

Issue | September 2025



# NEWS LETTER

## Dear Safefood-Online users,

Compared to August, the number of new RASFF notifications increased slightly to 433 in September. The evaluations can be found again under point 1.

Under 'news on residues and contaminants' (point 2), we inform about the results of investigations by the German Chemical and Veterinary Investigation Office Stuttgart on hydroxymethylfurfural (5-HMF) in dried fruits.

News on food safety and food fraud can be found again under point 3.

Topic of the month (point 4) is the Eurobarometer survey 2025 on food safety commissioned by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

**Statement by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) on the labelling of iodised table salt when used as a (compound ingredient) in foodstuffs.**

According to the Regulation (EU) 1169/2011, provision of food information to consumers, iodised salt (as a compound ingredient) added to food must list the individual components, e.g. "iodised salt (salt, potassium iodate)". Until the Regulation came into force, in Germany, the indication "iodised salt" was sufficient. On 23 September 23, 2025, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) published a statement and concludes that "simplified labelling only with indicating 'iodised salt' or 'iodised table salt' does not lead to gaps in knowledge that would be relevant for health reasons, even among sensitive population groups". The full statement 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 feedback.

Your Safefood-Online Team

Compared to August, the number of new RASFF notifications increased slightly in September:

- **September 2025:** 433
- August 2025: 403
- July 2025: 485

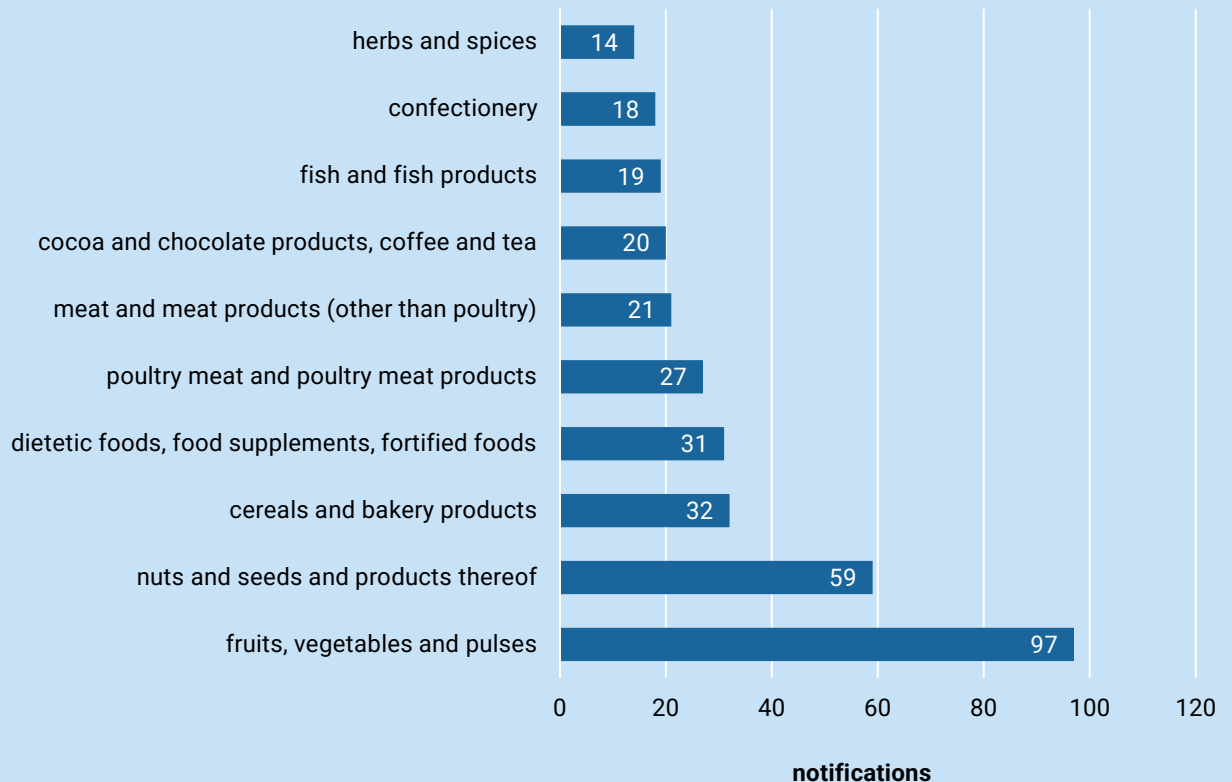
The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 118
- Border rejections: 111
- Information messages: 204



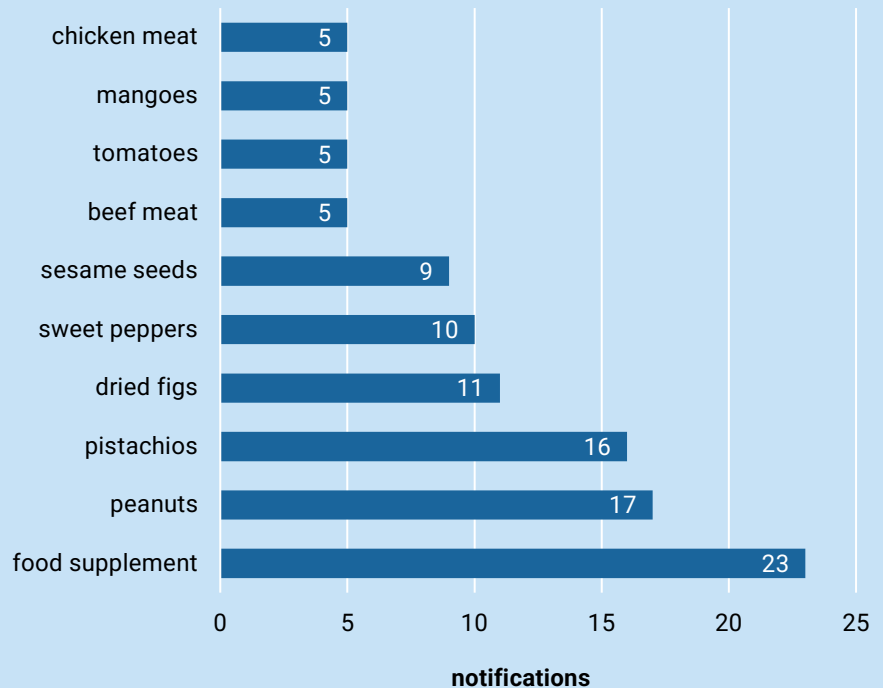
The product category fruit, vegetables and legumes ranks first in the evaluation by product category with 97 notifications. In second place is the product category nuts, seeds and products thereof with 59 notifications. The product category cereals and bakery goods is following in third place with 32 notifications:

## RASFF-Notifications September 2025: top 10 product categories



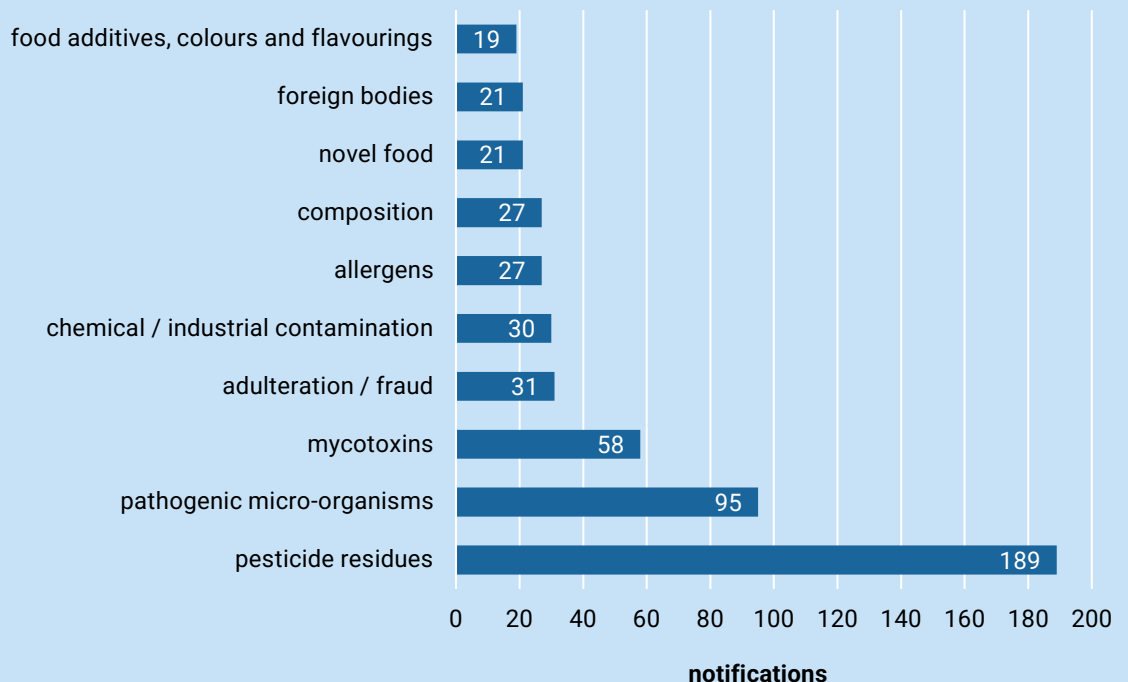
In the ranking by product, food supplements are in first place with 23 notifications, followed by peanuts with 17 notifications and pistachios with 16 notifications:

### RASFF-Notifications September 2025: top 10 products



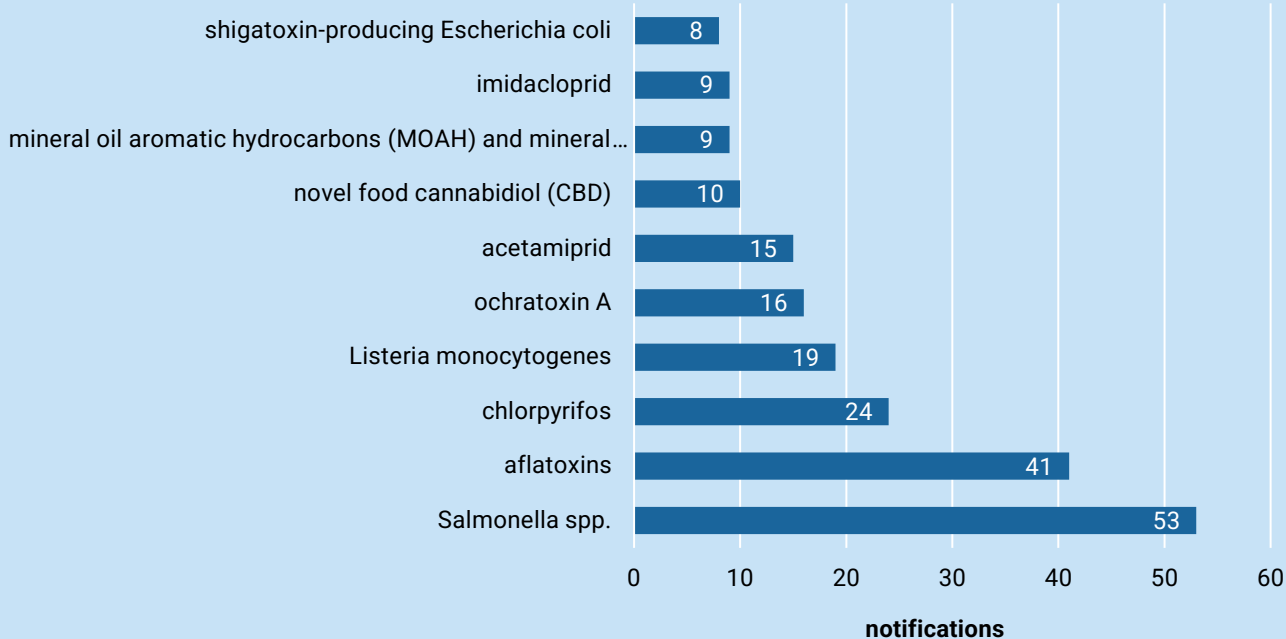
In the evaluation by hazard category, pesticides ranked first in August with 189 cases of maximum residue limits being exceeded or unauthorized pesticides being found. Two notifications concerning wine leaves in brine from the United Arab Emirates and Turkey contained 16 and 8 cases of maximum levels being exceeded or unauthorized pesticides being found. Pathogenic micro-organism and mycotoxins follow in second and third place with 95 and 58 notifications:

### RASFF-Notifications September 2025: Top 10 hazard categories



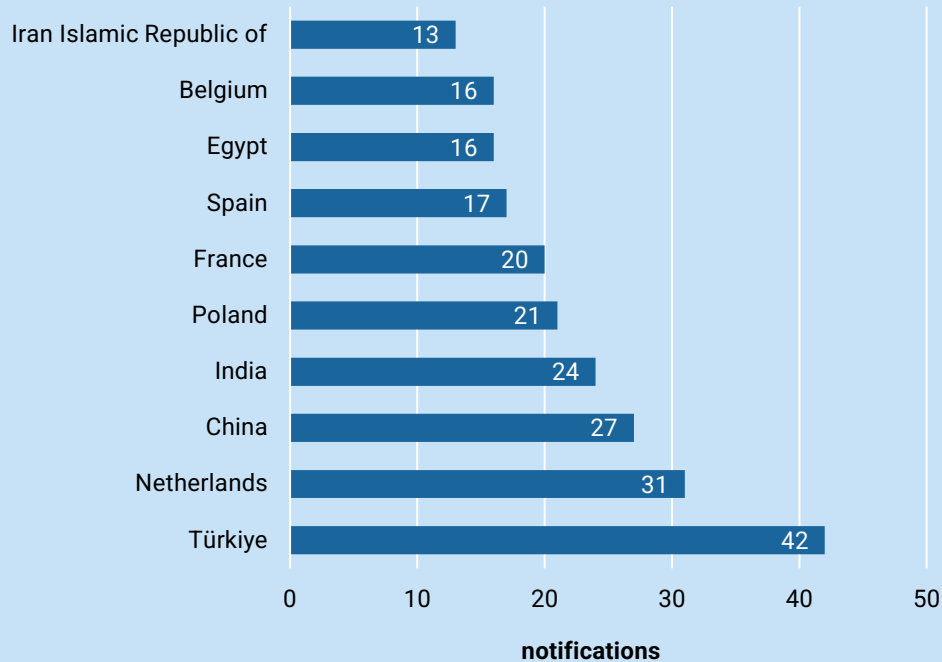
In terms of hazards, salmonella are in first place with 53 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 41 notifications and chlorpyrifos with 24 notifications. The 15 cases due to acetamiprid may be related to the reduction in maximum residue levels in Regulation (EU) 2025/158, which is in force since 19 August 2025 (see also [Safefood-Online Newsletter August 2025](#)):

## RASFF-Notifications September 2025: Top 10 hazards



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

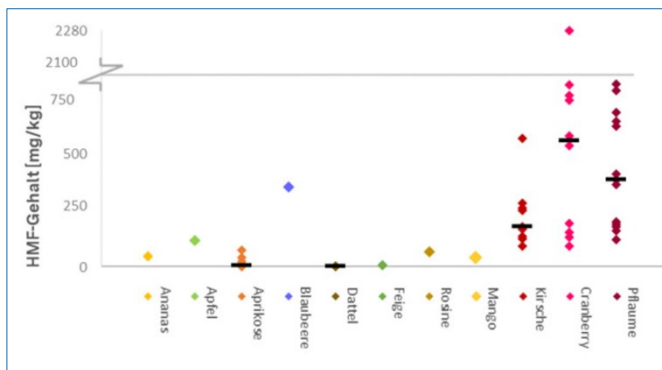
## RASFF-Notifications September 2025: Top 10 countries of origin



Türkiye is in first place with 42 notifications, followed by the Netherlands and China with 31 and 27 notifications.

### Hydroxymethylfurfural (5-HMF) in dried fruits

In Germany, The Chemical and Veterinary Investigation Office in Stuttgart tested dried fruit (both conventionally dried and freeze-dried) for hydroxymethylfurfural (5-HMF) content in 2023 and 2024. A good third of the samples had 5-HMF levels of more than 100 mg/kg:



Freeze-dried fruits were also found to contain 5-HMF levels of up to 178 mg/kg. According to the Chemical and Veterinary Investigation Office Stuttgart, this indicates a possible temperature-independent formation pathway. The full report can be found [here](#).



## Food Safety

- 🕒 The International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) has published a new standard for the labelling of plant-based foods under the designation ISO 8700:2025
- 🕒 US: Calling for the resignation of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., almost two dozen groups say his policies and actions are a threat to food safety programs and other public health services
- 🕒 Canada: The Canadian health authority reports that more than 20 people have been infected with salmonella from contact with dog food
- 🕒 Campylobacter in broiler meat: Analysis of the effectiveness of measures implemented in Switzerland
- 🕒 EFSA: Relevance of new scientific findings on the presence of teosinte in maize fields in Spain and France for previous findings in the environmental risk assessment and recommendations for risk management in the cultivation of maize events MON810, Bt11 und GA21
- 🕒 German BfR: High single doses of vitamin D via food supplements at intervals of days or weeks associated with health risks
- 🕒 German BfR: Kratom preparations: consumption may cause health problems
- 🕒 EU proposes revisions to simplify food safety regulations
- 🕒 The EU Commission has approved the use of genetically modified corn (corn DP-Ø51291-2) in food and feed after the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded in its scientific assessment that it is as safe as its conventional counterpart.
- 🕒 FAO: Food safety foresight: approaches to identify future food safety issues



## Food Fraud

- 🕒 The Berat Prosecutor's Office in Albania has shared details from the investigations conducted so far regarding the discovery of the export of a quantity of 8 tons of tomatoes with the pesticide preparation "Chlorfenapyr" by an Albanian company to Croatia
- 🕒 A new report published by the UK Government calls attention to the "illegal meat crisis" spreading disease throughout the country, and demands a coordinated approach to tackling illicit imports
- 🕒 Commission finds fraud and potential safety issues in cinnamon on the EU market

## EFSA: 2025 Eurobarometer on Food Safety in the EU



Source: EFSA

Among other issues, EFSA regularly asks the EU population about food safety. The latest survey in 2025 was published on September 4. This survey builds on previous Eurobarometer surveys and compares results on the same questions (e.g., interest, concerns, sources of information, trust). The earlier surveys from 2005, 2010, 2019 and 2022 can be found [here](#).

The Eurobarometer survey examines the perceptions and attitudes of EU citizens towards food safety, in particular:

- ☒ Interest in food safety issues and factors influencing food choices
- ☒ Awareness, concerns and attitudes towards healthy eating and risks
- ☒ Sources of information about food risks
- ☒ Trust in actors along the food chain ("from farm to table")
- ☒ Knowledge of the EU food safety system

Here the key facts of the survey:

### Awareness of food safety systems

- 79%: There are EU regulations for safe food (+6%)
- 76%: The EU relies on science (+6%)
- 68%: Own institution for scientific advice (+7%)
- 71%: Cooperation between EU and national authorities (+6%)
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### Healthy eating vs. risks

- 41%: Equal focus on healthy eating and risks (-5%)
- 34%: Focus on healthy eating (+3%)
- 23%: More concern about risks (+2%)

### Impact on health

- 53%: Animal issues have a strong influence
- 51%: Environmental issues have a strong influence (shift to "moderate")

### Trust

- 90%: Doctors
- 84%: Scientists at universities/research institutes
- 82%: Consumer organisations, farmers
- 70%: National authorities (+4%)
- 69%: EU institutions (+3%)

### Sources of information

- 55%: Television (-6%, but still No. 1)
- 42%: Conversations with friends and family
- 38%: Search engines
- 25%: Social networks & blogs (+4%)



Source: EFSA



Source: EFSA

### Interest & purchasing decisions

- 72% of EU citizens are personally interested in food safety.
- Most important purchasing criteria: price (60%), taste (51%), food safety (46%).
- Environmental and ethical aspects play only a minor role (15% and 14% respectively).
- Price is the most important factor in 20 Member States – only in Italy and Romania does food safety come first.

### Awareness of food safety

- 28% have a very high level of awareness (know  $\geq 13$  of 15 topics), with a further 18% having a high level of awareness.
- Most familiar: additives (71%), pesticide residues (67%), animal diseases (65%), drug residues in meat (64%).
- Microplastics: strongest increase in awareness since 2022 (+8%), particularly high in Finland (90%).
- Least known: mould toxins (44%), biotechnology (37%), nanotechnology (30%).

The country-specific evaluations of the survey can be found [here](#).

## Feedback

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