



# Overview of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

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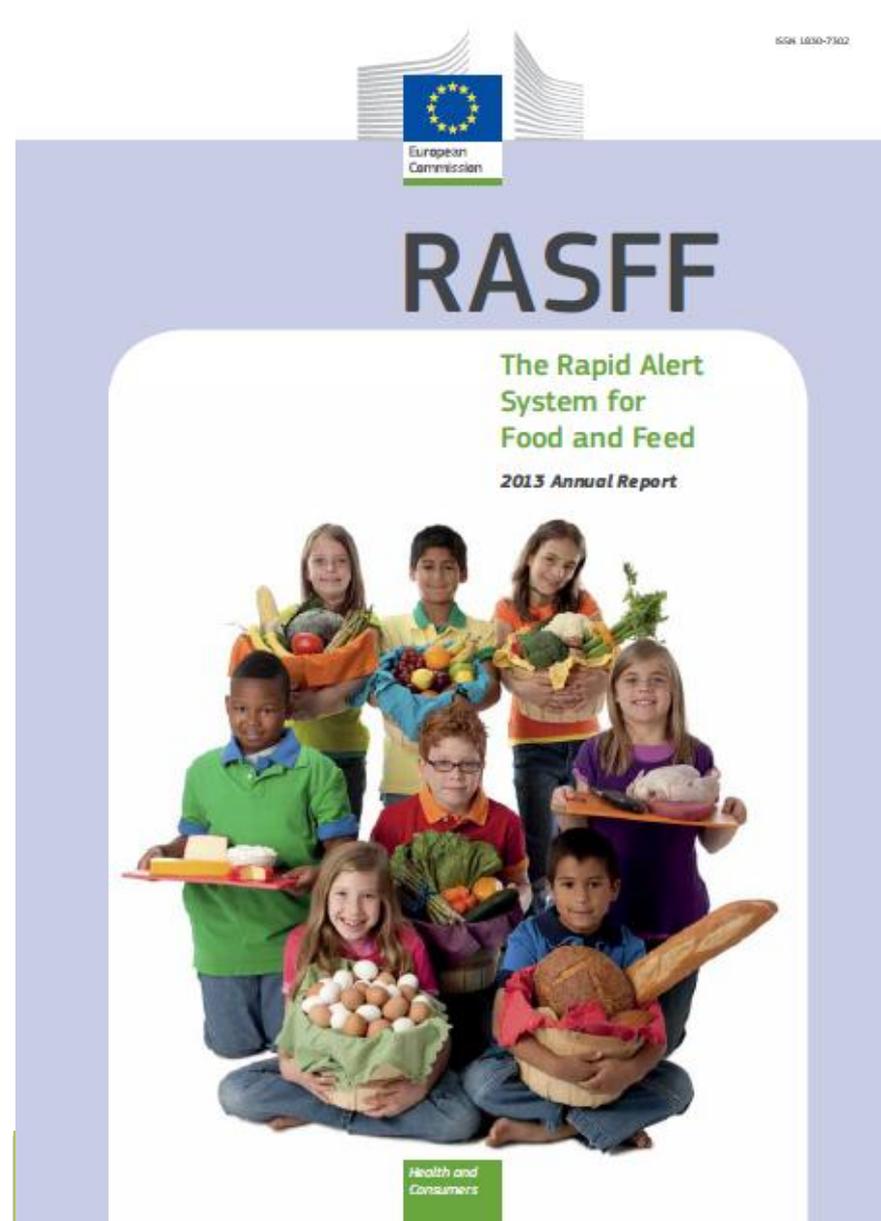
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FAO/IAEA Workshop on Food Control Systems and role of different stakeholders in the food supply chain.

IAEA, Vienna, 14 Nov 2014



# RASFF: what is it?



- An informatics tool to ensure the cross-border exchange of information to swiftly react when risks to public health are detected in the food and feed chain
- Regulation (EC) n° 178/2002 (art.50) - general principles and requirements of food law and procedures of food safety
- Regulation (EC) n° 183/2005 (art. 29) - requirements for feed hygiene
- Regulation (EU) n° 16/2011 - implementing measures for the RASFF

# RASF – who are the actors?

- 32 European countries:
  - 28 Member States of EU
  - 3 EFTA/EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)
  - Switzerland (partial)
- European Commission
- European Food Safety Authority
- EFTA Surveillance Authority



<http://ec.europa.eu/rasff>

# RASFF network

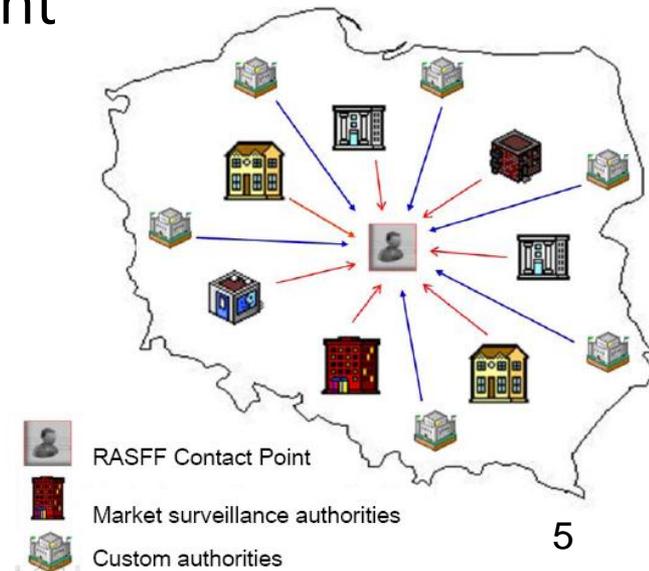
## @ European level:

- 32 countries
- 1 single RASFF National Contact Point (NCP) per country
- European Commission Contact Point (ECCP)



## @ National level:

- RASFF NCP
- Market surveillance authorities
- Border control authorities
- Customs
- Police



# RASFF network

## Organised way of information exchange

- MS Word templates (by email)
- iRASFF online platform
- TRACES

## Clearly identified contact points (2 lists)

- List of NCPs (with ECCP data)
- List of emergency contacts

In case of an urgent notification outside of office hours all members have out-of-hours arrangements (24/7)

# RASFF – what information?

- Common template used
- Identification of the product,
- Hazards found,
- Measures taken and
- Information on tracing the product.





Rapid Alert System for *Food and Feed*

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 – Art. 50

**Original notification**

Original notification template

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1	Contact point reference n°:	<input type="text"/>
2	Notification type:	<input type="text"/>
3		
4	Notification type:	food
5		food contact material
6		feed
7	Linked RASFF notification:	
8	Product relation to the product notified in linked notification:	<input type="text"/> other/more info: <input type="text"/>
9	Information source:	
10	Countries flagged for follow-up:	
11	Countries flagged for attention:	

# RASFF – types of notification?

- **Alert** notifications: rapid action required/serious risk



- **Information** notifications: no rapid action needed



- **Border rejection** notifications: product stopped on the border by BIP/PE inspectors



- **News**: interesting for control authorities, transmitted informally and not as a notification

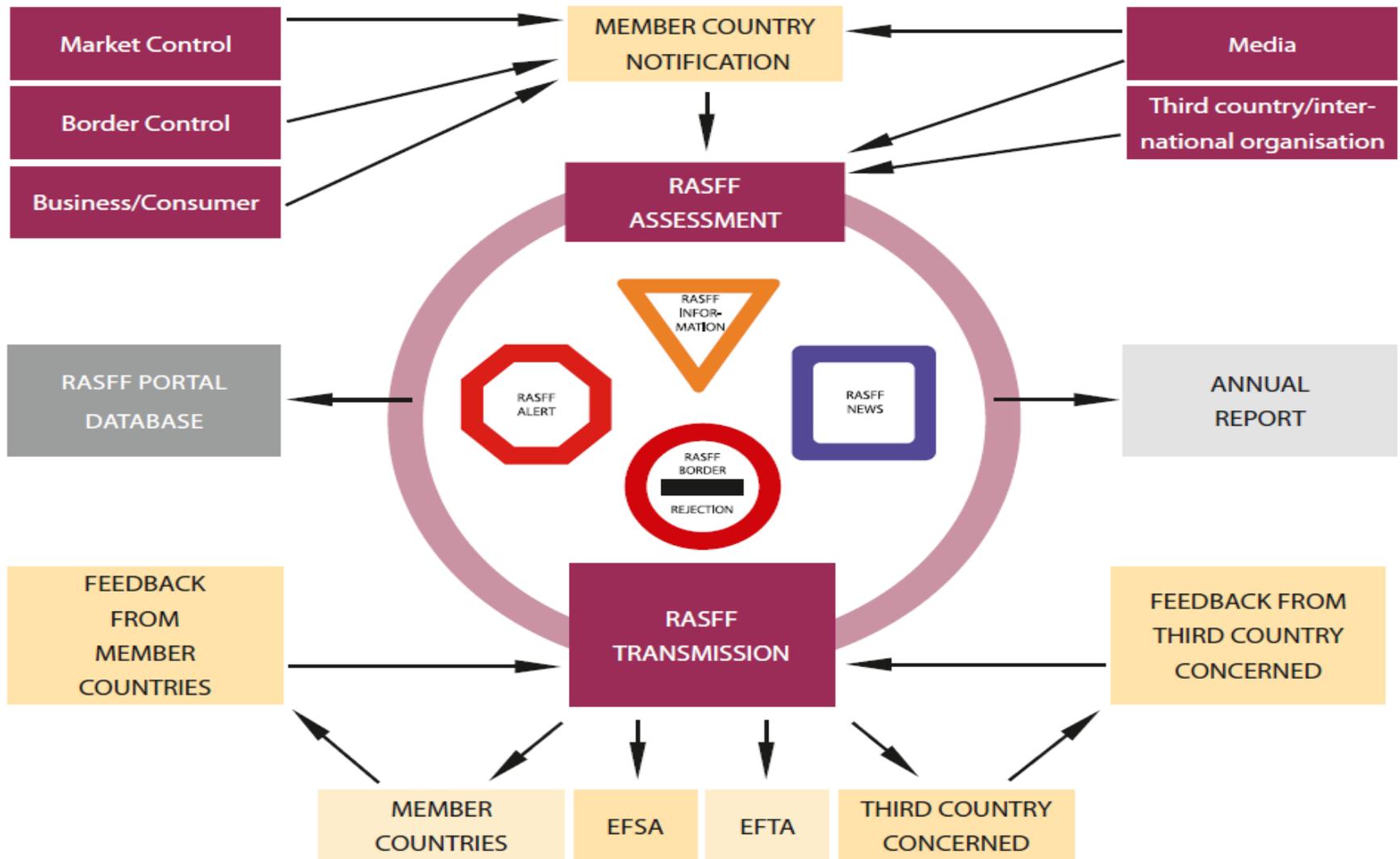


# RASFF – basis of notification?

- Border control
  - Market control
  - Company own-check
  - Customer complaint
  - Food poisoning
- 
- **NB: Applies to food, feed, food contact materials**



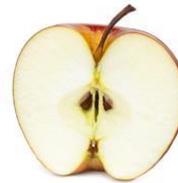
# SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE INFORMATION FLOW OF THE RASFF



# RASFF – origin of notification?



50%



50%

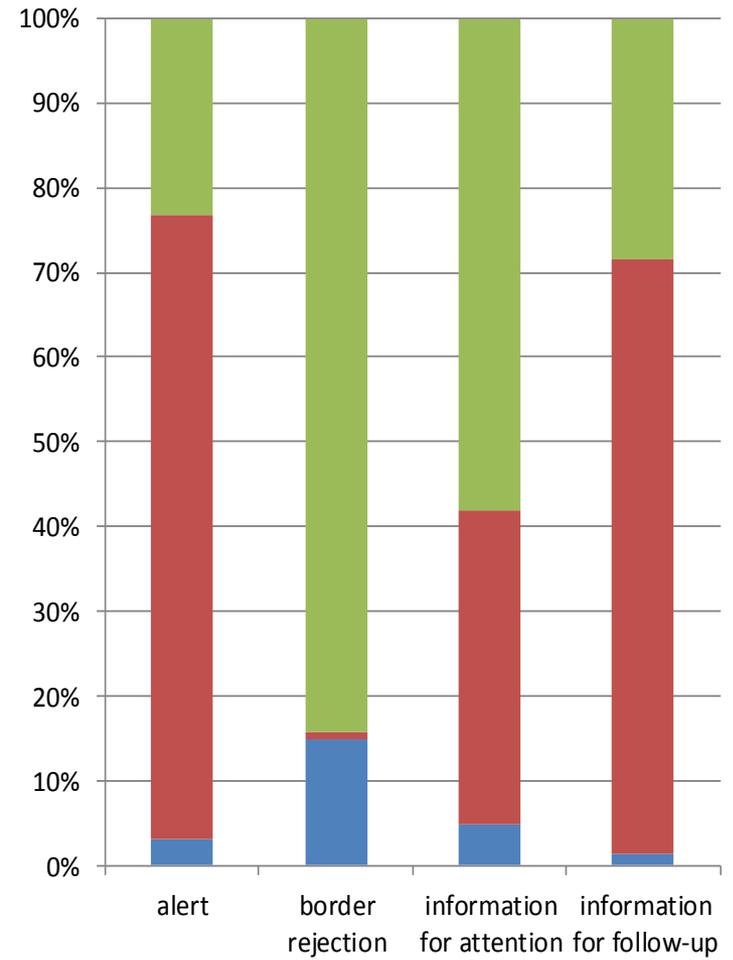
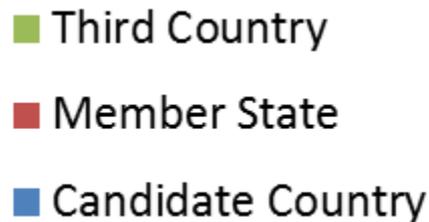


**Border rejections at the borders of the EEA**

**Products that are circulating on the EEA market and need to be traced**

## RASFF- source of notifications: food, feed & food contact material

**Total: 3516**



Total	3137
Adulteration / Fraud	168
Allergens	71
Bioccontaminants	51
Biotoxins (Other)	27
Chemical Contamination (Other)	4
Composition	181
Feed Additives	14
Food Additives and Flavourings	92
Foreign Bodies	102
GMO / Novel Food	76
Heavy Metals	290
Industrial Contaminants	52
Labelling Absent / Incomplete / Incorrect	10
Migration	86
Mycotoxins	405
Non-Pathogenic Micro-Organisms	55
Not Determined / Other	14
Organoleptic Aspects	38
Packaging Defective / Incorrect	21
Parasitic Infestation	10
Pathogenic Micro-Organisms	774
Pesticide Residues	452
Poor or Insufficient Controls	95
Radiation	20
Residues of Veterinary Medicinal Products	94
TSEs	15



# RASFF – main problems in 2013

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/rasff/reports\\_publications/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/rasff/reports_publications/index_en.htm)

# RASFF – top 10 by country of origin 2013

hazard	product category	origin	notifications
aflatoxins	nuts, nut products and seeds	Turkey	61
migration of chromium	food contact materials	China	59
aflatoxins	nuts, nut products and seeds	China	54
mercury	fish and fish products	Spain	43
aflatoxins	fruits and vegetables	Turkey	39
migration of manganese	food contact materials	China	38
Salmonella spp.	poultry meat and poultry meat products	Brazil	31
carbon monoxide treatment	fish and fish products	Spain	30
Salmonella Heidelberg	poultry meat and poultry meat products	Brazil	29
Salmonella enteritidis	poultry meat and poultry meat products	Poland	28

# RASFF – access to information

- RASFF Portal – general public real time! (+ annual report)
- RASFF Window – members via CIRCABC – real time
- iRASFF – members – real time
- email to third countries from ECCP



# RASFF – access to information





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European Commission > RASFF Portal

Notifications list New search Export to... ▾

## Notifications list : 492 results

Search criteria **Subject** \*CHLORAMPHENICOL\*

First Previous 100 Notifications **1 to 100** of 492 Next 100 Last

	Classification	Date of case	Last change	Reference	Country	Subject	Product Category	Type	
	▾ ▲	▾ ▲	▾ ▲	▾ ▲	▾ ▲		▾ ▲	▾ ▲	
1.	border rejection	20/10/2014	21/10/2014	2014.BQM	GB	prohibited substance chloramphenicol (1.4 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen raw peeled shrimps from China	crustaceans and products thereof	food	<a href="#">Details</a>
2.	alert	19/09/2014	10/10/2014	2014.1304	DE	prohibited substance chloramphenicol (0.57 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen shrimps (Penaeus vannamei) from Vietnam	crustaceans and products thereof	food	<a href="#">Details</a>

# RASFF and the FVO

- Data used for audit planning purposes
  - Country, establishment, region
- May visit affected establishments
- Allows CAPAs to be verified on-the-spot
- Measure of competent authority commitment to address root causes

# Summary

- RASFF is a useful information sharing platform
- Important tool in ensuring safe food and feed is placed on the market
- Increases consumer confidence in the functioning of food control systems in the EU

# Acknowledgements



The European Commission's RASFF team in 2013:

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