

Issue | June 2026



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

In June, there were 499 notifications in the European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF).

See point 1 in this newsletter for the evaluation.

Under 'Latest news on residues and contaminants' (point 2), we report on the AGRINFO guidance note on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food packaging, provide information on the EFSA's updated risk assessment on dioxins, and outline new or amended maximum residue limits for pesticides.

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

The topic of the month (point 4) is informing about the latest developments on GMO in food.

Germany: "Strawberry marmalade is back

Around 50 years ago, as part of its accession negotiations, the UK secured a provision stipulating that the term "marmalade" should be reserved exclusively for products made from citrus fruits. Since then, products made from fruits other than citrus have had to be labelled as "jam". With [Directive 2024/1438](#) ('Breakfast Directive') of 14 May 14, 2024, the EU decided, amongst other things, that all products complying with the legal requirements may once again be labelled as marmalade. In Germany, the provisions of the EU Directive were transposed into national law by the Second Regulation Amending the Honey Regulation and Other Food Law Regulations. The new regulations apply to all products manufactured from June 14 onwards. However, the Regulation also contains a number of further provisions. For instance, the prescribed content of pulp and/or fruit pulp has been increased. In addition, there are

new categories for fruit juices in which the naturally occurring sugar content has been reduced. In the case of honey originating from several countries, all countries of origin must now be listed in descending order.

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

The number of new RASFF-notifications in April was slightly higher than in the previous two months:

- **June 2026:** 499
- May 2026: 467
- April 2026: 529
-

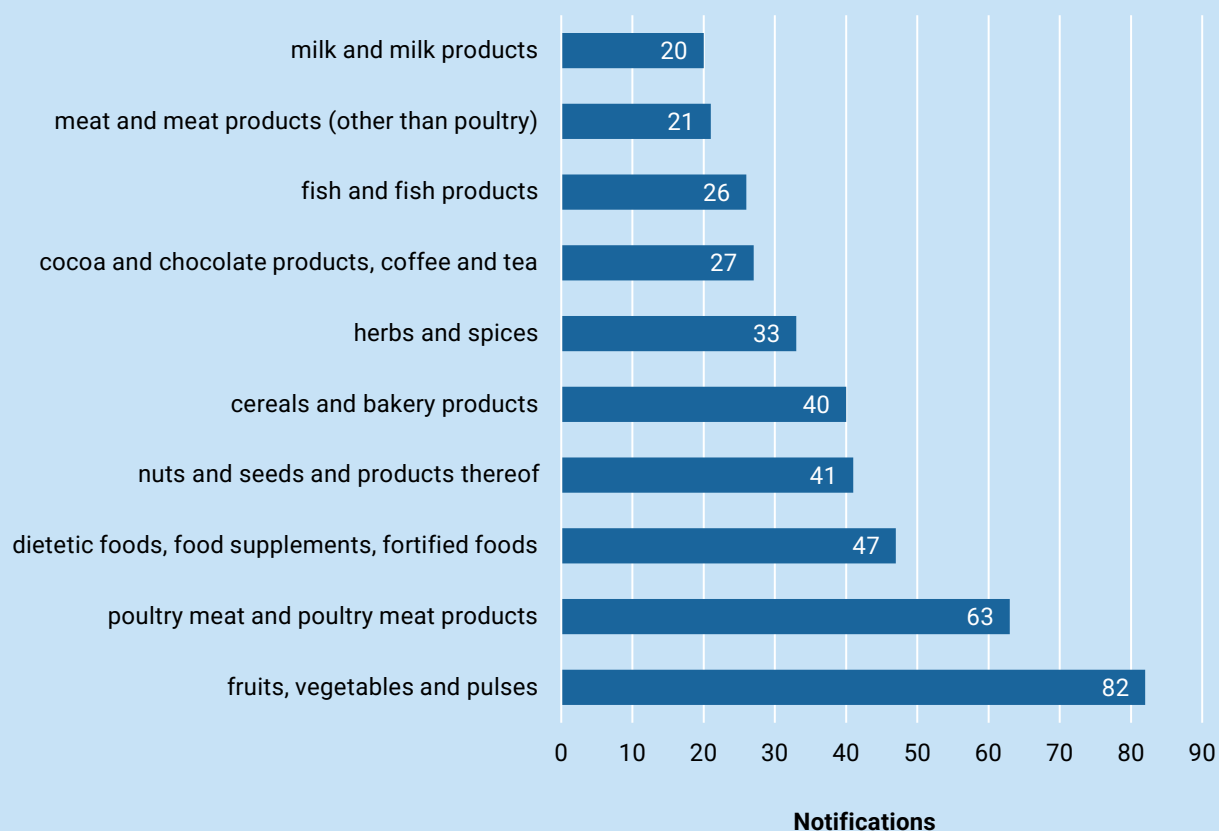
The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

- Alert notifications: 106
- Border rejections: 130
- Information messages: 260
- Information for attention: 3



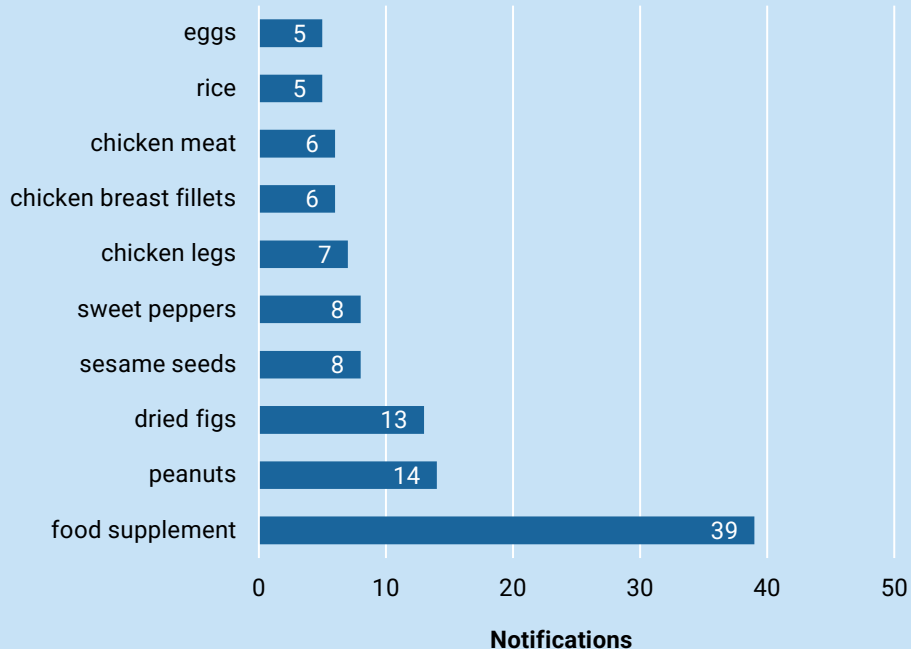
Fruit, vegetables and pulses top the list with 82 notifications when analysed by product category. The product categories poultry meat and poultry meat products and dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods are following in second and third place, with 63 and 47 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications June 2026: Top 10 product categories



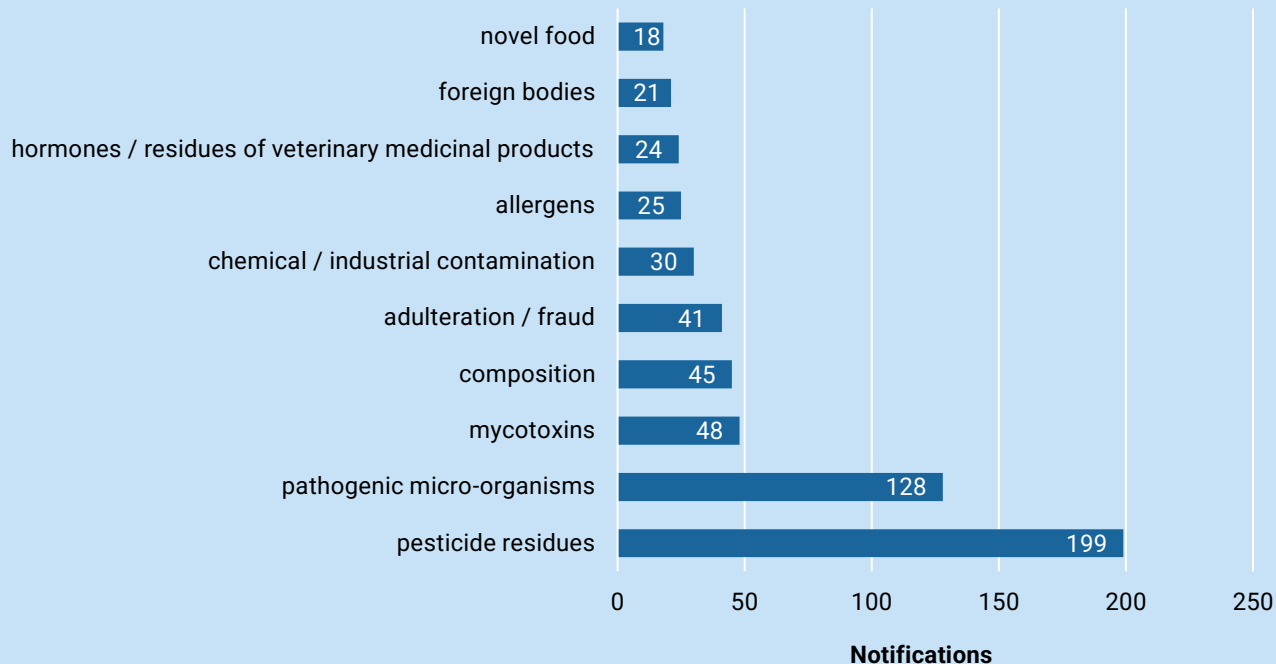
By product, food supplements are ranking first with 39 notifications. Peanuts are following with 14 notifications and figs (dried) are on third place with 13 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications June 2026: Top 10 products



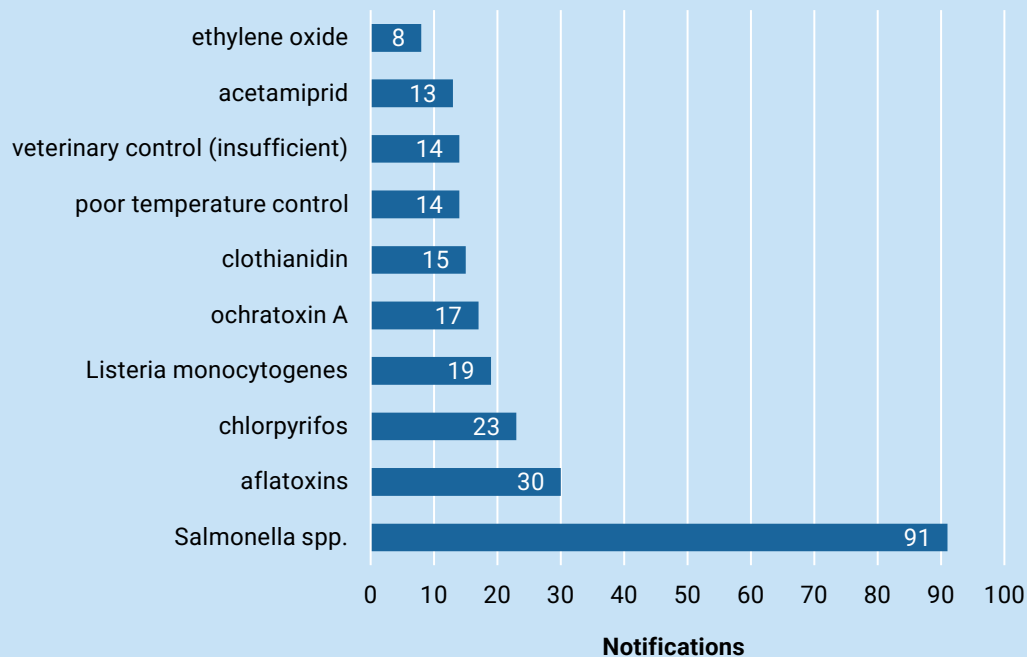
When analysed by hazard category, pesticide residues top the list with 199 cases of maximum residue limits being exceeded or unauthorised pesticides being detected. Two notifications concerning Szechuan pepper showed 11 and 7 cases. There were also multiple detections in two notifications concerning lychees (9 and 7 cases). One notification concerning cumin from India showed multiple detections (11 cases). Pathogenic micro-organisms are in second place with 128 cases and mycotoxins are following in third place with 48 cases:

RASFF-Notifications June 2026: Top 10 hazard categories



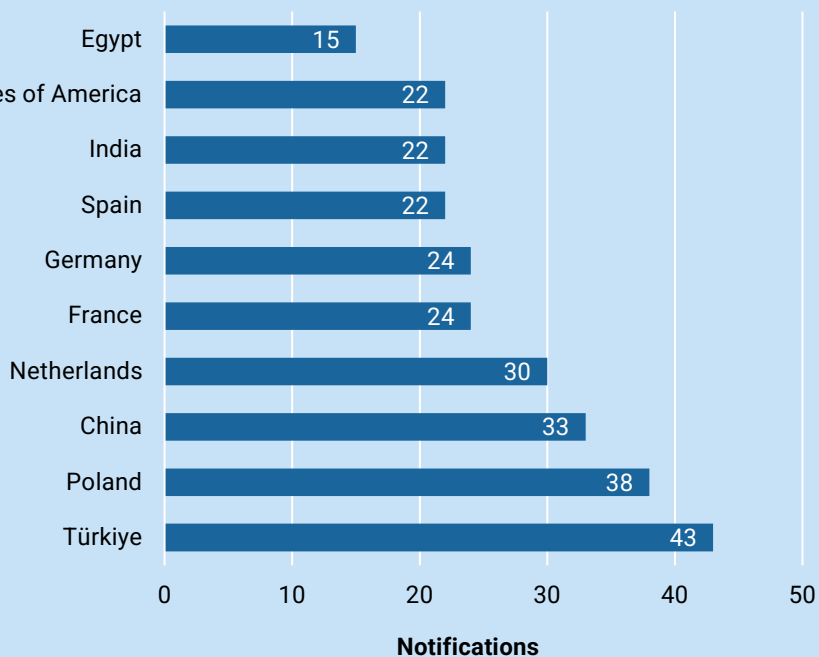
In terms of hazards, salmonella are ranking first with 91 notifications, followed by aflatoxins in second place with 30 notifications. In June, chlorpyrifos is with 23 cases once again among the 'top three hazards' with 23 cases. Spices were involved in about half of the notifications:

RASFF-Notifications June 2026: Top 10 hazards



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

RASFF-Notifications June 2026: Top countries of origin



In 43 notifications, the products originated from Türkiye. Poland and China are following with 38 and 33 notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



AGRINFO Guidance on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Food Packaging

AGRINFO has published a **guidance document on PFAS in food packaging**. The publication is based on the new **Regulation (EU) 2025/40 about Packaging and Packaging Waste (PPWR)** which introduces the following maximum limits for PFAS in food packaging:

- 25 µg/kg for any individual PFAS
- 250 µg/kg for the sum of all PFAS (excluding polymeric PFAS)
- 50 mg/kg for total fluorine (including polymeric PFAS)

PFAS may continue to be used, provided that these maximum limits are not exceeded. However, as PFAS are now widespread in the environment, the limits may be exceeded even if PFAS have not been intentionally used during the manufacturing process. PFAS testing is currently expensive, and access to qualified laboratories is limited outside the European Union. Companies are therefore advised to prefer packaging materials manufactured without the intentional use of PFAS and carefully review suppliers' declarations, particularly for water- and grease-resistant paper and paperboard packaging, printing inks and HDPE bottles and containers.

From August 12, 2026, compliance with the PFAS limits has to be demonstrated by a Declaration of Conformity, which must be passed along the entire supply chain.

Dioxins: EFSA's updated risk assessment

On June 10, 2026, EFSA published its **updated risk assessment of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (dl-PCBs)**. This opinion reduces the Tolerable Weekly Intake (TWI) from 2 to 0.6 picograms per kilogram of body weight. The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) published a corresponding **statement** on this subject on 15 June 2026.

Regulation (EU) 2026/1314

Regulation (EU) 2026/1314 of 1 June 15, 2026 amended Annexes II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 with regard to the maximum residue levels of:

- 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene,
- chlormequat,
- metribuzin,
- metribuzin desamino-diketo (metribuzin-DADK),
- terbutylazine
- triclopyr

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



- 🕒 Ireland: Report of the Scientific Committee of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland on Risk Ranking of Microbiological Hazards in Food (2015–2019)
- 🕒 Vote on the NGT compromise proposal in the ENVI Committee and the European Parliament: adopted by both bodies
- 🕒 EFSA: Multi-country Salmonella outbreak linked to alfalfa sprouted seeds
- 🕒 EU-Regulation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their products

Food Safety

- 🕒 UK: High Court Finds Government Failed to Properly Assess Gene-Editing Deregulation
- 🕒 TestBiotech: Risks of NGT plants and EFSA: Lack of scientific clarity
- 🕒 Salmonella cases in England at a decade high
- 🕒 Italy has put a new food fraud law into force that sharply raises the stakes for companies accused of misleading consumers about what is in their products, where they come from and how they are labelled
- 🕒 Update of the risk assessment on dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feed and food
- 🕒 EU-Commission: Overview report on the outcome of a survey in Member States in 2025 on Food Safety Culture official controls
- 🕒 List of non-EU countries compliant with new EU anti-microbial requirements
- 🕒 German BfR: Hydrocyanic acid and cadmium in linseeds It is best not to give raw, ground linseeds to young children



Food Fraud

- 🕒 Detecting food fraud with quantum sensing
- 🕒 AI-generated images and AI-written complaints emerge as new tools for food fraud, making it harder for hospitality businesses to verify customer claims
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News regarding GMO

By **Implementing Decision 2026/1185** of the European Commission of June 2, 2026, the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soya beans of the MON 94637 variety was authorised in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. Decision 2026/1185 authorises three categories of products derived from the MON 94637 soya bean variety:

- Foods containing or consisting of MON 94637 soya beans
- Food ingredients produced from this variety
- Feed containing, consisting of or produced from MON 94637 soya beans

The Regulation also lays down the following specific conditions and restrictions:

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Aspect	Details
Cultivation in the EU	Expressly prohibited.
Labelling requirement	It must be stated that the product is not intended for cultivation
Registration	The products are registered in the Community Register of Genetically Modified Food and Feed
Environmental monitoring	The holder (Bayer) must submit annual environmental monitoring reports

During the proceedings on a regulation governing new genomic techniques (NGT), there were two important **votes** in the ENVI Committee and in the European Parliament on the NGT compromise proposal. In both cases, the NGT proposal was adopted without amendments, meaning that the proposal can now be implemented as a regulation.

We would also like to draw your attention to the EU's food and feed database. Among other things, it includes a **database on genetically modified organisms**.

Feedback

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

info@safefood-online.de



Safefood-Online GmbH
Birkenweg 18
D-68723 Schwetzingen

Phone: +49 (0) 62 02 / 923 697
Fax: +49 (0) 62 02 / 923 696
E-Mail: info@safefood-online.de
Internet: www.safefood-online.de

Personally liable partner:
Dr. Bernhard Müller

Registered Office: Schwetzingen
Commercial Register: Amtsgericht Mannheim,
HRB 710365

Sales tax identification number according to § 27a
sales tax law: DE 274 106 454

Responsible according to § 55 paragraph 2 RStV:
Dr. Bernhard Müller

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