



Issue | November 2025



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

The EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) recorded 530 new notifications in November. See point 1 for the evaluation.

Under "Latest news on residues and contaminants" (point 2) we inform about planned changes to the maximum levels of pesticides, about analyses by the German Association for the Environment and Nature Conservation (BUND) regarding PFAS in drinking water, and about the results of investigations by the German Chemical and Veterinary Investigation Office in Stuttgart (Federal State of Baden-Württemberg) regarding pesticides in vine leaves.

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

Topic of the month (point 4) is the ruling of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on the designation "alcohol-free gin".

Micronutrients: Benefits and risks

Several articles have been published in the [current issue of the German Federal Health Journal](#) under the title: 'Micronutrients: Benefits and Risks'.

- Micronutrients: benefits, risks, and public perception
- Products containing Micronutrients: Medicinal Products or Food?
- Food supplements and fortified foods: benefits, risks and approaches to consumer protection
- The assessment of dietary supplements from the perspective of food control authorities in Schleswig-Holstein
- Importance and supply of micronutrients in infants, children and adolescents

- Micronutrients in old age—physiological specificities and nutritional status
- Micronutrient requirement in sports and exercise
- Micronutrient requirement in sports and exercise
- Food supplements in the context of social media: results from a survey on use and perceptions in Germany
- Misinformation and disinformation about dietary supplements in social media: limiting the risks, seizing the opportunities, and shaping structures

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

With 530 notifications, the number of new RASFF notifications remained in November 2025, at the same level as in October:

- **November 2025:** 530
- October 2025: 530
- September 2025: 433

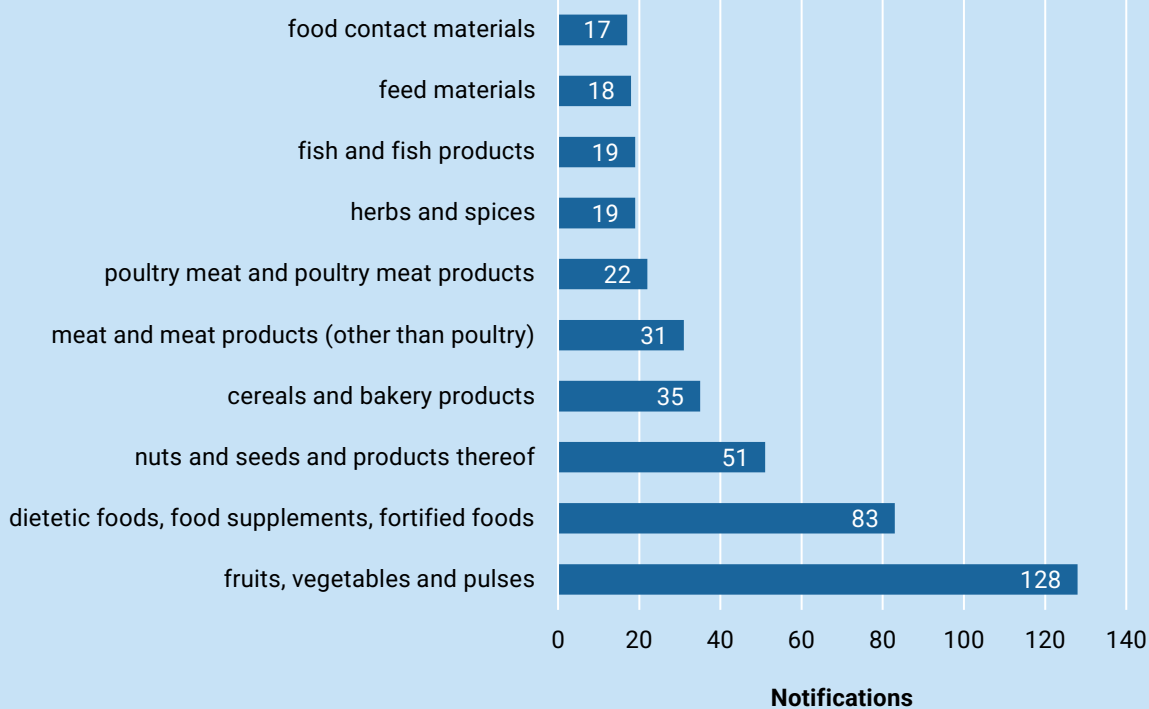
The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 123
- Border rejections: 129
- Information messages: 276
- Non-compliance notifications: 2



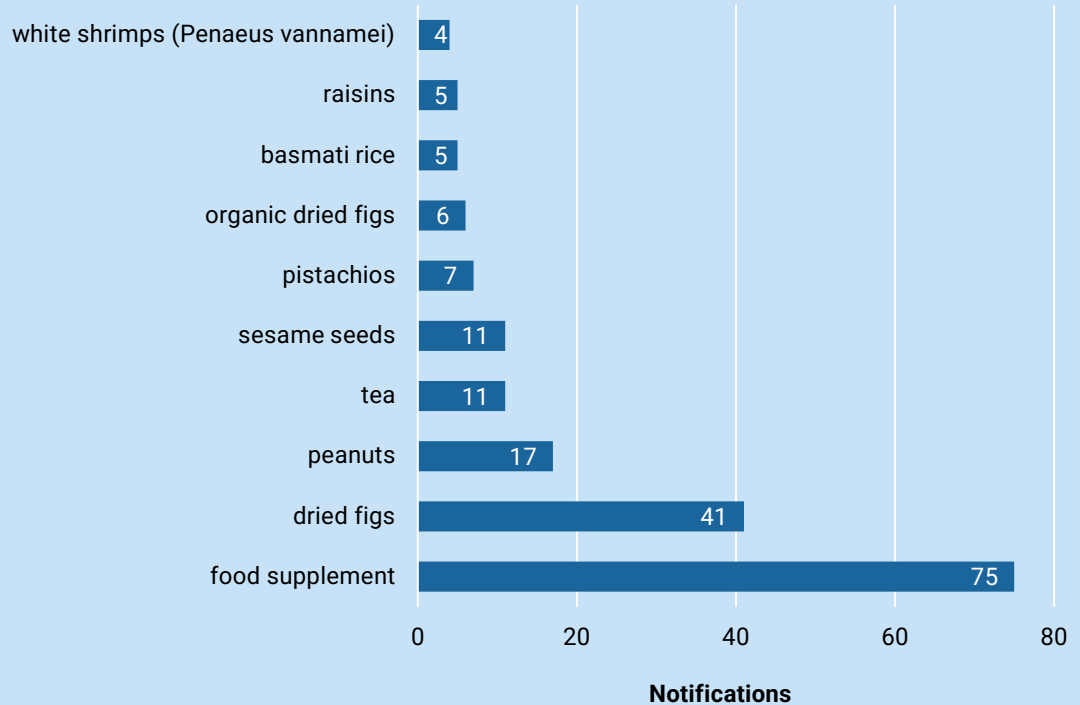
The product category fruit, vegetables and legumes ranks first in the evaluation by product category with 128 notifications. There were 47 notifications concerning dried figs (conventional and organic). All products originated from Türkiye. The notifications were due to aflatoxins and ochratoxin A. In second place is the product category Dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods with 83 notifications. Nuts, seeds and products thereof are in third place with 51 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications November 2025: Top 10 product groups



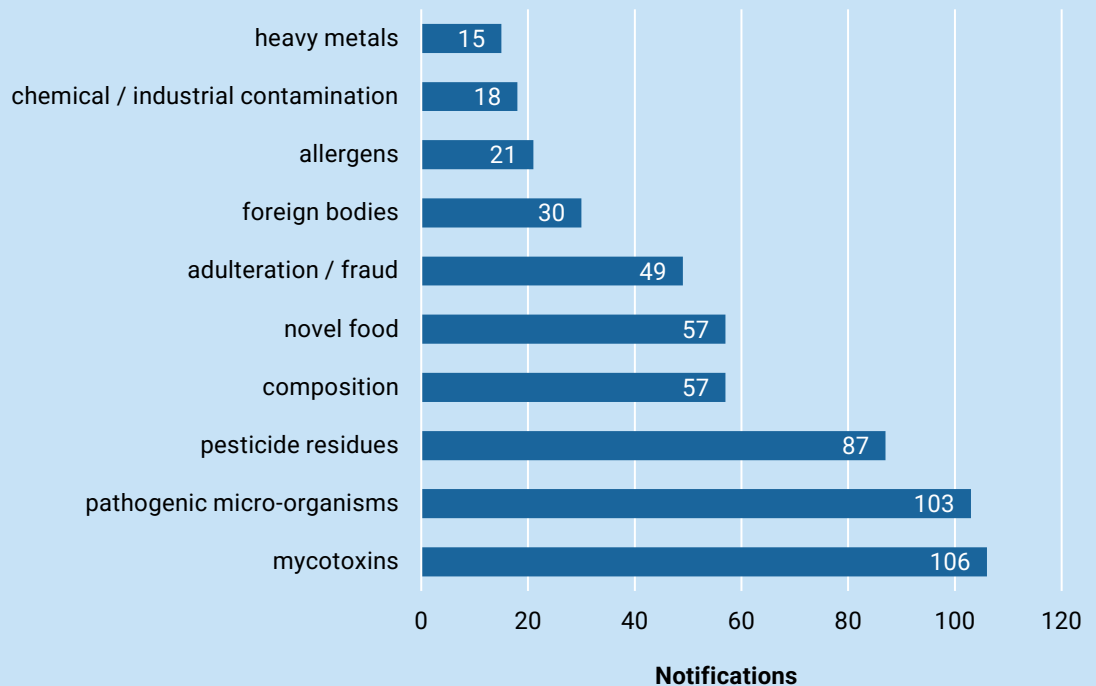
In the ranking by product, food supplements are in first place with 75 notifications, followed by dried figs with 41 notifications and peanuts with 17 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications November 2025: Top 10 products



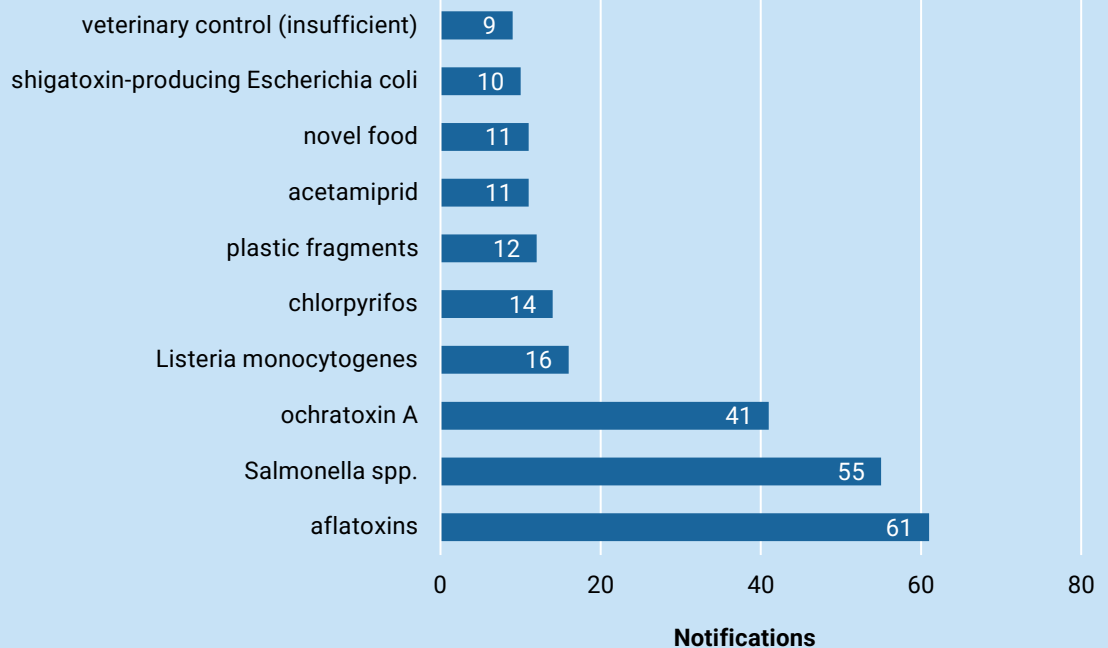
In the evaluation by hazard category, mycotoxins are ranking first in November with 106 cases. Pathogenic micro-organisms are in second place with 103 notification. On third place we had notifications regarding pesticides with 87 cases of maximum levels being exceeded or unauthorised pesticides being found:

RASFF Notifications November 2025: Top 10 hazard categories



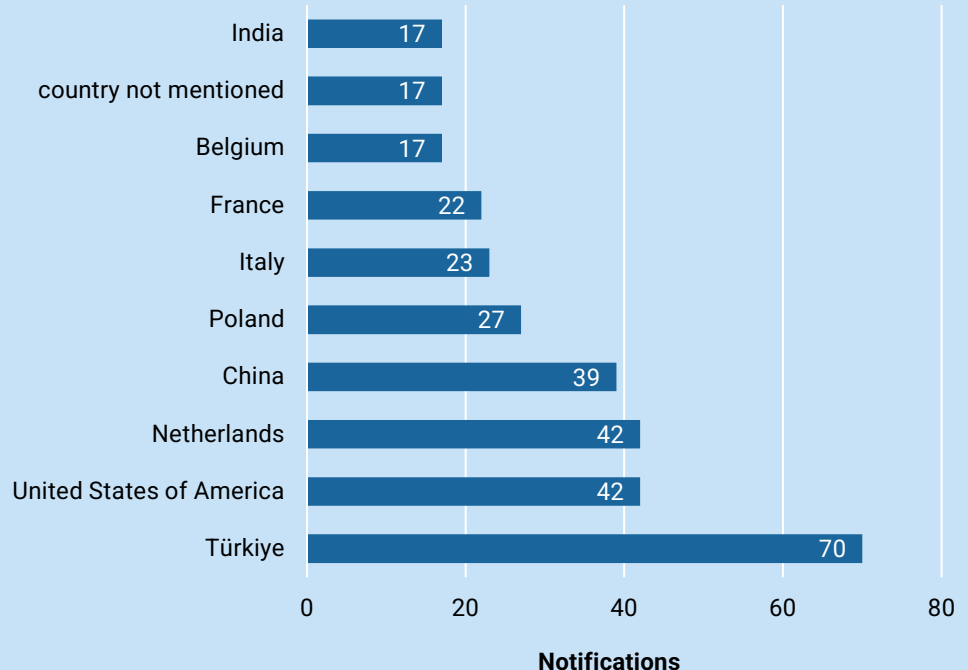
In terms of hazards, aflatoxins are ranking first with 61 notifications, followed by salmonella with 55 notifications and ochratoxin A with 41 notifications. Acetamiprid is again among the top 10 hazards in November with 11 notifications:

RASFF Notifications November 2025: Top 10 hazards



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

RASFF Notifications November 2025: Top 10 countries of origin



Türkiye is first place with 70 notifications, followed by the United States of America and the Netherlands, each with 42 notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



EU discusses reducing or amending maximum residue levels

The EU Commission has presented a **draft regulation** to amend the maximum levels for the following plant protection products:

- 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene
- Chlormequat
- Metribuzin
- Metribuzin-desamino-diketo
- Terbutylazine
- Triclopyr

For further information, please refer to the linked draft regulations. We will keep you informed of further developments.

German Association for the Environment and Nature Conservation (BUND): PFAS entering the water cycle

Between June and October 2025, the German Association for the Environment and Nature Conservation (BUND) tested 46 drinking water samples and 16 groundwater and surface water samples for PFAS. PFAS was detected in 42 of the 46 drinking water samples. In 3 samples, the results for PFAS-20 exceeded the limits (0,01µg/l) specified in the German drinking water regulation, which will come into force on January 12, 2026.

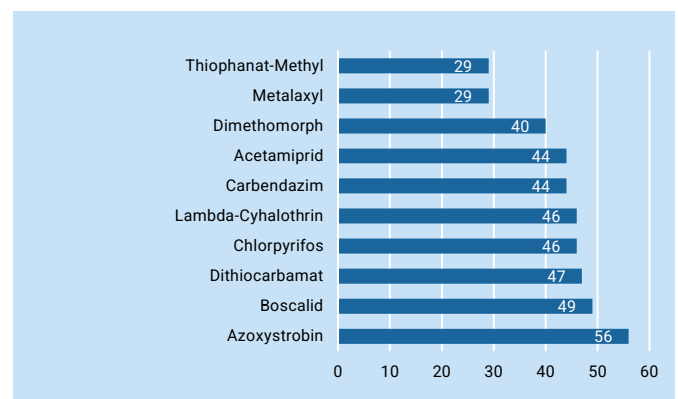
The full **report** and the individual **results** of the study can be found on the BUND website.

Chemical and Veterinary Investigation Office (CVUA) Stuttgart (Germany): Wine leaves - never ending story

Since January 2025, the CVUA Stuttgart has analysed 16 samples of wine leaves as part of official food inspections. With the exception of one sample, all of the grape leaves examined contained residues of plant treatment products. In 81% of cases, the residues exceeded the legally prescribed maximum levels. The CVUA determined an average of 5.5 exceedances of the maximum levels per sample. The complete report from the CVUA Stuttgart can be found **here**.

The evaluation in Safefood Online shows a total of 193 notifications for vine leaves with 983 findings of pesticide residues. This corresponds to an average of 5.1 different pesticide residues per notification.

Below is the number of the 10 most frequently detected active substances in the notifications:





- 🕒 UK to extend sugar tax to cover bottled milkshakes and pre-packaged lattes
- 🕒 FAO-WHO 48th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopts new standards

Food Safety

- 🕒 EFSA: Derivation of a health-based guidance value for $\Delta 8$ -tetrahydrocannabinol ($\Delta 8$ -THC) and its occurrence in food
- 🕒 How to define ultra-processed foods? IFT experts re-new calls for science-based classification
- 🕒 Dutch poultry industry steps up Salmonella controls
- 🕒 The Lancet: Ultra-Processed Foods and Human Health
- 🕒 EFSA: Update of the dietary exposure to sulfur dioxide (E 220), sodium sulfite (E 221), sodium bisulfite (E 222), sodium metabisulfite (E 223), potassium metabisulfite (E 224), calcium sulfite (E 226), calcium bisulfite (E 227) and potassium bisulfite (E 228) with alternative maximum levels when used as food additives
- 🕒 FAO: Statistical Yearbook - World Food and Agriculture 2025
- 🕒 The Precision Breeding Act has come into force in the United Kingdom. This now makes it possible to market genome-edited plants and products made from them under simplified conditions.



Food Fraud

- 🕒 Which grapes went into which bottle? The Food Detectives bring perfect clarity to Douro wine
- 🕒 Researchers at the University of Oviedo develop a visual genetic test to prevent seafood fraud
- 🕒 Balears: Huge food fraud detected in Palma and 20 tons of seafood in bad condition removed

Is the labelling “alcohol-free gin” legal?

Following the vote in the European Parliament on the ban on the use of terms such as ‘sausage’, ‘steak’ or “burger” for plant-based foods, the European Court of Justice this time dealt with the question of whether a non-alcoholic beverage may be marketed as ‘non-alcoholic gin’.

In this case, an association had filed a lawsuit before the Potsdam Regional Court, arguing that the designation ‘alcohol-free gin’ was a violation of Regulation (EU) 2019/787. The Potsdam Regional Court referred this case to the European Court of Justice. In its judgement, the ECJ ruled in favour of the association.

Annex I, No. 20 of the [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/787](#) sets out the requirements for the category of spirit drinks with the legally prescribed designation “gin”. According to this, Gin is:

- Gin is a juniper-flavoured spirit drink produced by flavouring ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin with juniper berries (*Juniperus communis* L.)
- The minimum alcoholic strength by volume of gin shall be 37.5%.
- Only flavouring substances or flavouring preparations, or both shall be used for the production of gin, so that the taste is predominantly that of juniper
- The term “gin” may be supplemented by the term ‘dry’ if it does not contain added sweetening exceeding 0,1 grams of sweetening products per litre of the final product, expressed as invert sugar

According to Article 10 (2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/787, spirit drinks that meet the requirements of a spirit drink category listed in Annex I shall use the name of that category as their legally prescribed name, unless that category allows the use of another legally prescribed name.

According to Article 10 (7) of Regulation (EU) 2019/787 the legally prescribed designations (in accordance with paragraph 2) of this Article or the geographical indications may not be used in the designation, presentation or labelling of beverages that do not meet the requirements for the relevant categories in accordance with Annex I or the relevant geographical indications.

The situation is similar with “milk”:

According to Annex XII, Section II of [Regulation \(EC\) No 1234/2007](#), the designation “milk” is exclusively the normal mammary secretion obtained from one or more milkings without either addition thereto or extraction therefrom. Regarding “milk”, there are exceptions to this rule: coconut milk, for example, can be found in supermarkets. In this case, Annex XII, Section III, Number 1, Subparagraph 2 of Regulation 1234/2007 (EU) applies, according to which exceptions may be made for products whose nature is precisely known due to their traditional use and/or if the designations are clearly used to describe a characteristic property of the product. Such exceptions are laid down in the Commission [Decision of December 20, 2010](#). This Decision includes, for example, the designation “coconut milk”.

It is important to note that the ECJ ruling does not concern a general ban on marketing for such products. However, a different descriptive name must be chosen for such a drink. The question is if this will make it easier for consumers to make their choice.



Feedback

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