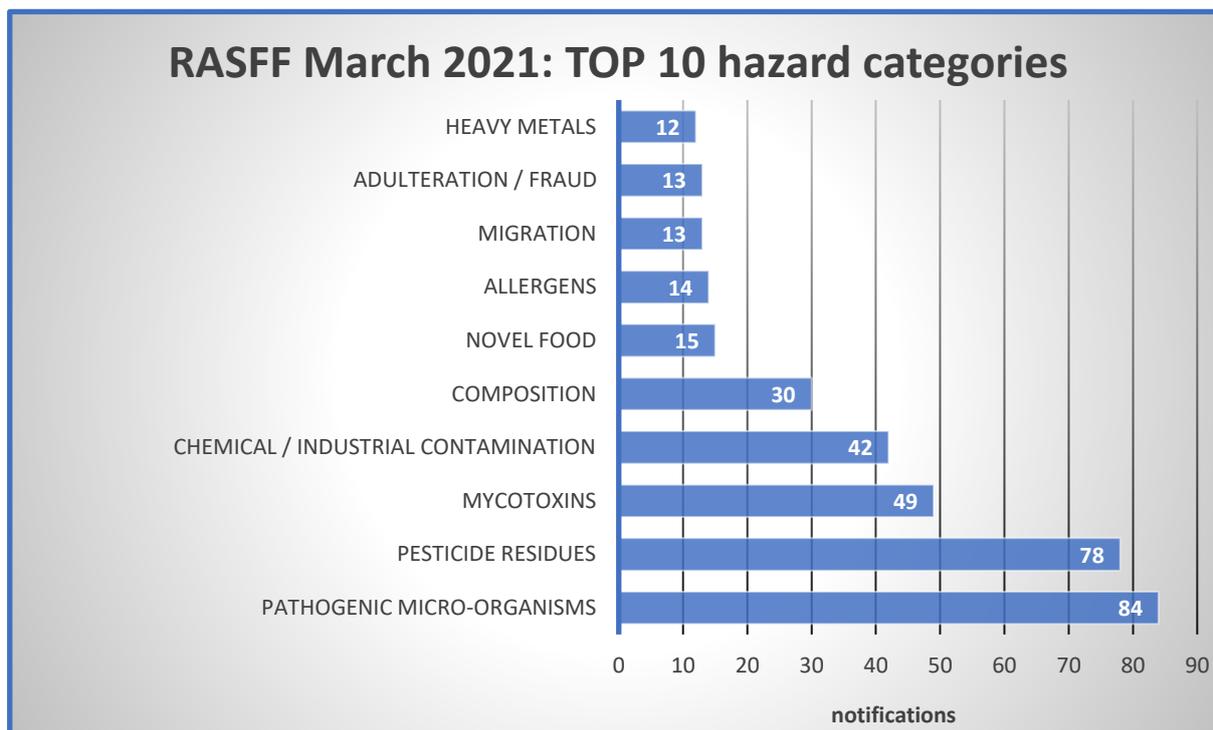
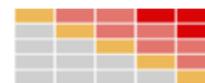
1 RASFF notifications March 2021

In March 2021, there were 401 notifications and from January to March 1083 (in the same period 2020 we registered 861 notifications).

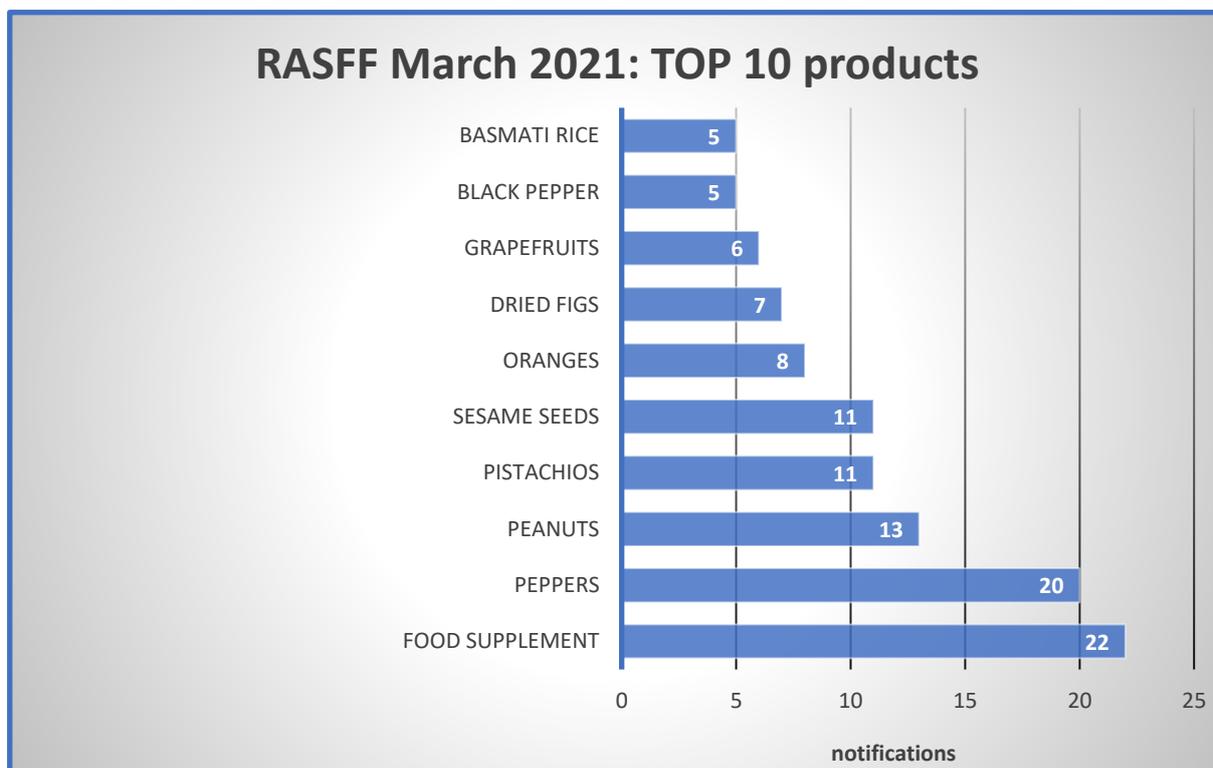
The product category fruits, vegetables and pulses had 90 notifications, followed by nuts, nut products and seeds with 46 notifications:

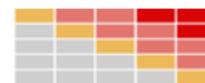


In March 2021 the hazard category pathogenic micro-organisms had the highest number of notifications (84 notifications), followed by pesticides (78 notifications), mycotoxins (49 notifications), and chemical/ industrial contamination (42 notifications):



The next table shows the products by number of notifications in March 2021. Food supplements (22 notifications) and peppers (20 notifications) from which 7 notifications are caused by chlorpyrifos are the products with the highest number of notifications. 11 notifications for pistachios are caused by mycotoxins. 7 notifications for sesame seeds are caused by ethylene oxide (in addition 3 notifications for organic sesame seeds):





Ethylene oxide:

Since September 2020, there have been in total 516 notifications for sesame seeds (conventional and organic) in the RASFF rapid alert system. If we take a closer look at the sesame seed cases, we find that 95.5% of the notifications (493) are caused by ethylene oxide. In March 2021, there were still 17 notifications concerning sesame seeds or products containing sesame seeds.

The highly flammable gas ethylene oxide (EO or EtO) is not only toxic, but also classified as mutagenic and carcinogenic. In the EU, there is a ban on its use in pesticides. There are reports that ethylene oxide is apparently being used to sterilize food not only in India, but also in Vietnam, Egypt, Turkey and Burkina Faso. The gas EO penetrates through the packaging and sterilizes by alkylating DNA, necessary for cell reproduction.

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment ([BfR](#)) published a health assessment of ethylene oxide residues in sesame seeds in December 2020. The first notifications in the RASFF are going back to 2008 (curry powder from India). Actually a wide range of foods, like sesame seeds, amaranth, onions, various spices and products containing these foods such as bread, cereals or spice mixes are affected.

The following overview shows all notifications for March 2021 in which ethylene oxide was involved:

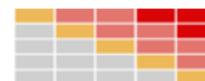
bagel, bakery products, bread, bread products with sesame seed, buckwheat flour, chilli peppers, hummus, madras curry powder, nougat, onion powder, organic biscuits, organic ginger, organic lemon and ginger bars, organic sesame tahini, organic tofu and basil ravioli containing sesame seeds, peppers, psyllium used in chocolate milk bread, seeds mixture, sesame seed and grains used in bakery products, spice mixture with sesame seeds, sumac	Each 1
okras	2
sesame seeds (conventional and organic)	10
ethylene oxide (in total)	33

Chlorpyrifos:

In March 2021, there were 30 notifications for chlorpyrifos or chlorpyrifos-methyl. The most affected foods are:

grapefruits	8	of	8 notifications
peppers	7	of	20 notifications
oranges	7	of	8 notifications
mandarins	4	of	4 notifications

After the [EFSA](#) determined in a statement published on August 28, 2019, that the two insecticides chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl did not meet the criteria for renewal of the authorization, the authorization was stopped by implementing regulations [\(EU\) 2020/17](#) and [\(EU\) 2020/18](#). As a result, chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl are now banned in the EU. In

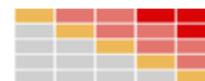


addition, the maximum residue levels for all food and feed have been lowered to the analytical determination limit of 0.01 mg/kg ([Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1085](#)).

As a result of the ban in the EU, there are a lot of alerts and border rejections in the first months of 2021, mainly affecting non-EU countries (origin) such as China, Turkey and Egypt. In individual cases, levels significantly above 0.2 mg/kg were detected (i.e. peppers).

The following table shows all foodstuffs for which chlorpyrifos was the reason for notification since December 2020. In several cases, a mixture of different active substances was also detected:

mandarins	29
peppers	29
lemons	25
oranges	21
grapefruits	14
red grapefruits	5
ground cumin	3
pomelos	3
grape leaves	2
pomegranates	2
sesame seeds	2
grapefruit	2
chilli peppers	2
green tea	2
coffee beans	1
sweet peppers	1
potatoes	1
bird feed	1
basil leaves	1
grapefruit, lemons	1
dill	1
black eyed beans	1
fennel seeds	1
green coffee beans	1
wine leaves in jars	1
green peppers	1
pepper	1
<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> , <i>Centella asiatica</i>	1
peppers (<i>Capsicum annuum</i>)	1
black tea	1
dill tips	1
kapiya peppers	1



dried black fungus	1
bananas	1
spelt	1
chillies	1
wine leaves	1
nashi pears	1
cocoa beans	1
organic argan oil	1

2 News on pesticides and contaminants

Thiacloprid:

Thiacloprid is an insecticide (neonicotinoid). After [EFSA](#) concluded that thiacloprid is of concern for health and the environment, the authorization for plant protection products containing thiacloprid was revoked by EU Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/23 of January 13, 2020. Any expiry dates will end on February 03, 2021 at the latest.

The last known exceedance of the maximum level for thiacloprid occurred in April 2020 in hops from Poland, the country of origin.

Amendments to Regulation 396/2005 on maximum pesticide levels are published here:

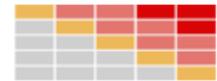
<https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/mrls/?event=updates>

Residues in live animals und animal products:

EFSA has published a report on the monitoring of veterinary medicinal products and other substances in live animals and animal products (EU, Iceland and Norway) carried out in 2019. A total of 671,642 samples were reported to the EU Commission. The proportion of non-compliant samples was 0.32%, the same as in previous years. Compared to the results from 2017 and 2018, non-compliant results were slightly higher in 2019 for antithyroid agents and steroids. For chemical elements, non-compliance was higher in 2019 compared to 2018, but lower than 2017. Slight decreases were seen in 2019 compared to 2017 and 2018 for resorcylic acid lactones, prohibited substances, antibacterials, anticoccidials, and dyes ([Technical EFSA Report](#)).

3 NEWS

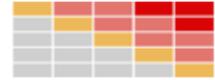
Product	Press release
poultry	Food Standard Agency (FSA) renews chicken warning: board discusses deadly Salmonella outbreak



mussels	<u>New Zealand Food Safety warned consumers to thoroughly cook mussels before eating after 2 persons became ill (vibrio)</u>
meat	<u>Norwegian officials have traced the source of a Salmonella outbreak to meat from Germany</u>
fats and oils	<u>Researchers at the University of Bayreuth have developed a rapid test that can detect food fraud involving olive oil within an hour</u>
milk	<u>In Italy traces of cow milk have found in „100 %“-buffalo milk</u>
crustaceans	<u>Outbreaks of norovirus in Sweden linked to shrimps from Estonia have affected 100 people</u>
oysters	<u>Several outbreaks have been reported in France to eating oysters contaminated with norovirus</u>
lettuce	<u>An outbreak of Yersinia in Sweden has ended with iceberg lettuce as the suspected source of infection</u>
foodstuffs	<u>The number of food recalls in Finland increased for the fifth in row in 2020</u>
foodstuffs	<u>Salmonella outbreak on Norway sickens 20 people</u>
raw milk	<u>In Norway children sick after drinking raw milk</u>
alternative for caviar	<u>an alternative for caviar has been linked to a botulism outbreak in Denmark</u>
foodstuffs	<u>Ireland sees food and allergen alerts rise in 2020</u>
analysis	<u>Energy dispersive X-Ray fluorescence spectroscopy (ED-XRF) as screening tool to help customs laboratories in their fight against food fraud</u>
apricot kernels	<u>More apricot kernels recalled for risk of cyanide poisoning</u>
spinach (frozen)	<u>Frozen spinach linked to as many as 100 illness in Slovakia</u>

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

info@safefood-online.com



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