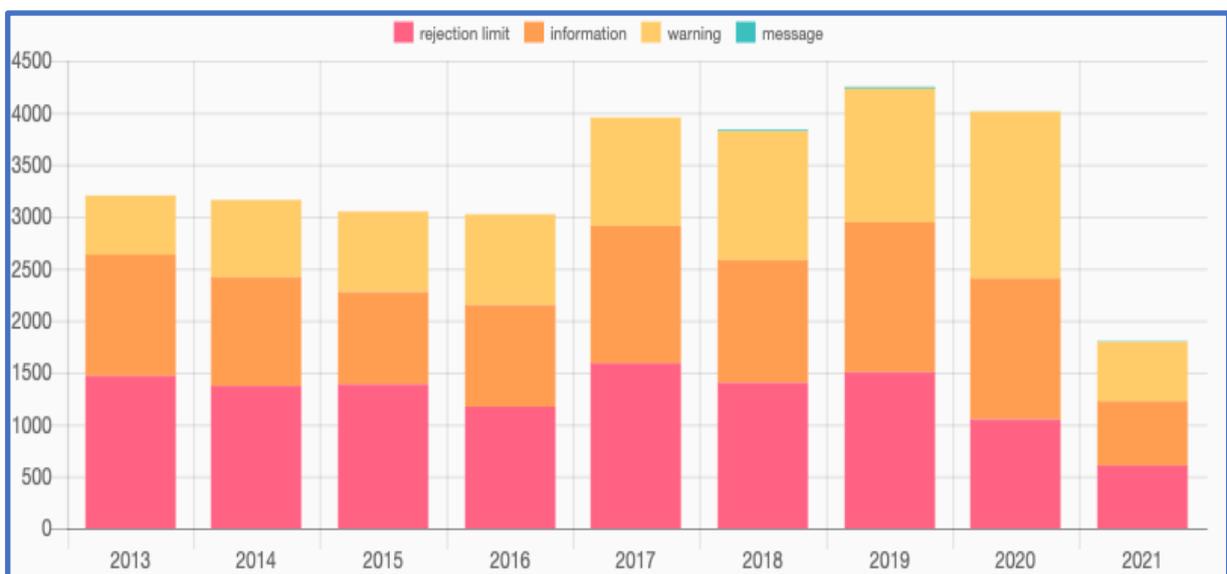


# Safefood-Online

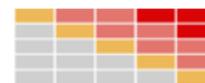
## Newsletter



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



(Notifications according to the type of notifications from the Dashboard on [www.safefood-online.de](http://www.safefood-online.de))



Dear Safefood-Online user,

In the new issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter you will find actual topics from the World Health Organization (WHO) in the area of food safety. We also report about changes to the Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) of pesticides and activities concerning the food additive titanium dioxide (E 171). You will also find a summary of RASFF notifications and, of course, a media review on the topics of food safety and food fraud.

Under "Questions and answers about the Safefood-Online database" we explain how to use the "Search" module to find information about a specific incident.

We hope that the newsletter finds your interest and of course we are looking forward to your opinion, because this is the only way we can improve.

Your Safefood-Online Team

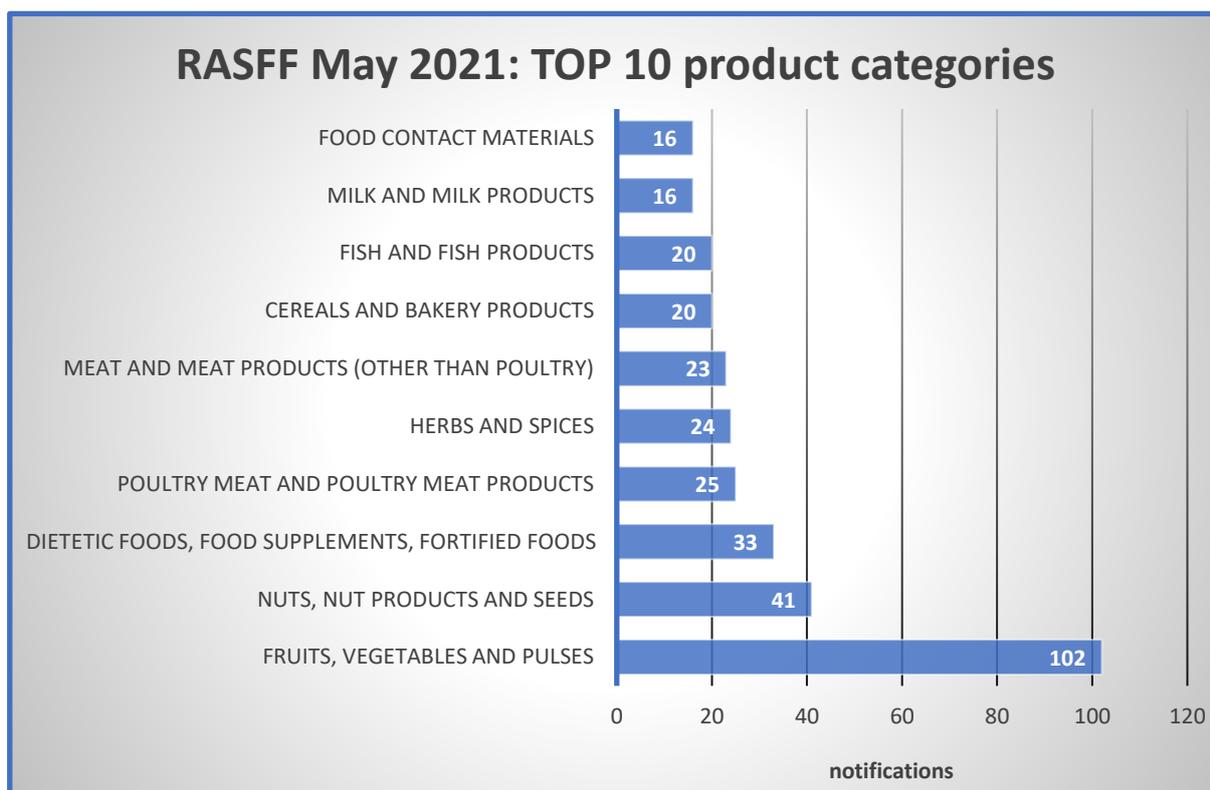
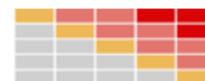
## **1 RASFF notifications May 2021**

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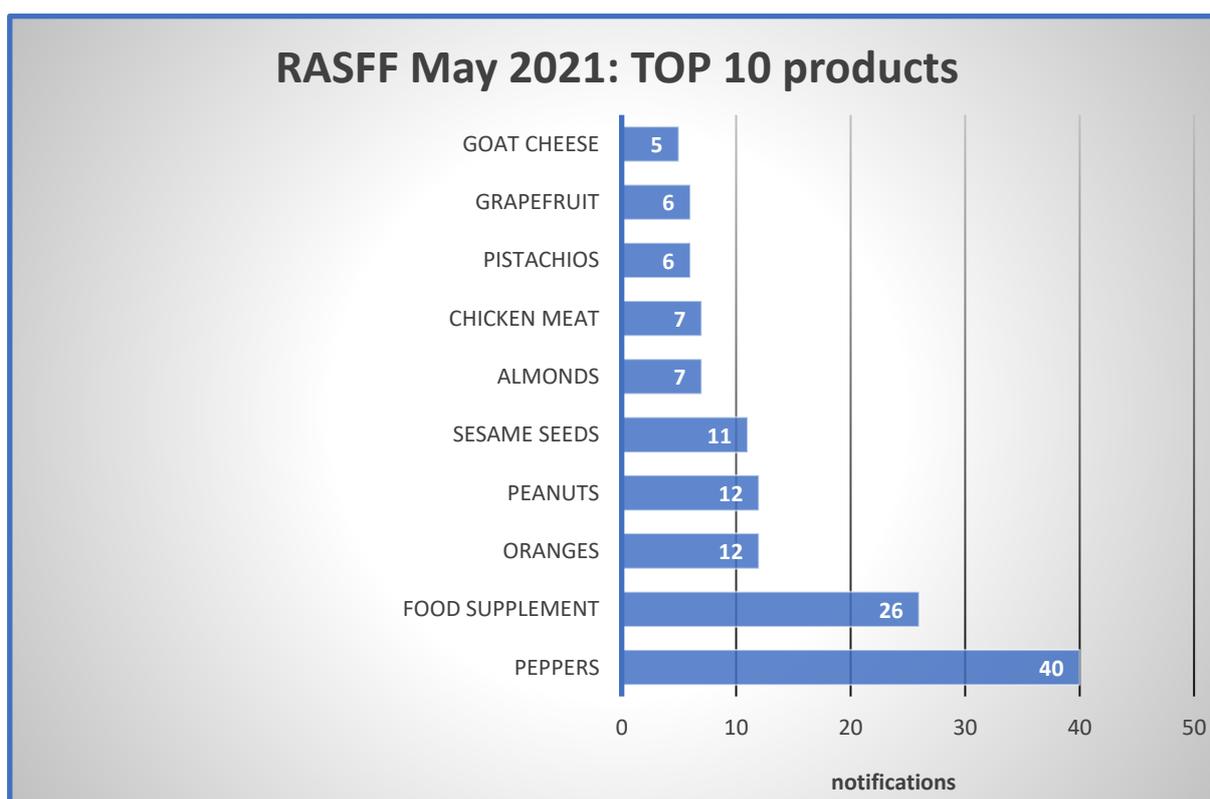
As already mentioned in the last newsletter, in April the RASFF portal was replaced by a new RASFF database. The search mask is quite similar, but there is much more information available. A great feature is available to people who are authorized to receive a profile. In this case, additional information are visible e.g. the affected lot can be viewed and, if available, the quantities are also given. Another new feature is the indication if the product has been traded in the internet. This is a further step by the European Commission to ensure greater transparency in cases where consumer health is at risk by taking quick actions.

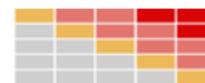
Compared to 309 notifications in the previous month, the EU's RASFF rapid alert system recorded 387 new notifications for May.

Most of the notifications were related to the product category fruits, vegetables and pulses (102 notifications), followed by nuts, nut products and seeds (41 notifications) and dietetic foods, food supplements, fortified foods (33 notifications). In the product category fruits, vegetables and pulses, there were the most notifications due to chlorpyrifos residues (31 notifications), in some cases also multiple maximum residue limits exceeded.

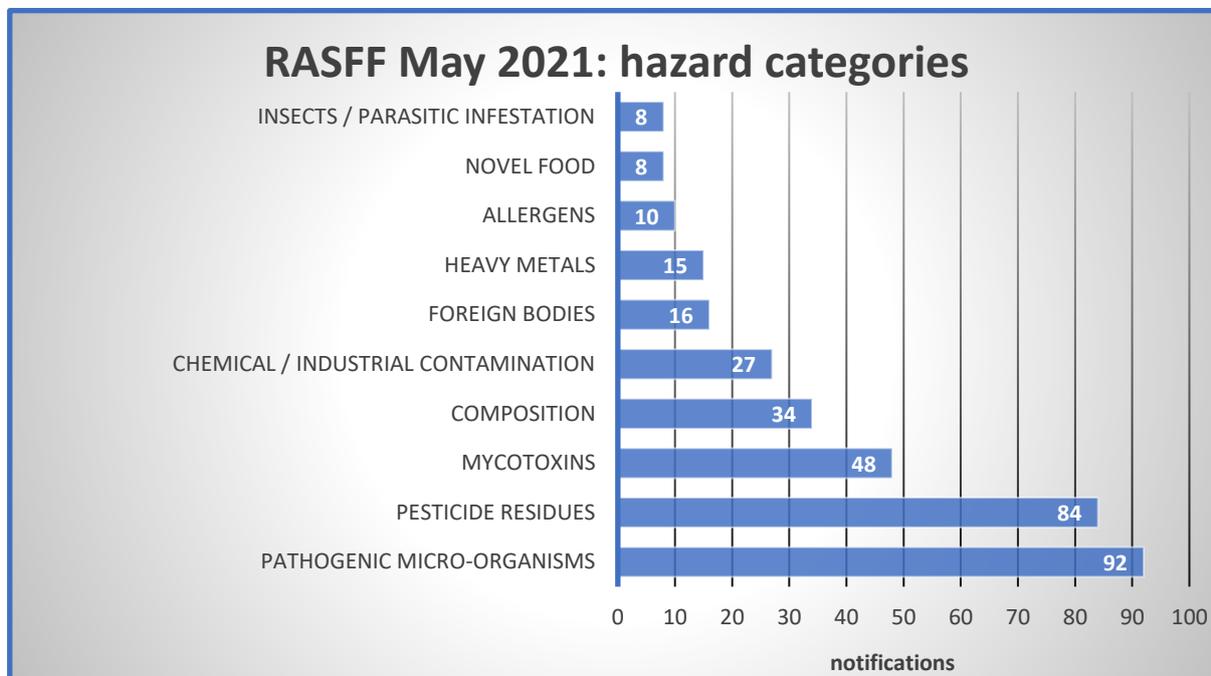


As in April, peppers are again at the top of the reports selected by foodstuffs 40 notifications. 10 reports each are due to acetamiprid and chlorpyrifos residues, 8 notifications are due to pyridaben residues. Food supplements are in second place with 26 notifications, followed by oranges with 12 reports, of which 11 are also due to chlorpyrifos residues.

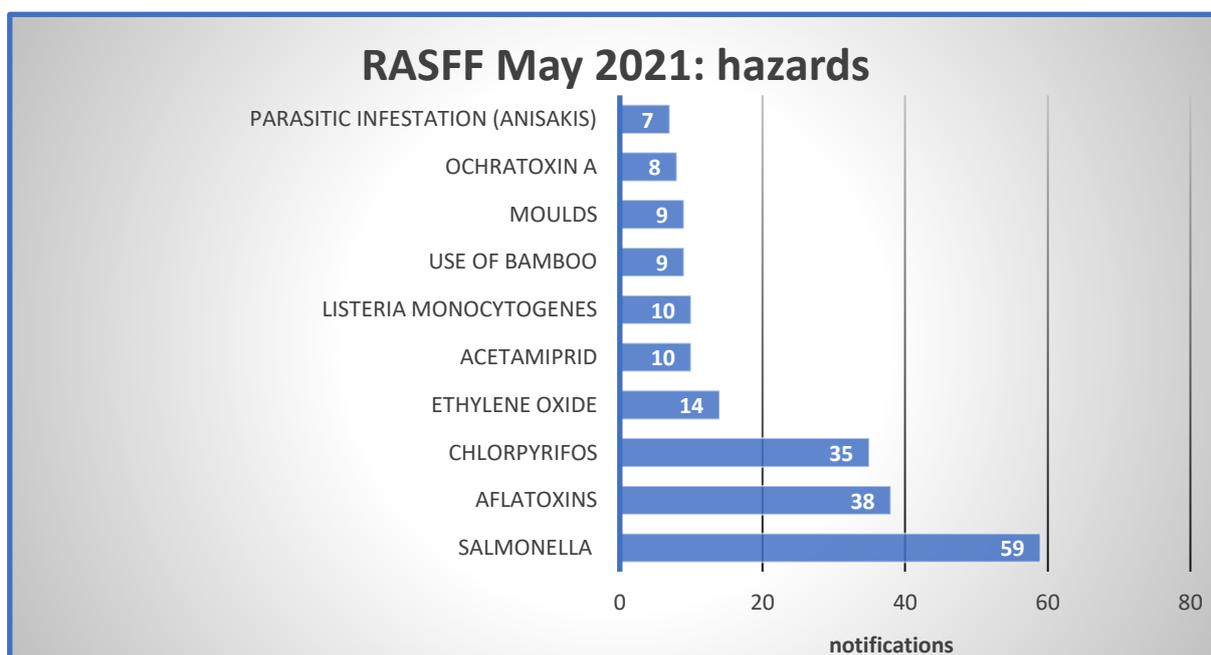


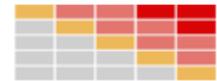


The hazard category pathogenic micro-organisms had in Mai 2021 the most notifications (92 notifications), followed by pesticides (84 notifications), mycotoxins (48 notifications) and composition (34 notifications):



With regard to hazards, the "front runner" in Mai is Salmonella with a total of 59 notifications. As before, there are many notifications (35) on chlorpyrifos (chlorpyrifos, chlorpyrifos-ethyl, chlorpyrifos-methyl), with more than half of the notifications relating to peppers and oranges (see also the explanations on the TOP 10 products). In 14 cases, ethylene oxide was the cause of the notification. The number of reports on sesame seeds decreased (2 notifications). Ethylene oxide was reported for spices (5 reports), psyllium husks and amaranth (2 reports each), coffee beans and guar gum (1 report each):





Even though the number of notifications has decreased significantly compared to November 2020 to January 2021, potential risks from ethylene oxide and chlorpyrifos should continue to be taken into account in the quality assurance measures and appropriate actions should be taken.

## **2 WHO activities**

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### **2.1 Global Sodium Benchmarks for Different Food Categories**

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The World Health Organization (WHO) published global sodium benchmarks for specific food categories on May 03, 2021. According to a study ([Health effects of dietary risks in 195 countries, 1990-2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017](#)), 3 million deaths worldwide in 2017 were related to consuming too much sodium. According to the WHO, reducing sodium intake is an effective way to lower high blood pressure and thus reduce cardiovascular disease. The WHO had already set a target in 2013 to reduce sodium intake by 30%, but currently sees insufficient progress worldwide to reach the goal. The WHO recommends no more than 5 grams of salt per day. WHO believes that setting global sodium benchmarks is an important measure to further progress in reducing sodium intake. These benchmarks should help countries develop appropriate strategies.

For more information and an overview of the proposed sodium benchmarks, see the WHO report "[Global Sodium Benchmarks for Different Food Categories](#)".

### **2.2 (Draft) WHO Global Strategy For Food Safety 2022-2030**

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The WHO has presented a [draft global food safety strategy 2022-2030](#). In the strategy paper, the WHO states that the economic disparities within and between countries have increased. This is also the case for food safety systems. The goals are safe and healthy food and the reduction of foodborne diseases:

- To support member states in taking action to reduce the incidence of food-borne illnesses
- To promote global cooperation on food safety.

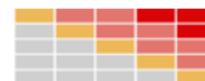
Comments on the WHO draft can be submitted through an [online platform](#) until June 18, 2021.

## **3 Titanium dioxide (E 171): New Safety Assessment from the EFSA**

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The European Commission asked EFSA to update its safety assessment of the food additive titanium dioxide (E 171). In the [statement from May 06, 2021](#) EFSA concluded that the use of titanium dioxide "can no longer be considered as safe when used as a food additive".

After the evaluation of the available studies on the genotoxicity of titanium dioxide the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) comes to the same conclusion as the EFSA ([BfR communication of May 06, 2021](#)).



## 4 Pesticides and Contaminants

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### [EU Regulation 2021/590](#) amending EU Regulation 396/2005

EU Regulation 2021/590 of April 12, 2021 sets new maximum levels for certain pesticides:

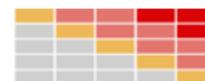
- Aclonifen
- boscalid
- etofenprox
- lambda-cyhalothrin
- maleic hydrazide
- mefentrifluconazole
- sodium 5-nitroguaiacolate
- sodium o-nitrophenolate
- sodium p-nitrophenolate
- triclopyr

The new limits entered into force on May 03, 2021.

## 5 News

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Product/ Issue	Content
Risk management	<a href="#">Risk management in food processes</a>
Novel food	<a href="#">EU: Yellow mealworm approved as novel food</a>
CBD products	<a href="#">UK: 4 children in hospital after eating jelly sweets with cannabis</a>
Allergen labelling	<a href="#">UK: recall of ice lollies because not declared milk ingredient</a>
Cleaning in production	<a href="#">Cleaning programmes and coronavirus control: what lessons have we learnt?</a>
Food Fraud	<a href="#">Food authenticity: a global market</a>
Raw milk cheese, meat, honey	<a href="#">Austria: Checks on raw milk cheese, eat and honey within the EU-Operation “Opson”</a>
Fish	<a href="#">US: official warnings about illegally imported catfish from Brazil</a>
Food safety	<a href="#">WHO Europe: Safe and healthy food in traditional food markets</a>
sprouts	<a href="#">Study at the danger of ambient water sprouting</a>
Organic products with algae (calcium)	<a href="#">EU law prohibits the addition of algae to organic foodstuffs for the purpose of their enrichment with calcium</a>
saffron	<a href="#">Spain: organized crime group mixed imported saffron with other herbs and chemicals</a>
Traceability	<a href="#">FDA: low-or No-cost Tech-enabled traceability challenge</a>
Listeriosis	<a href="#">ECDC: study about listeria monocytogenes</a>



E. coli (STEC)	<a href="#">ECDC: Epidemiological report for 2019</a>
Cadmium in chocolate	<a href="#">Codex alimentarius: New maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate</a>
Salmonella infections	<a href="#">US: increased infections of antimicrobial-resistant</a>

## 6 Questions and answers regarding the database Safefood-Online

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**You receive a request from a customer about an incident and you don't know how to respond because you don't know the incident**

**OR**

**As a company, you want to use a new ingredient for which you are not yet able to evaluate the hazards (have there been complaints in the last 10 years, which countries of origin were affected?).**

**I would propose to proceed as follows:**

Open the "Search" screen

Enter the search term in the search query (AND). If I enter e.g. wine and spain (enter the terms only separated by a space) and define the period, I will get all notifications, so also e.g. crayfish in white wine brine and pork shoulder, because the database searches all words containing ...wine... and ...spain....

If the search term is enclosed in quotation marks, it will only search for that exact term (case insensitive). So I actually get only the notifications with wine and spain. Below the risk matrix the details are visible in the list. On the link: details you can get more information (if available).

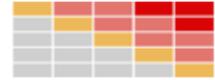
In this way I can enter in the search query (AND). as many terms as I want. I can also combine wine, spain, 2017. However, restrictions always reduce the number of hits.

When I select the search query (OR), Safefood-Online searches all matches in the fields "product category, source of danger, country of origin, food and year". The more terms are combined, the longer the list with results.

In the first step it is recommended not to narrow down the search too much, otherwise different spelling will not be considered. It can happen that certain terms are available once in German and then e.g. in English. Very important is here the hint: You can also choose in the list boxes (Add selection), in which all terms from all data sets are included.

In the "Exclude" field, terms entered here are excluded from the search (in the case of multiple terms, the entry is separated only by spaces).

Further restrictions are possible by



- Selection of the product category
- Hazard category
- with or without follow-up messages
- food and/or food contact material and/or feed

In the field "Output" the grouping of the records can be controlled by:

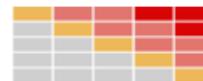
- Hazard source
- country of origin
- Year
- foodstuff

For a first quick search, this mask is quite a valuable help, but it does not replace the display and export option to HACCP, Inspection Plan or Food Fraud.

And now good luck with your search.

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

[info@safefood-online.de](mailto:info@safefood-online.de)



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