



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate D - Food Safety: production and distribution chain
D3 - Chemical and physical risks; surveillance



RAPID ALERT SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND FEED

(RASFF)

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE RASFF

2003

THE RAPID ALERT SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND FEED (RASFF)

The RASFF was established to provide the control authorities with an effective tool for exchange of information on measures taken to ensure food safety.

The legal basis of the RASFF is Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002. Article 50 of this Regulation establishes the rapid alert system for food and feed as a network involving the Member States (EU + EFTA/EEA), the Commission and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Whenever a member of the network has any information relating to the existence of a serious direct or indirect risk to human health, this information is immediately notified to the Commission under the RASFF. The Commission immediately transmits this information to the members of the network. Article 50.3 of the Regulation gives further details on when a RASFF notification is required.

Without prejudice to other Community legislation, the Member States shall immediately notify the Commission under the rapid alert system of:

- (a) any measure they adopt which is aimed at restricting the placing on the market or forcing the withdrawal from the market or the recall of food or feed in order to protect human health and requiring rapid action;
- (b) any recommendation or agreement with professional operators which is aimed, on a voluntary or obligatory basis, at preventing, limiting or imposing specific conditions on the placing on the market or the eventual use of food or feed on account of a serious risk to human health requiring rapid action;
- (c) any rejection, related to a direct or indirect risk to human health, of a batch, container or cargo of food or feed by a competent authority at a border post within the European Union.

This report provides information on the functioning of the RASFF in 2003 and more in particular on the number of notifications, the origin of the notifications, the countries involved, the products and the identified risks. Some caution needs to be exercised when drawing conclusions from these figures. For example, it is not because a Member State has a relatively high number of notifications that the situation regarding food safety would be bad in that country. On the contrary, it could indicate that a greater number of food checks are carried out or that the communication systems in this country function well.

The number of notifications concerning third countries cannot be compared with those concerning Member States. For third countries, controls can only be carried out on the product as it enters the Community. On the other hand, within the EU, controls are performed throughout the entire food and feed chain, and therefore food or feed hazards are often detected at an early stage of production. For all these hazards detected during production, there is no RASFF notification since the product did not reach the market.

To assist the members of the network¹, information is classified under two different headings:

- **alert notifications**

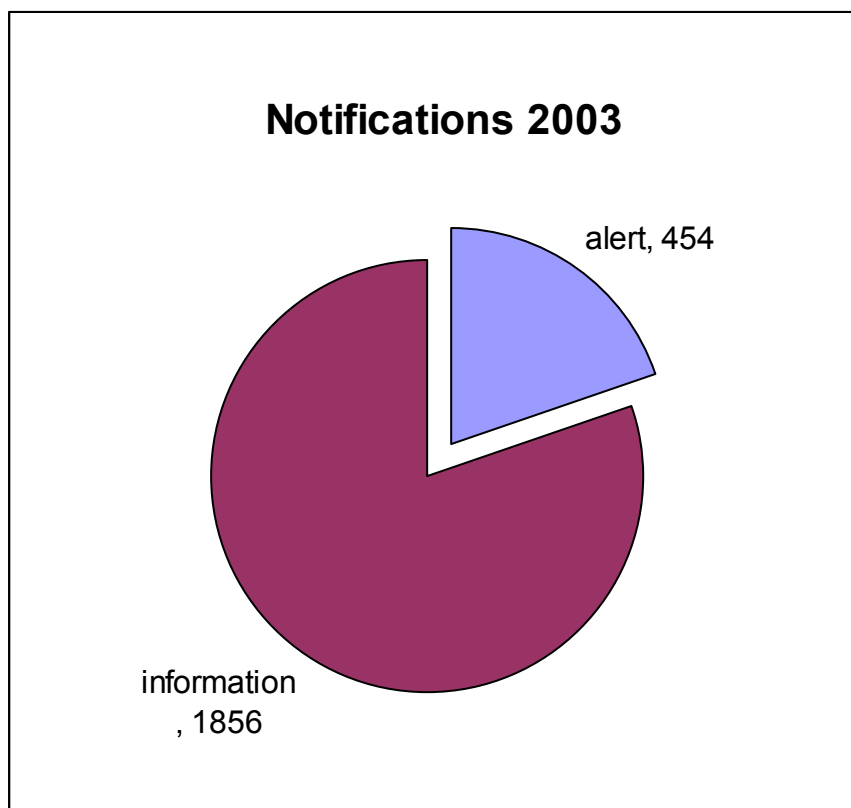
Alert notifications are sent when the food or feed presenting the risk is on the market and when immediate action is required. Alerts are triggered by the Member State that detects the problem and that has initiated the relevant measures, such as withdrawal/recall. The notification aims at giving all the members of the network the information to verify whether the concerned product is on their market, so that they also can take the necessary measures.

Products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market. The Member States have their own mechanisms to carry out such actions, including the provision of detailed information through the media if necessary.

- **information notifications**

Information notifications concern a food or feed for which a risk has been identified, but for which the other members of the network do not have to take immediate action, because the product has not reached their market. These notifications mostly concern food and feed consignments that have been tested and rejected at the external borders of the EU.

Products subject to an information notification have not reached the market or all necessary measures have already been taken.



¹ http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/rapidalert/members_en.htm

Notifications with increased occurrence and/or of particular interest in 2003

Aflatoxins in nuts

In 2003, the RASFF received a total of 763 notifications on aflatoxins. This is more than twice as much compared to 2002 (288). Most of the notifications concerned pistachios (508, almost exclusively originating from Iran). Other products that were frequently reported are peanuts (132) and hazelnuts (55).

In particular the situation with regard to the high number of notifications on pistachios originating from Iran is worrying. All consignments are analysed twice, a first time prior to export by the competent authorities of Iran for the issuing of the health certificate and a second time prior to import by the competent authorities of the importing Member State. The Commission is in contact with the Iranian authorities to identify the reasons for the contamination in order to determine the eventual appropriate additional measures to improve the situation. More specifically the influence of transport conditions and packaging on the level of contamination by aflatoxins is considered.

The Commission is also following up the notifications on aflatoxin contamination of nuts and peanuts originating from other third countries.

Update of existing measures:

Four specific Commission Decisions were already in place before 2003, containing measures as regards the import of pistachios from Iran, peanuts from Egypt, hazelnuts, peanuts and pistachios from Turkey and peanuts from China.

These Decisions^{1,2,3,4} have been amended in 2003 in order to introduce comparable provisions in the four above mentioned Decisions. These provisions consist of

- establishing the frequency of controls;
- requiring Member States to provide every three months a report of all analytical results of official controls on consignments of peanuts from China;
- determining a maximum period for the detainment of consignments for performing the controls;
- establishing a procedure in case of splitting a consignment;
- updating the list of designated points of entry into the European Union.

New measures taken in 2003:

Brazil nuts in shell originating or consigned from Brazil have been found in many cases to be contaminated with excessive levels of aflatoxin B1 and total aflatoxin. Such contamination constitutes a serious threat to public health. Also the outcome of an inspection of the Food and

1 - Commission Decision 2003/550/EC of 22 July 2003 amending Decision 2002/79/EC imposing special conditions on the import of peanuts and certain products derived from peanuts originating in or consigned from China – OJ L 187, 26.7.2003, p. 39

2 - Commission Decision 2003/551/EC of 22 July 2003 amending Decision 97/830/EC and repealing Decision 97/613/EC and imposing special conditions on the import of pistachios and certain products derived from pistachios originating in or consigned from Iran – OJ L 187, 26.7.2003, p. 43

3 - Commission Decision 2003/552/EC of 22 July 2003 amending Decision 2002/80/EC and imposing special conditions on the import of figs, hazelnuts and pistachios and certain products derived thereof originating in or consigned from Turkey – OJ L 187, 26.7.2003, p. 47

4 - Commission Decision 2003/580/EC of 4 August 2003 amending Decision 2000/49/EC repealing Decision 1999/356/EC and imposing special conditions on the import of peanuts and certain products derived from peanuts originating in or consigned from Egypt – OJ L 197, 5.8.2003, p. 31

Veterinary Office (FVO) to Brazil justified the need for special strict conditions with regard to the import of Brazil nuts in shell from Brazil. These measures were taken on 4 July 2003¹.

Dioxins

26 notifications reported contamination with dioxins from different sources:

- contaminated ingredient or additive for animal feed (11)
- drying process of animal feed (10)

In February 2003 a drying plant of bakery by-products in Germany caused a widespread contamination of feed and - to a lesser degree - of animals with dioxins that arose from a bad drying process. Investigations at other drying plants in Germany revealed similar dioxin contaminations of dried feed.

- fish oil (2)
- live bovines (1)
- milk (1)
- dried herbs (1)

Regulation (EC) N° 466/2001 sets maximum levels for dioxins in foods of animal origin and oils and fats. In 2003, Directive 2002/57/EC, amending Directive 2002/32/EC, fixed various maximum levels for dioxins in animal feed and feed additives according to the type of feed or feed additive.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) in sprats

Twelve notifications were received on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and benzo(a)pyrene in sprats from Estonia (6) and Latvia (6). Most of these notifications concerned products that were found on the German market. Levels found for PAH vary between 0.9 and 1160 µg/kg.

These carcinogenic compounds are formed in the smoking process of the fish. PAH are also formed by direct fire drying processes which can result in contamination of foods other than smoked foods. This contamination has been found in the past in vegetable oils and particularly in olive-residue oil. The use of contaminated oils may contribute towards PAH in foods canned in oil, such as canned fish.

In response to the opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food (December 2002), the Commission is currently preparing possible legislation to introduce harmonised maximum levels for benzo(a)pyrene in certain foods. It is likely that levels in oils and fats will be included and other food categories are under discussion.

1 - Commission Decision 2003/493/EC of 4 July 2003 imposing special conditions on the import of Brazil nuts in shell originating in or consigned from Brazil – OJ L 168, 3.7.2003, p. 33

3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD) in soy sauce

Twenty notifications were received on 3-monochloro-1,2-propanediol in soy sauce from Far East and Southeast Asian countries. Levels found varied between 0.03 and 1015 mg/kg.

3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD) is created during food processing under certain conditions. In particular, it may be produced during the manufacture of the savoury food ingredient 'hydrolysed vegetable protein' that is produced through the acid hydrolysis method (acid-HVP). By adjusting production processes, a significant decrease of 3-MCPD in the above-mentioned product is achievable. A maximum level of 0.02 mg/kg 3-MCPD in hydrolysed vegetable protein and soy sauce is set in Regulation (EC) N° 466/2001.

The Commission is currently reviewing legislation in view of experiences and data from the Member States. A SCOOP¹ report on this subject is close to completion.

Cadmium and mercury in swordfish and cephalopods

Cadmium in fishery products was reported above the maximum level 103 times to the RASFF. The majority of these notifications concerned swordfish (63); others concerned cephalopods like squid, cuttlefish and octopus (28). Also the problem of mercury was reported in swordfish in 24 notifications.

The maximum level of cadmium applicable to swordfish is 0.05 mg/kg, for cephalopods the level is 1.0 mg/kg. The maximum level for mercury in swordfish is 1.0 mg/kg (Regulation (EC) 466/2001 as amended by Regulation (EC) N° 221/2002).

In 2003 the Commission asked the European Food Safety Authority to provide a scientific opinion on the risks to public health from mercury in foods. The opinion is expected in the first half of 2004. Also new data on the presence of mercury in these products have been gathered by the Member States and will be used in the review of the legislation in 2004.

Residues of veterinary medicinal products

Community legislation on residues of pharmacologically active substances provides that only substances that have undergone a human safety evaluation with a favourable result according to Regulation (EC) N° 2377/90 may be used in food producing animals. Moreover the use of some specific substances is expressly prohibited in Community legislation.

In 2003, 39 notifications were received on a variety of unauthorised or prohibited antimicrobial substances that were detected in honey. Only a very few substances have been evaluated for use in bees in the Community or elsewhere.

Information received by the RASFF in 2003 demonstrated the presence of the expressly prohibited antimicrobial substance chloramphenicol in milk products for human consumption (10 notifications) from the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) and in milk products for animal nutrition from Belarus (3 notifications). Chloramphenicol was also reported in shrimps from several Asian countries (14 notifications) and in casings from China (11 notifications). Nitrofurans and their metabolites, equally prohibited substances, were frequently detected in fishery products, poultry meat and meat products (see table on page 19). A very specific case was the detection of the non-authorised fungicidal dye malachite green in salmon from Chile (11 notifications).

¹ - Scientific Cooperation established by Council Directive 1993/5/EEC of 25 February 1993 on assistance to the Commission and co-operation by the Member States in the scientific examination of questions relating to food – OJ L 52, 04.03.1993, P18

Reinforced control measures were already in place before 2003, imposing systematic analysis of nitrofuran metabolites on consignments of poultry meat from Brazil, wild caught prawns from Myanmar and milk powder used for animal nutrition from Ukraine. For China, the suspension of certain products of animal origin continued (Commission Decision 2002/69/EC).

In 2003, because of the improvement of the situation, reinforced control measures were lifted for fishery products from Indonesia and Thailand and reduced to 20% for poultry products from Thailand.

Sudan 1 in hot chilli powder

The unlawful use of the potentially carcinogenic industrial dye Sudan 1 for adulteration of hot chilli powder was first discovered in France (more information can be found on the website of AFSSA¹), but was soon found to be more widespread. 119 notifications were received concerning Sudan 1, not only on chilli powder but also on spice mixes, sauces and products containing spices and sauces.

The Commission extended the protective measures taken by France to the whole Community through Decision 2003/460/EC. In the light of the food control results, this Decision was reviewed and its scope further extended to curry powder and three similar dyes.

¹ <http://www.afssa.fr>

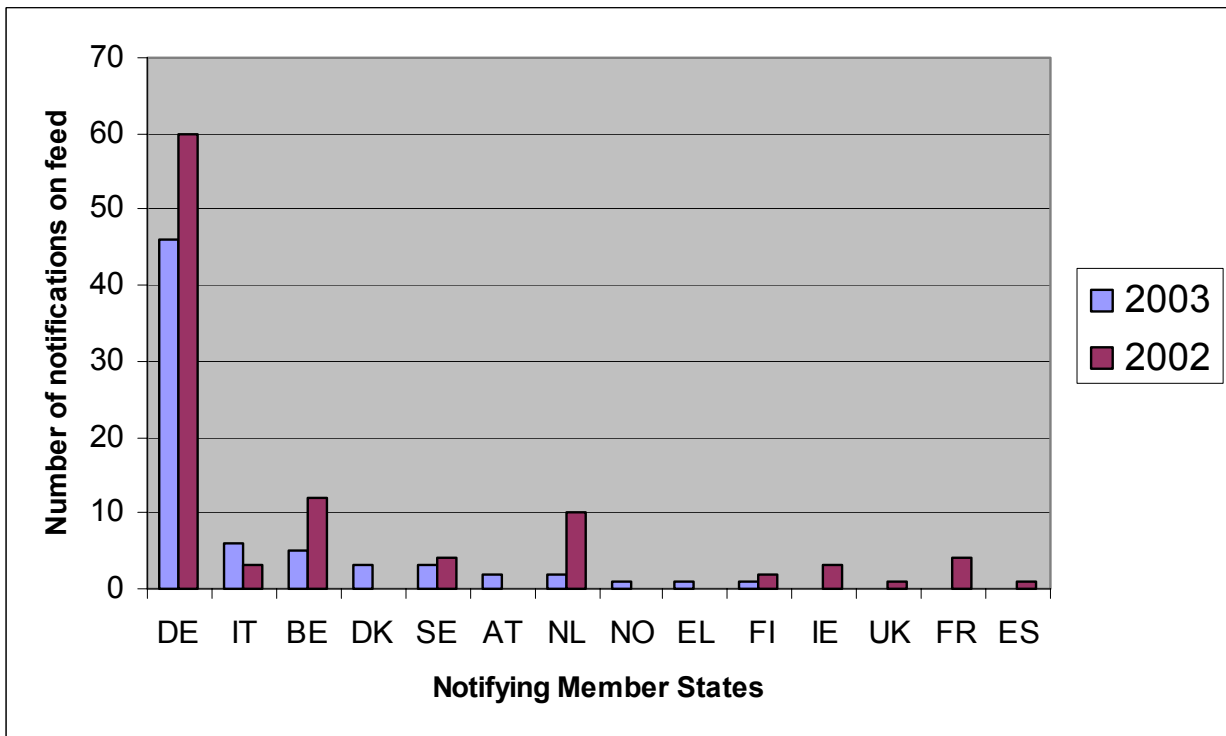
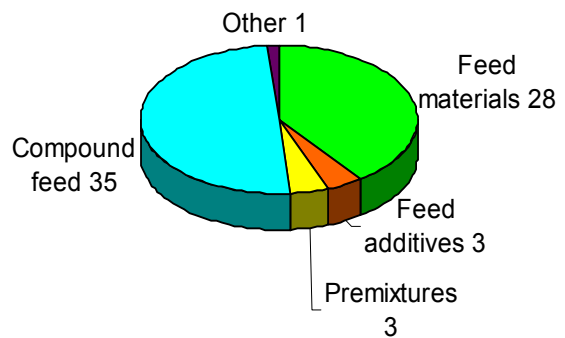
Notifications concerning feed

The total number of notifications for feed in 2003 was 71, representing 3.1% of all RASFF notifications. This represents a decrease compared to 2002, when 100 notifications on feed were received (6.6%).

The 71 notifications comprised 16 “alert” and 55 “information” notifications. Germany transmitted about two thirds of the notifications and about one third (23 notifications) of the affected feed originated from Germany. In 44 notifications, the country of origin was a Member State or EEA/EFTA country; in 13 cases the feed originated from a new Member State and in 14 cases from a third country.

The main problems related to dioxins and PCBs (23 notifications), followed by processed animal proteins in feed where they are not allowed (13), prohibited substances and unauthorised additives (12).

Dioxins were also found in dried shrimp shells and in the feed additive copper II oxide. Other cases of contaminated feed materials communicated through the RASFF include: skimmed milk powder containing chloramphenicol, animal fat contaminated by benzene and feed derived from fish contaminated with PCBs.



Recurrent problems for which the Commission required specific guarantees from third countries

In order to avoid the recurrence of the problem detected, the RASFF informs third countries of origin in a systematic way via the Commission Delegations. This year more than 1800 messages were sent to third countries. Moreover, when a problem has been detected on several occasions, a letter is sent to the competent authority of the country concerned. In 2003, 13 such letters were sent (see table below). As a consequence of these letters, third countries took measures such as delisting of establishments, suspension of exports, intensification of controls and change of legislation. Also, Member States intensified checks at import. In addition to that, when the guaranties received were not sufficient, the Commission took measures such as prohibition of import, systematic control at the EU borders, mandatory presentation of health certificates, etc... Additionally, the Food and Veterinary Office uses, among other criteria, the information transmitted through the RASFF to identify the priorities for its inspections programme.

Country	Hazard	Product
Latvia	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	canned fish in oil
Seychelles	cadmium and mercury	swordfish
Thailand	cadmium	cephalopods
India	methomyl and monocrotophos	table grapes
India	pesticide residues colour Sudan 1 nitrofurans	table grapes hot chilli powder egg products
Taiwan	nitrofurans	fishery products
Brazil	Salmonella and other micro-organisms	bovine meat
Singapore	cadmium and mercury	fish
China	nitrofurans chloramphenicol	fishery products crayfish
Turkey	sulphites	dried apricots dried tomatoes
Turkey	colour Sudan 1	chilli products
Iran	aflatoxins	pistachios
Indonesia	histamine	fishery products tuna fish

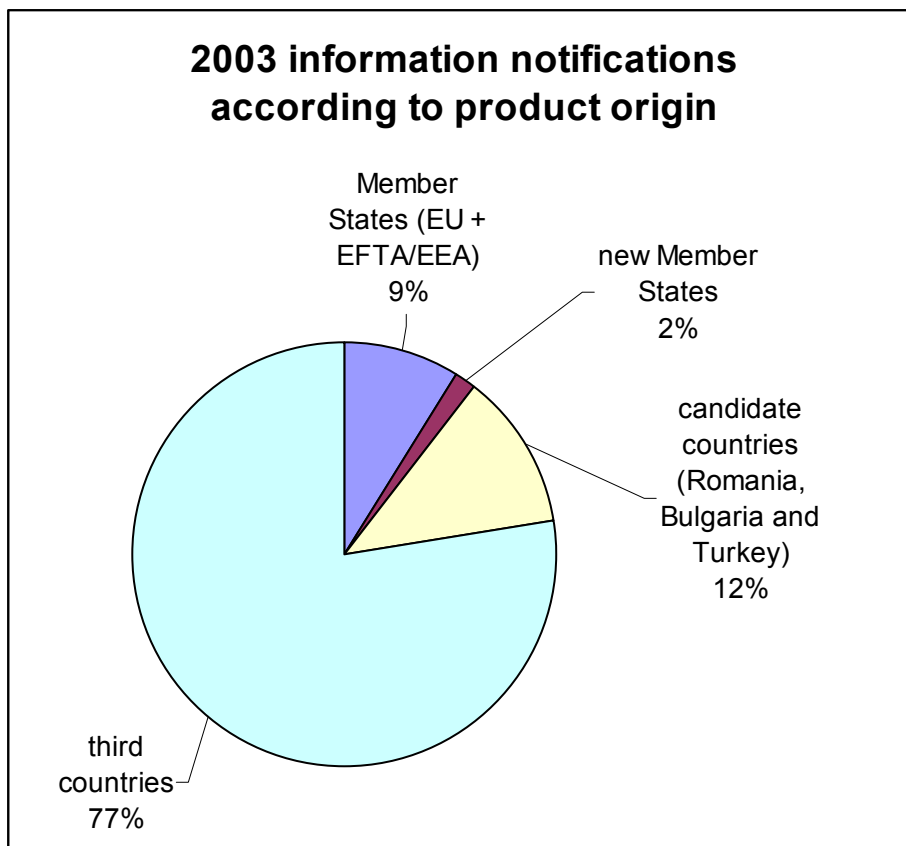
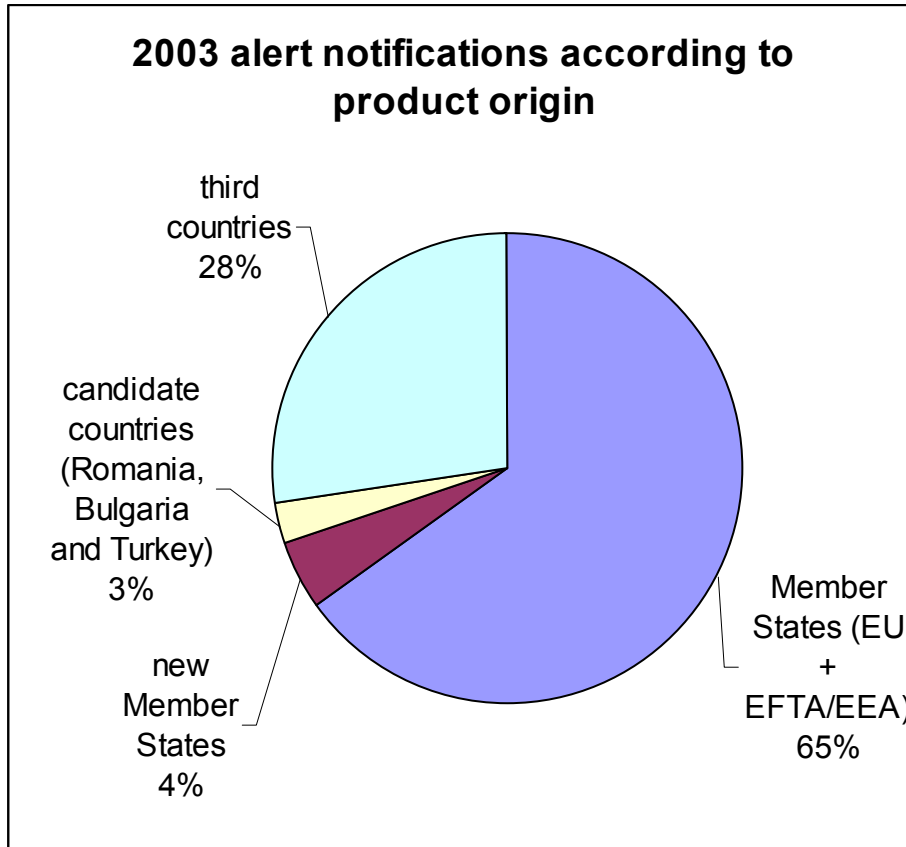
SUMMARY OF STATISTICS:

The number of information exchanges rose from 3024 in 2002 to **4286** in 2003. This represents a 41.7% increase. **A total of 454 alert notifications and 1856 information notifications were received in 2003.**

After the receipt of additional information 2 information notifications have been upgraded to alert notifications, 5 alert notifications and 10 information notifications have been withdrawn. Notifications which have been withdrawn are excluded from the statistics. 43 notifications were not uploaded onto the system since, after evaluation, they were found not to contain any information on a human health risk.

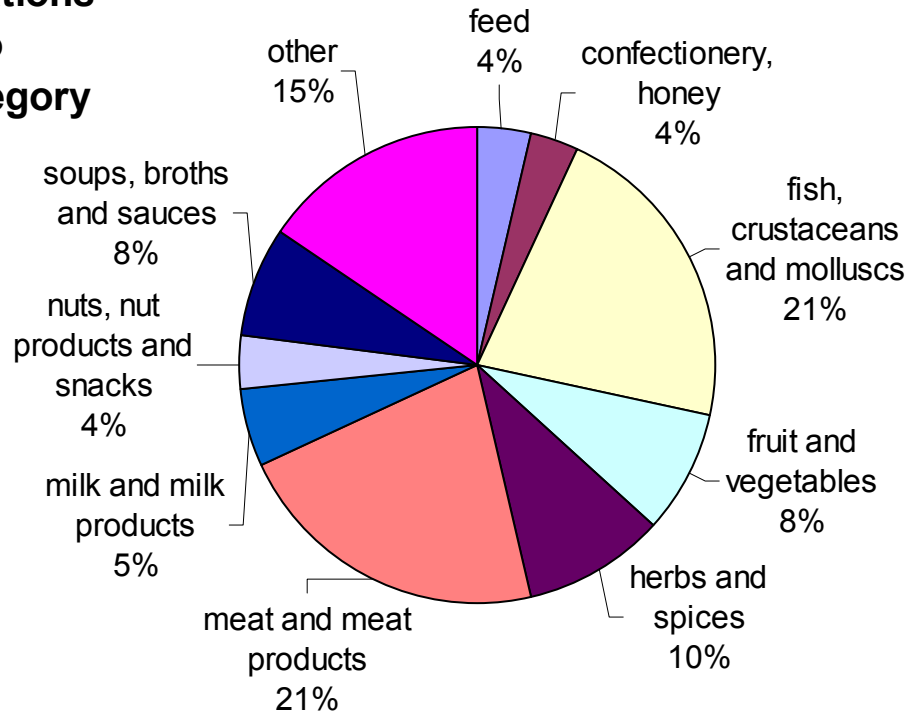
A detailed statistical breakdown of the information is available in Annex 1. This statistical breakdown only refers to products which have been subject to a notification within the RASFF.

Product origin

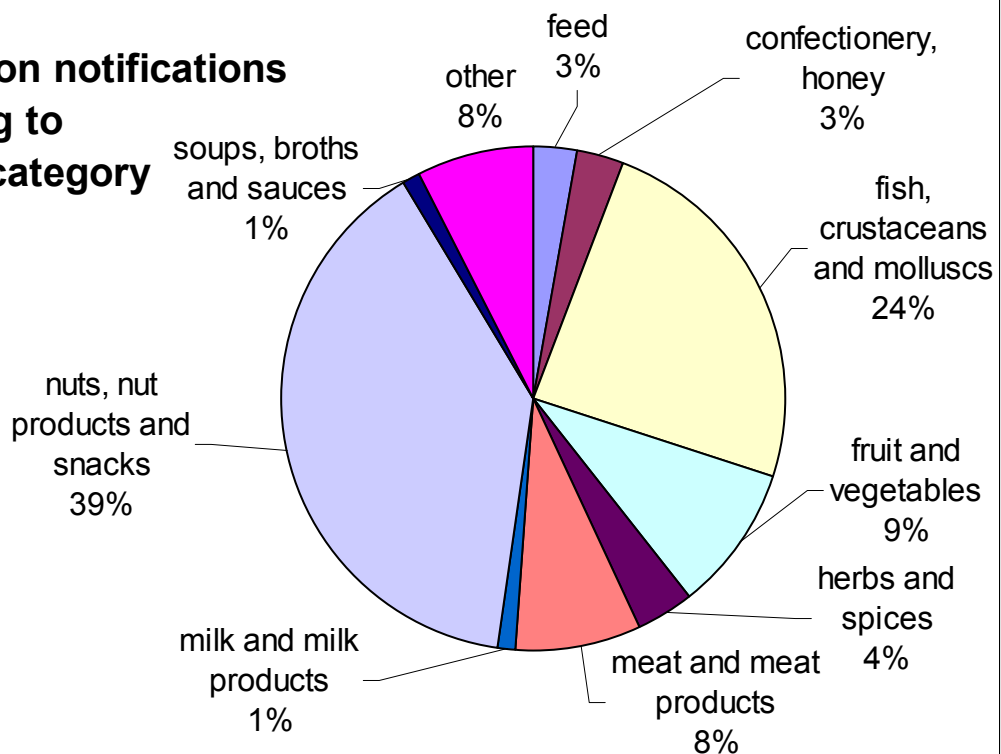


Products involved

2003 alert notifications according to product category

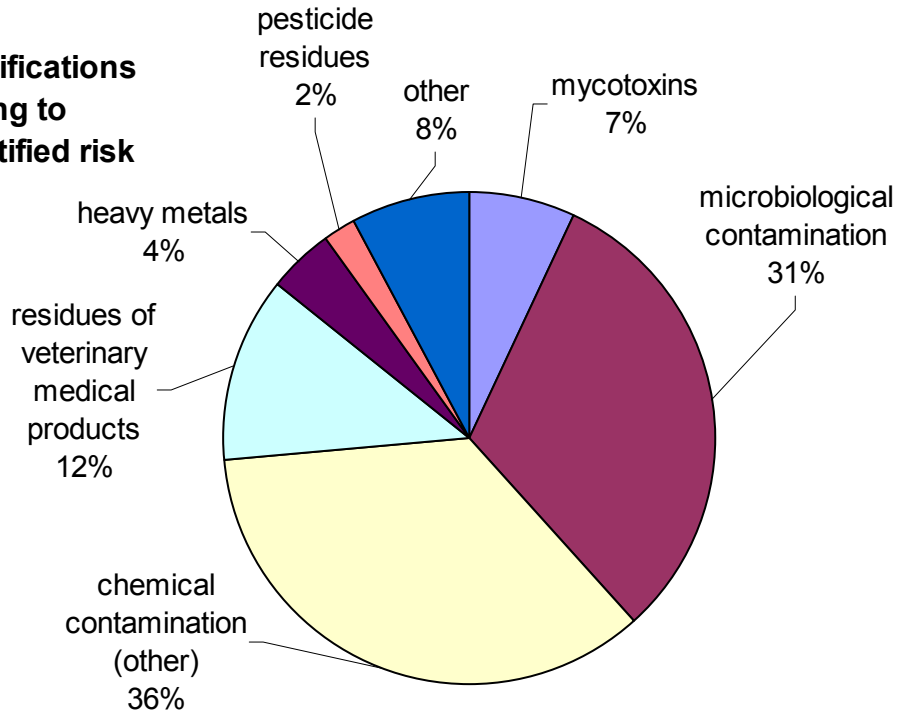


2003 information notifications according to product category

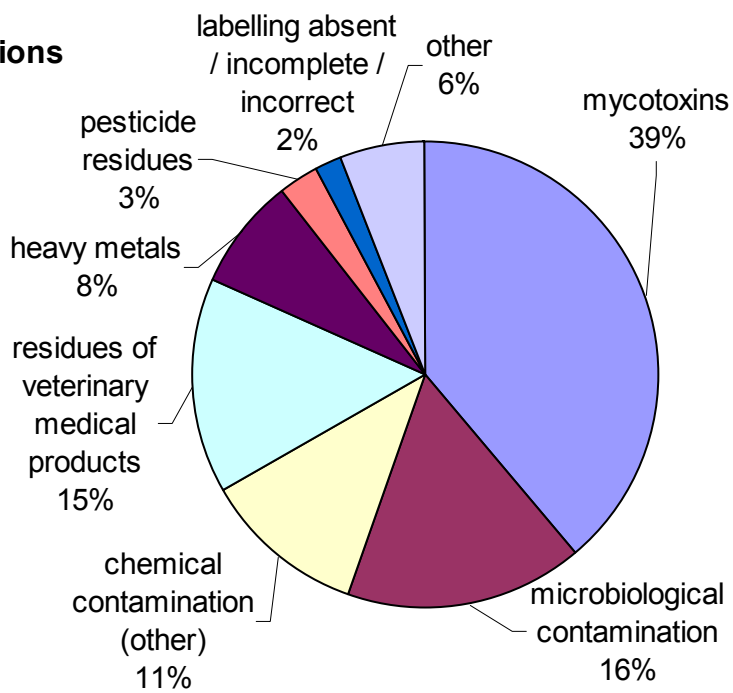


Identified risk

2003 alert notifications according to the identified risk



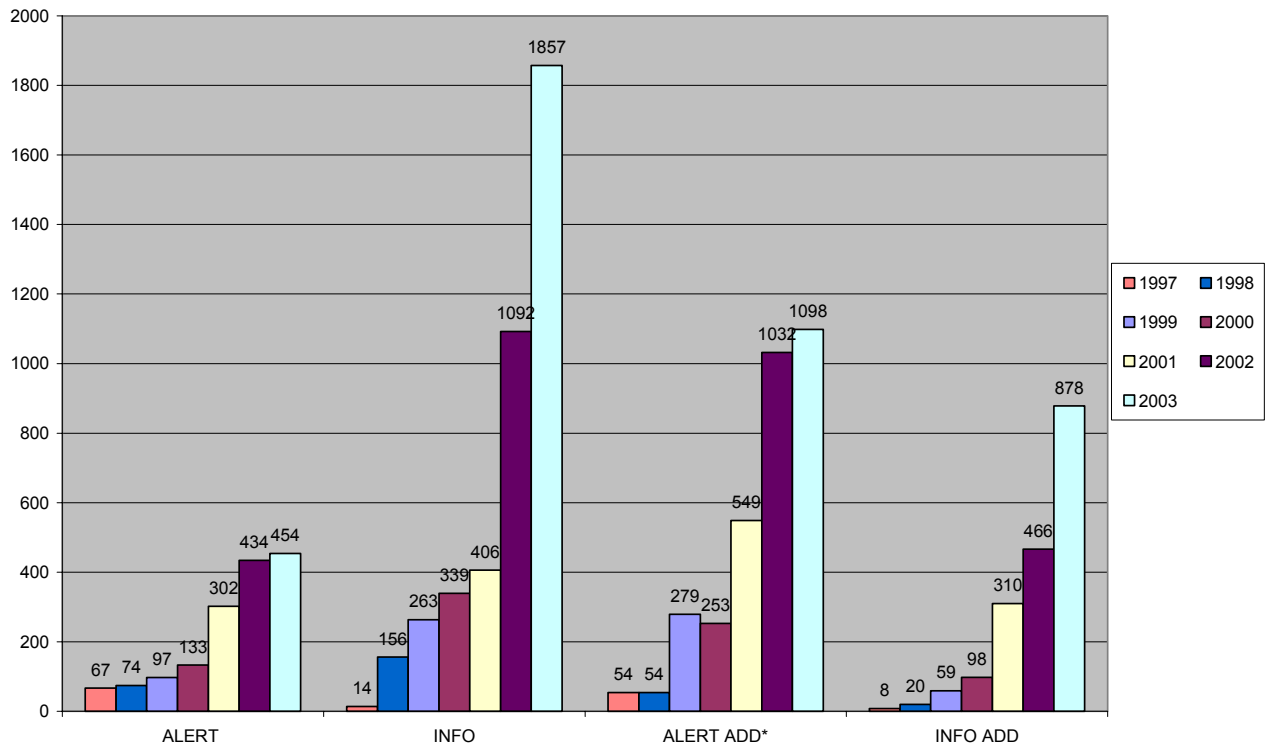
2003 information notifications according to the identified risk



SUMMARY OF STATISTICS
OF 2003

EVOLUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS 1999-2003

YEAR	ALERTS	INFORMATIONS	ADDITION TO ALERTS	ADDITION TO INFORMATIONS	TOTAL
1999	97	263	279	59	698
2000	133	340	253	98	824
2001	302	406	549	310	1567
2002	434	1092	1032	466	3024
2003	454	1856	1098	878	4286
2003 increase (%)	4.6 %	70.0 %	6.4 %	88.4 %	41.7 %

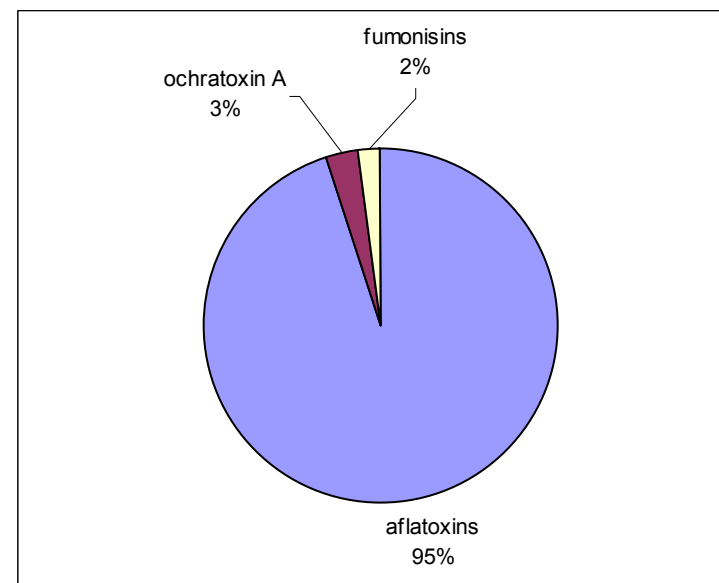


Breakdown of 2003 notifications by type of hazard, origin and product category

For each of the categories of contaminations, a “top ten” (number of notifications) is calculated of combinations of country of origin and product category, grouped by third countries and Member States. Footnotes are made for recurring hazards or to specify a food product in which the hazard mainly occurred.

MYCOTOXINS

Third countries	product category	# not.	Member States	product category	# not.
IRAN	nuts, nut products and snacks ¹	490	ITALY	cereals and bakery products ²	9
TURKEY	nuts, nut products and snacks ³	66	THE NETHERLANDS	cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea ⁴	6
CHINA	nuts, nut products and snacks ⁵	43	LUXEMBOURG	nuts, nut products and snacks	3
TURKEY	fruit and vegetables	27	ITALY	fruit and vegetables	2
EGYPT	nuts, nut products and snacks ⁵	26	GERMANY	nuts, nut products and snacks	2
ARGENTINA	nuts, nut products and snacks	24	BELGIUM	fruit and vegetables	2
THE UNITED STATES	nuts, nut products and snacks	19			
BRAZIL	nuts, nut products and snacks	18			
SOUTH AFRICA	nuts, nut products and snacks	12			
INDIA	herbs and spices	5			



¹ aflatoxins in pistachio nuts

² fumonisins in maize meal

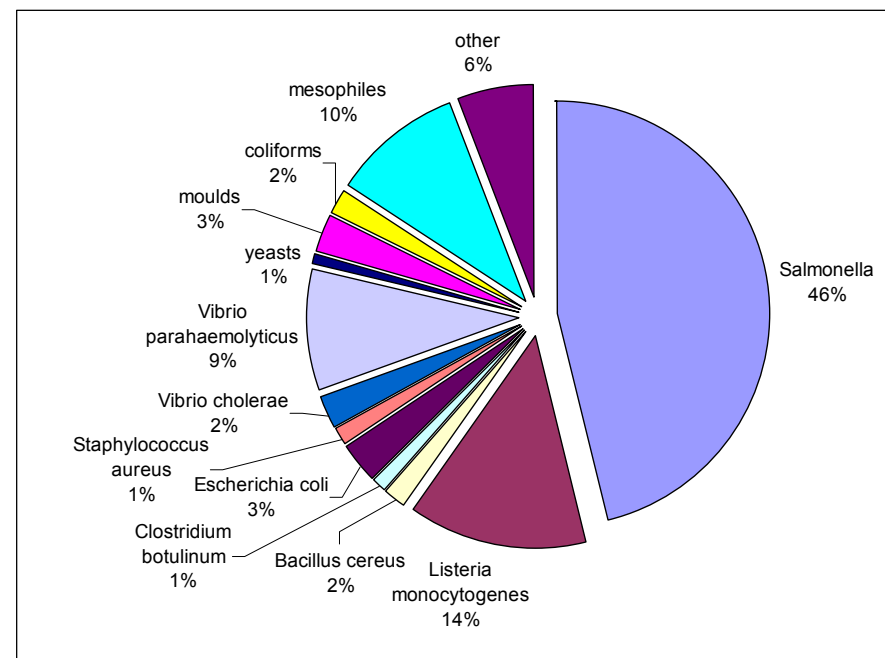
³ mainly aflatoxins in hazelnuts

⁴ mainly ochratoxin A in cocoa powder

⁵ mainly aflatoxins in peanuts

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINATION

Third countries	product category	# not.	Member States	product category	# not.
BRAZIL	meat and meat products (other than poultry) ¹	27	GERMANY	meat and meat products (other than poultry)	21
MALAYSIA	crustaceans and products thereof	19	GERMANY	cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea ²	18
BRAZIL	poultry meat and poultry meat products	18	FRANCE	poultry meat and poultry meat products	14
TURKEY	herbs and spices	9	ITALY	milk and milk products	11
MOROCCO	molluscs and products thereof	6	SPAIN	meat and meat products (other than poultry)	9
THAILAND	crustaceans and products thereof	8	THE NETHERLANDS	meat and meat products (other than poultry)	8
CHINA	fruit and vegetables	8	FRANCE	milk and milk products	7
INDONESIA	crustaceans and products thereof	8	SPAIN	eggs and egg products	5
			DENMARK	meat and meat products (other than poultry)	5

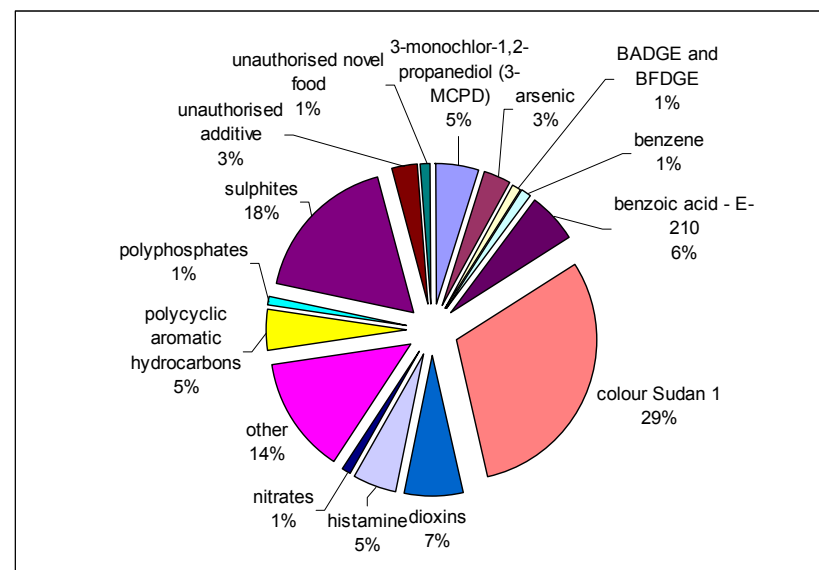


¹ Mainly Salmonella and Listeria monocytogenes in beef

² Salmonella in herbal tea

CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION (OTHER)

Third countries	product category	# not.	Member States	product category	# not.
TURKEY	fruit and vegetables ¹	48	ITALY	soups, broths and sauces ²	18
INDIA	herbs and spices ²	22	UNITED KINGDOM	herbs and spices ²	15
COLOMBIA	non-alcoholic beverages ³	11	GERMANY	animal nutrition ⁴	12
TURKEY	herbs and spices ²	9	ITALY	meat and meat products (other than poultry) ²	7
POLAND	animal nutrition ⁵	7	UNITED KINGDOM	soups, broths and sauces ²	6
VIETNAM	soups, broths and sauces ⁶	7	THE NETHERLANDS	herbs and spices ²	5
INDIA	soups, broths and sauces ²	7	ITALY	cereals and bakery products	5
INDONESIA	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	7	ITALY	fruit and vegetables	4
THAILAND	soups, broths and sauces ⁷	6	SPAIN	fruit and vegetables	4
LATVIA	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	6	THE NETHERLANDS	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	4
ESTONIA	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	6			

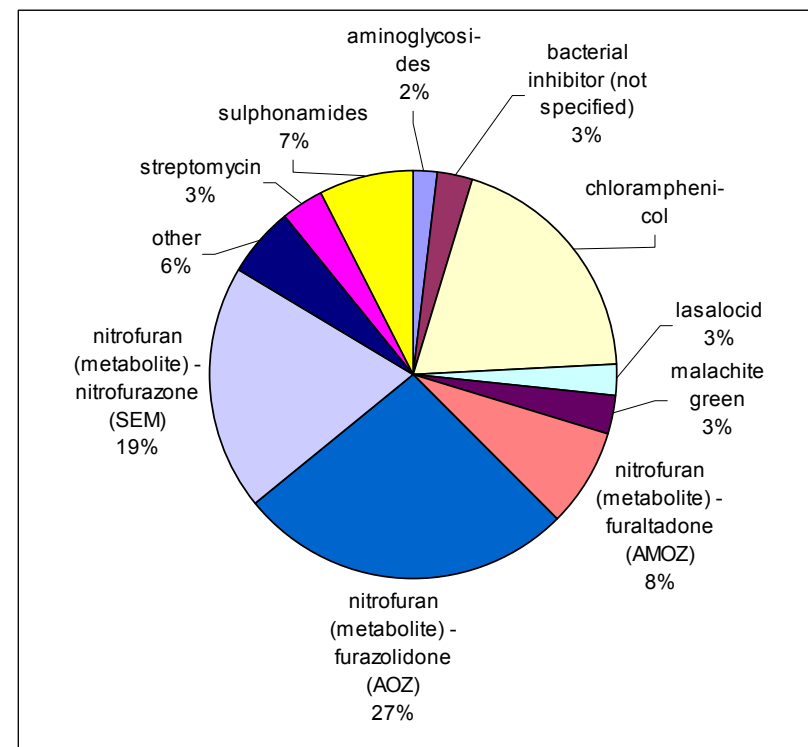


¹ mainly sulphites in dried apricots
² adulteration with chemical dye Sudan 1
³ levels of benzoic acid (E210) too high
⁴ mainly dioxins in dried green forage
⁵ dioxins and benzene

⁶ 3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) in soy sauces
⁷ 3-monochlor-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD) in soy sauces and fish sauces

RESIDUES OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Third countries	product category	# not.	Member States	product category	# not.
BRAZIL	poultry meat and poultry meat products ¹	39	GERMANY	eggs and egg products ²	4
TAIWAN	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs) ⁵	29	SPAIN	confectionery, honey and royal jelly	3
THAILAND	crustaceans and products thereof ¹	27	AUSTRIA	eggs and egg products	3
INDIA	crustaceans and products thereof ¹	23	FRANCE	eggs and egg products	2
CHINA	meat and meat products (other than poultry) ³	22	PORTUGAL	poultry meat and poultry meat products ¹	2
BULGARIA	confectionery, honey and royal jelly ⁴	17	PORTUGAL	confectionery, honey and royal jelly	2
CHINA	wild caught crustaceans and products thereof ³	13	GERMANY	animal nutrition	2
THAILAND	poultry meat and poultry meat products ⁵	11			
CHILE	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs) ⁶	11			
INDIA	eggs and egg products ¹	9			



¹ nitrofurans metabolites

² lasalocid

³ nitrofurans metabolites and chloramphenicol

⁴ mainly sulphonamides

⁵ mainly nitrofurans metabolites (1 notification concerned chloramphenicol)

⁶ malachite green

HEAVY METALS

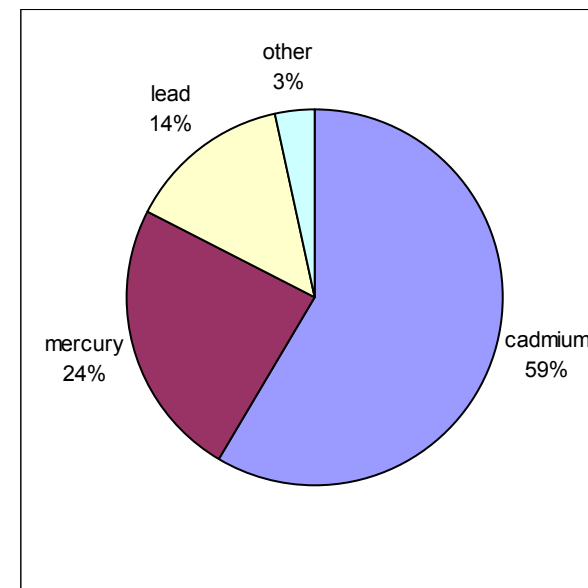
Third countries	product category	# not.	Member States	product category	# not.
SINGAPORE	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs) ¹	49	SPAIN	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs) ²	8
THAILAND	molluscs and products thereof ³	17	GERMANY	animal nutrition	2
INDONESIA	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	12	UNITED KINGDOM	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	1
TURKEY	confectionery, honey and royal jelly ⁴	9	THE NETHERLANDS	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	1
THE UNITED STATES	crustaceans and products thereof	7	THE NETHERLANDS	animal nutrition	1
INDIA	molluscs and products thereof	6	SPAIN	animal nutrition	1
TAIWAN	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	4	ITALY	materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	1
THE SEYCHELLES	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	3	THE NETHERLANDS	fruit and vegetables	1
ECUADOR	fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)	3			
CHINA	crustaceans and products thereof	3			

¹ mainly cadmium in swordfish (some notifications for mercury)

² mercury

³ cadmium in cuttlefish and squid

⁴ lead in chewing gum



Notifications according to the product categories involved

	2001 TOTAL	2001 Alert	2001 Information
Additives	0	0	0
Alcoholic beverages (other than wine)	1	1	0
Non-alcoholic beverages	7	5	2
Wine			
Animal nutrition	0	0	0
Cereals and bakery products	9	7	2
Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	19	4	15
Confectionery, Honey and royal jelly	7	5	2
Dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods	3	2	1
Eggs and egg products	1	1	0
Fish, crustaceans and molluscs	232	87	145
Crustaceans and products thereof			
Farmed crustaceans and products thereof			
Wild caught crustaceans and products thereof			
Fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)			

2002 TOTAL	2002 Alert	2002 Information
3	1	2
1	0	1
6	3	3
1	1	0
90	31	59
8	5	3
20	4	16
53	19	34
26	19	7
18	8	10
480	112	368

2003 TOTAL	2003 Alert	2003 Information
4	1	3
5	2	3
27	5	22
2	2	0
69	16	53
44	25	19
34	2	32
72	16	56
25	9	16
35	13	22
(545)	(97)	(448)
110	11	99
56	10	46
52	10	42
193	54	139

Farmed fish and products thereof (other than crustaceans and molluscs)			
Wild caught fish and products thereof (other than Ocrustaceans and molluscs)			
Molluscs and products thereof			
Fats and oils	74	73	1
Fruit and vegetables	76	25	51
Herbs and spices	35	12	23
Ices and desserts	1	1	0
Materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	1	0	1
Meat and meat products, game and poultry	53	38	15
Meat and meat products (other than poultry)			
Poultry meat and poultry meat products			
Milk and milk products	15	7	8
Nut and nut products, snacks	157	19	138
Prepared dishes	2	1	1
Soups, broths and sauces	15	14	1
Other food products / mixed			
TOTAL	708	302	406

13	11	2
212	59	153
30	7	23
0	0	0
5	1	4
234	98	136
45	19	26
251	24	227
4	1	3
14	6	8
1	1	0
1515	430	1085

44	5	39
25	3	22
65	4	61
3	1	2
211	38	173
113	44	69
1	1	0
9	1	8
(249)	(98)	(151)
153	69	84
96	29	67
42	24	18
744	16	728
13	7	6
55	35	20
8	1	7
2310	454	1856

Notifications according to categories of source of contamination

	Total	Alert	Information
mycotoxins	805	35	770
microbiological contamination	478	155	323
chemical contamination (other)	400	175	225
residues of veterinary medical products	353	60	293
heavy metals	176	21	155
pesticide residues	64	10	54
labelling absent / incomplete / incorrect	40	1	39
not determined / other	39	6	33
foreign bodies	35	19	16
radiation	22	0	22
parasitic infestation	19	3	16
organoleptic changes	14	2	12
packaging	9	3	6
adverse effects / allergic reaction	7	1	6
biotoxins (other)	6	2	4
adulteration	3	2	1

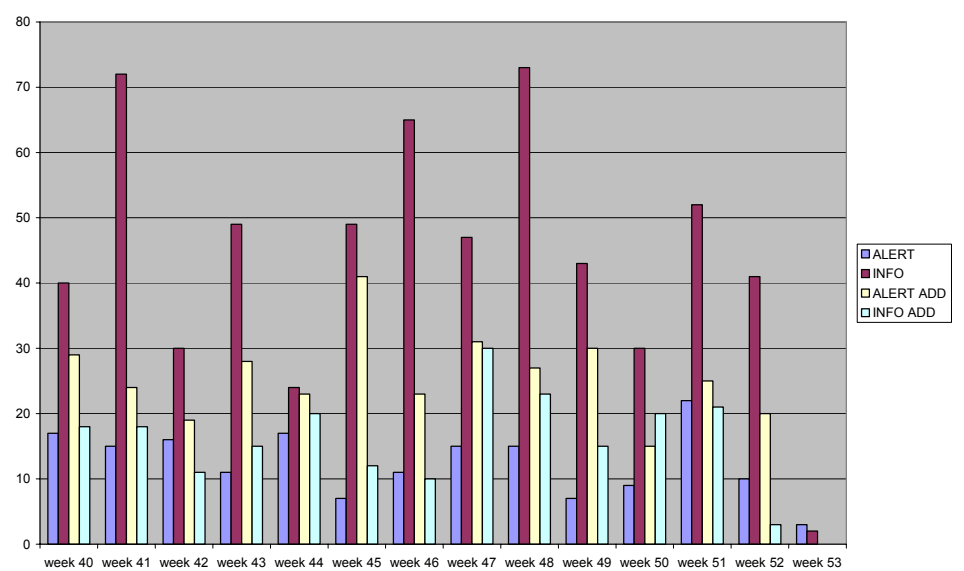
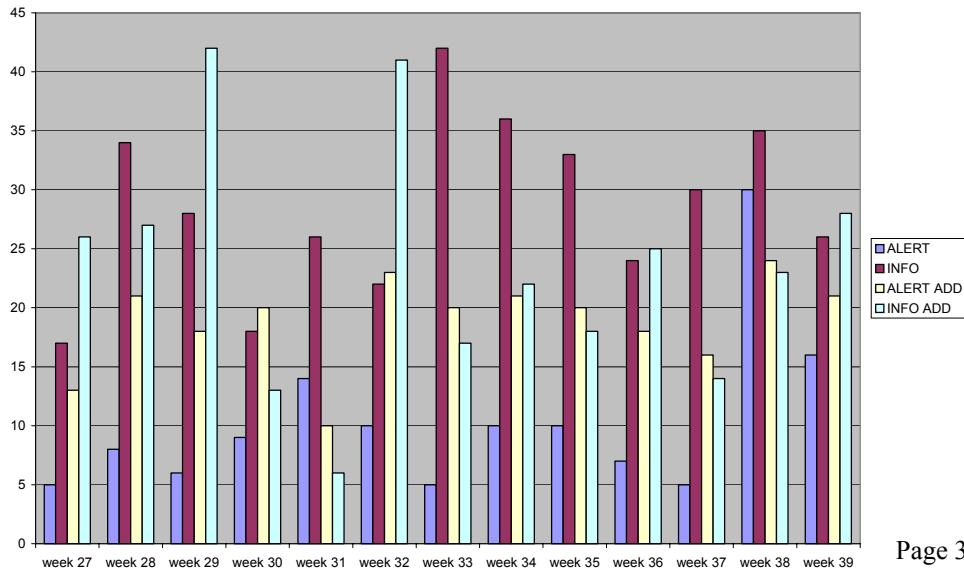
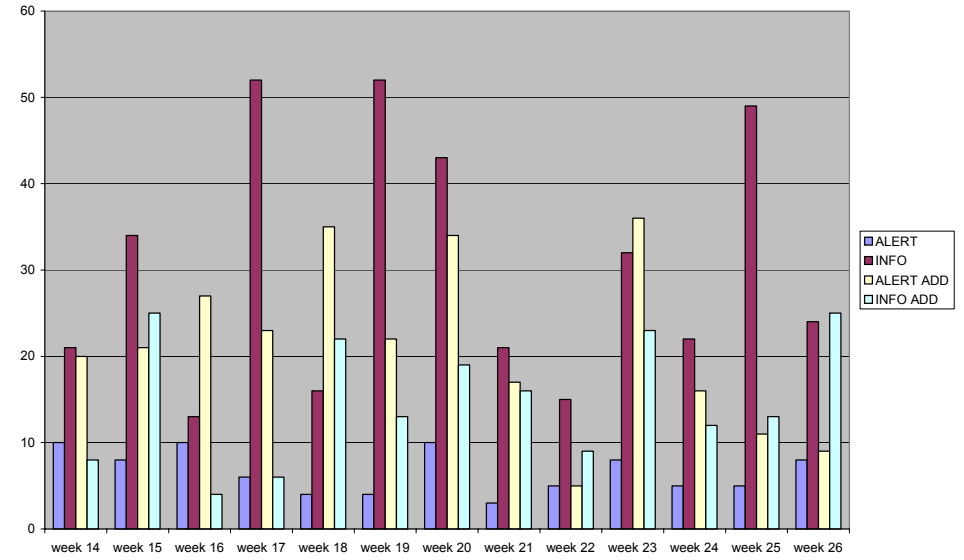
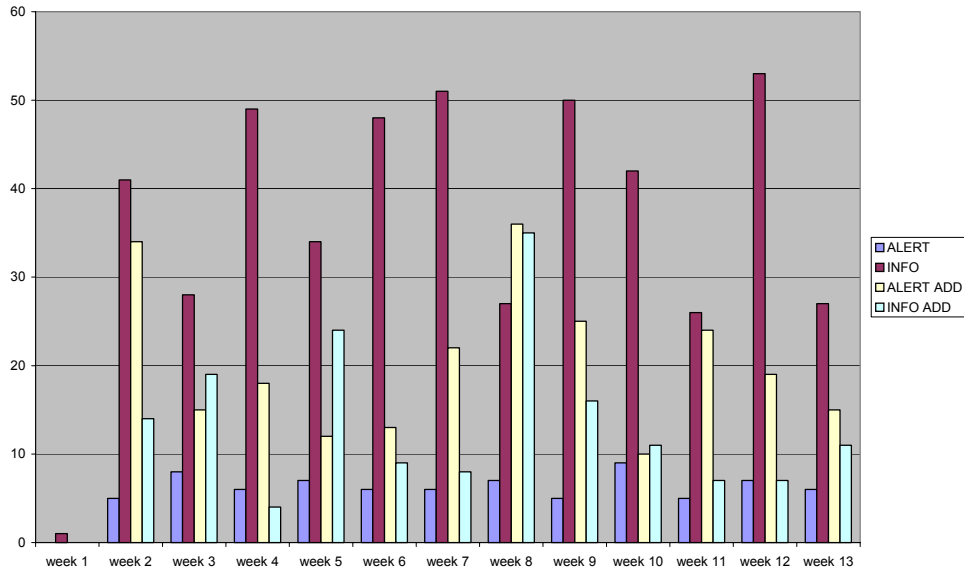
A notification might contain more than one source of contamination.

Notifications according to the countries of origin of the product

IRAN	493	LEBANON	9	PANAMA	3
TURKEY	202	POLAND	9	THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	3
CHINA	133	AUSTRIA	8	TUNISIA	3
INDIA	118	GHANA	8	ALBANIA	2
BRAZIL	116	CANADA	7	BOLIVIA	2
GERMANY	108	LATVIA	7	PARAGUAY	2
ITALY	87	NIGERIA	7	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO	2
THAILAND	86	PERU	7	TANZANIA	2
SPAIN	60	PORTUGAL	7	UGANDA	2
SINGAPORE	56	SWEDEN	7	YEMEN	2
THE UNITED STATES	55	GREECE	6	ALGERIA	1
THE NETHERLANDS	51	URUGUAY	6	BENIN	1
FRANCE	46	IRELAND	5	CAMEROON	1
ARGENTINA	42	MEXICO	5	CUBA	1
EGYPT	40	NAMIBIA	5	CYPRUS	1
UNITED KINGDOM	40	ROMANIA	5	EL SALVADOR	1
INDONESIA	38	SWITZERLAND	5	GAMBIA	1
TAIWAN	36	SYRIA	5	JAPAN	1
VIETNAM	35	AUSTRALIA	4	MAURITIUS	1
MALAYSIA	34	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	4	MONGOLIA	1
CHILE	29	HONG KONG	4	NICARAGUA	1
MOROCCO	29	ISRAEL	4	NOT MENTIONED	1
DENMARK	24	NORWAY	4	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	1
BULGARIA	22	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4	SAUDI ARABIA	1
COLOMBIA	21	SRI LANKA	4	SLOVAKIA	1
BANGLADESH	18	THE SEYCHELLES	4	SURINAME	1
THE PHILIPPINES	18	BELARUS	3	THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1
SOUTH AFRICA	17	BOTSWANA	3	UZBEKISTAN	1
ECUADOR	14	CZECH REPUBLIC	3	VENEZUELA	1
ESTONIA	14	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3		
BELGIUM	12	KENYA	3		
PAKISTAN	12	LUXEMBOURG	3		
SENEGAL	12	MADAGASCAR	3		
HUNGARY	11	MYANMAR	3		
LITHUANIA	10	NEW ZEALAND	3		

A consignment might originate from more than one country.

OVERVIEW PER QUARTER - YEAR 2003



Notifications according to notifying countries

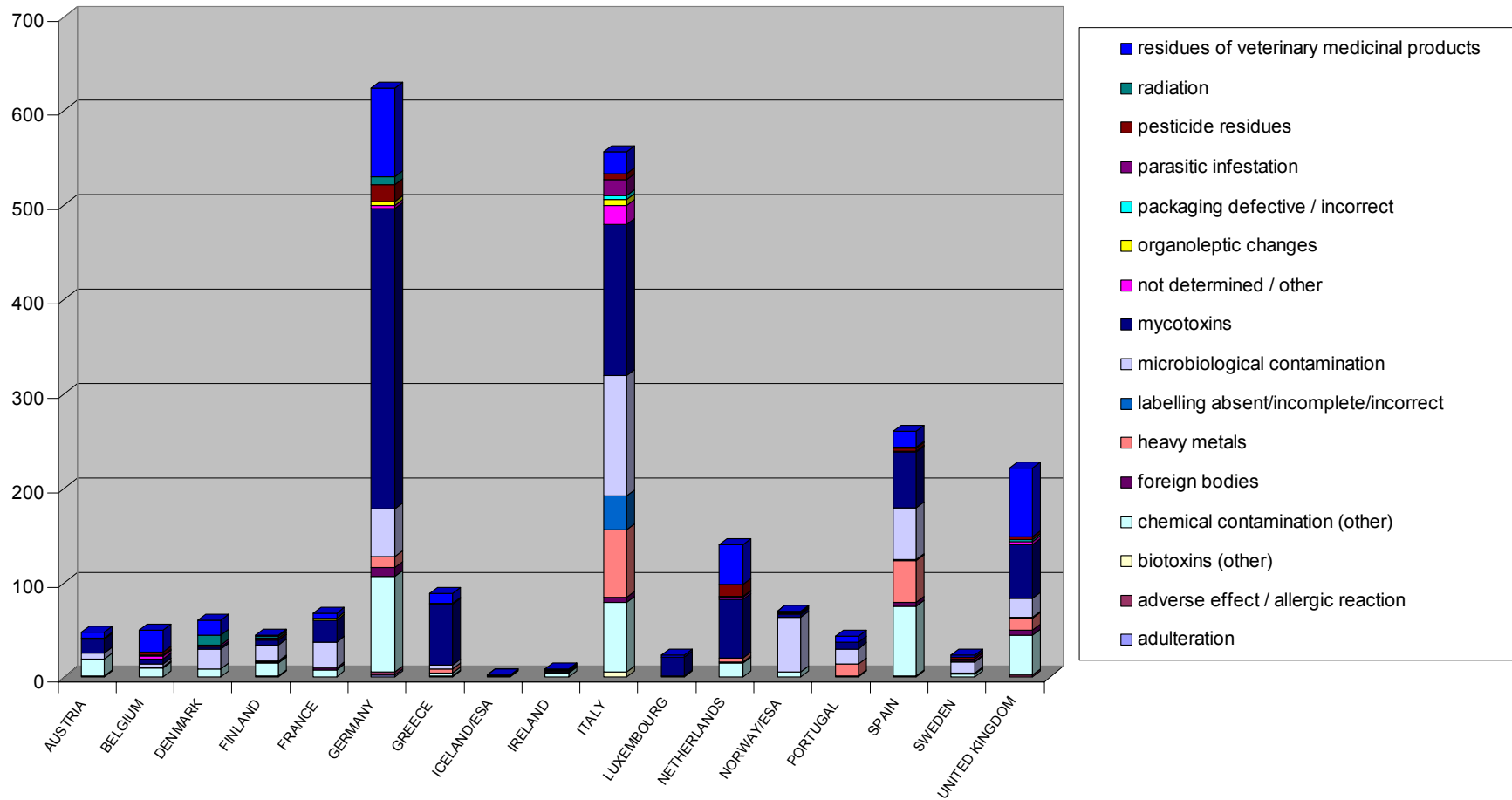
COUNTRY	number of notifications-2003	Alerts-2003	Informations-2003
GERMANY	623	106	517
ITALY	545	76	469
SPAIN	257	9	248
UNITED KINGDOM	221	40	181
NETHERLANDS	140	29	111
GREECE	89	2	87
NORWAY/ESA	68	31	37
FRANCE	67	29	38
DENMARK	60	28	32
BELGIUM	50	24	26
AUSTRIA	47	24	23
FINLAND	44	25	19
PORTUGAL	43	9	34
LUXEMBOURG	23	4	19
SWEDEN	23	11	12
IRELAND	8	6	2
ICELAND/ESA	2	1	1
TOTAL 2003	2310	454	1856

Notifications according to notifying countries and type of hazard

type of hazard	AT	BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	GR	IS	IE	IT	LU	NL	NO	PT	ES	SE	GB
adulteration	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
adverse effect / allergic reaction	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
biotoxins (other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
chemical contamination (other)	18	9	8	14	7	101	3	0	4	74	1	15	5	1	74	3	42
foreign bodies	0	0	0	1	2	10	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	4	0	6
heavy metals	0	2	0	0	0	12	4	0	0	72	0	4	0	13	44	0	12
labelling absent/incomplete/incorrect	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
microbiological contamination	6	3	21	17	28	50	5	1	1	127	0	0	58	16	55	12	20
mycotoxins	15	5	3	5	23	319	64	0	1	161	20	62	3	7	59	1	57
not determined / other	0	3	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	20	0	2	1	0	1	2	3
organoleptic changes	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
packaging defective / incorrect	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
parasitic infestation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pesticide residues	0	3	0	2	0	18	1	0	0	6	0	13	0	0	3	2	4
radiation	0	0	10	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
residues of veterinary medicinal products	6	24	16	1	5	94	11	0	1	24	2	42	0	6	16	2	72
total	47	50	60	44	67	624	89	2	8	557	23	140	70	43	260	23	221

Please note that notifications that reported on more than one hazard type are counted more than once.

2003 notifications by notifying country and type of hazard

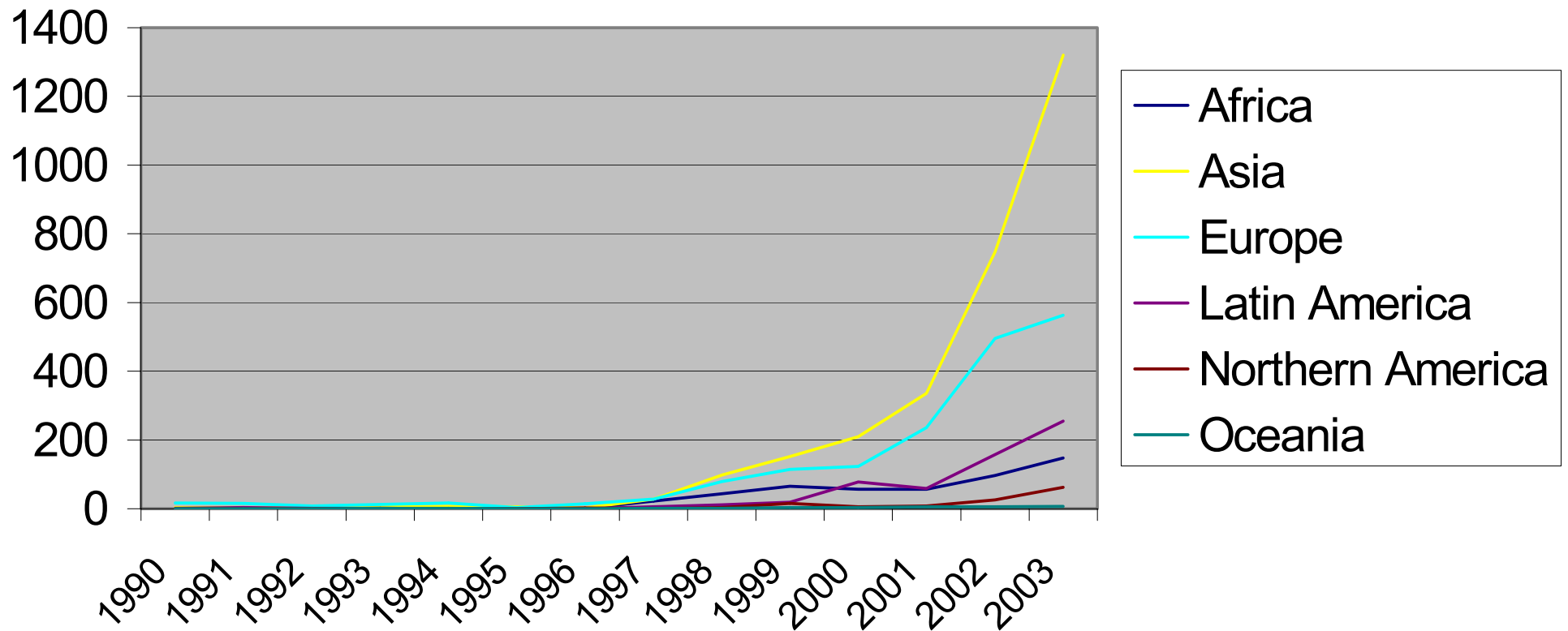


Notifications according to origin of the product, classified by world region.

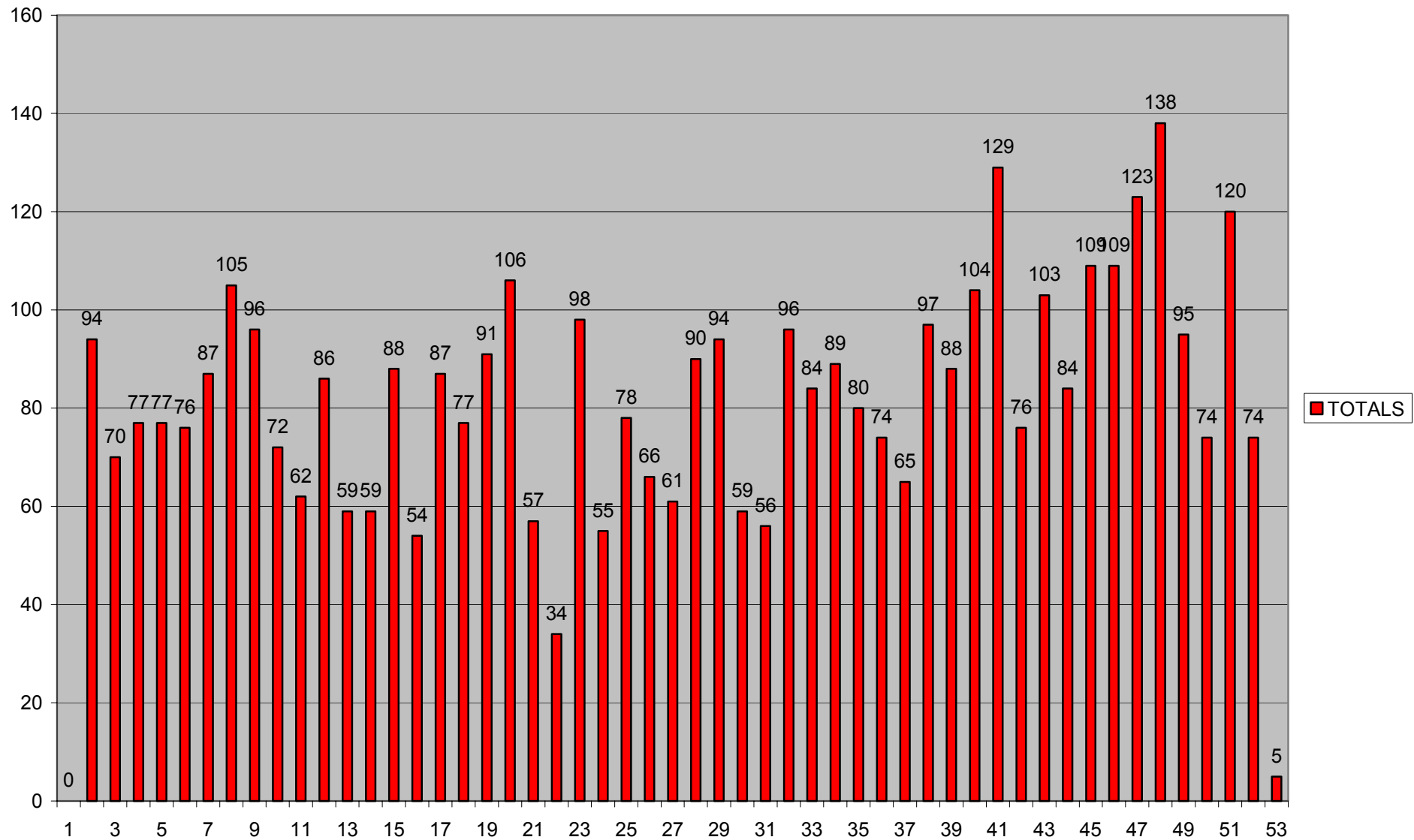
Region	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Eastern Africa	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	12	8	8	4	8	15	62
Middle Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	4	1	8
Northern Africa	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	15	23	18	28	32	73	197
Southern Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	6	7	32	25	92
Western Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	16	11	23	17	20	33	133
Eastern Asia	3	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	6	22	32	49	82	162	179	545
South-central Asia	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	12	29	53	73	100	150	646	1070
South-eastern Asia	2	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	7	31	37	53	100	280	270	786
Western Asia	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	3	15	30	35	54	155	225	523
Eastern Europe	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	29	24	11	11	42	57	180
Northern Europe	2	3	3	1	3	3	0	4	3	16	13	25	38	85	111	310
Southern Europe	9	6	3	4	2	7	2	3	9	12	25	28	108	145	163	526
Western Europe	10	8	9	3	5	6	1	7	14	22	52	59	79	223	232	730
Caribbean	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	7
Central America	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	8	3	10	10	36
South America	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	4	9	17	68	56	147	241	549
Northern America	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	16	6	8	25	62	123
Australia and New Zealand	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	3	6	4	7	26
Melanesia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Micronesia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polynesia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

A product in a notification might originate from more than one country/world region.

Notifications by world region 1990-2003



OVERVIEW TOTAL EXCHANGES FOR THE YEAR 2003



OVERVIEW EXCHANGES PER CATEGORY AND PER QUARTER IN 2003

