

Food Legislation News

No. 3 – June 2026

News from BfR

The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has published the following, among others:

Wild garlic – beware of mix-ups:

In press release 09/2026 of 10 March 2026, the BfR once again points out that wild garlic is often confused with the poisonous lily of the valley or autumn crocus when foraging, and that cases of poisoning therefore occur every season (<https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/press-release/baerlauch-vorsicht-vor-verwechslungen/>).

Salmonella in chocolate products:

In communication No. 023/2026, the BfR reports on a food-borne salmonellosis outbreak and notes that the composition of chocolate provides particularly suitable survival conditions for Salmonella. The low water content and high fat content protect Salmonella from the acidic conditions of the stomach and from heat. Relatively small numbers of germs can therefore lead to infection (<https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/notification/salmonella-and-chocolate-products/>).

Questions and answers catalogues (FAQ):

The BfR has compiled the following questions and answers catalogues, among others:

- Moulds in foods (<https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/service/frequently-asked-questions/topic/mould-in-foods-health-risks-and-how-to-avoid-them/>),
- Vitamin C (<https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/service/frequently-asked-questions/topic/vitamin-c-is-not-only-found-in-fruit-and-vegetables/>),
- Omega-3-fatty acids (<https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/service/frequently-asked-questions/topic/omega-3-fatty-acids-important-but-in-moderation/>),
- Methylmercury (<https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/service/frequently-asked-questions/topic/methylmercury-why-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women-should-avoid-certain-types-of-fish/>).

Changes regarding plant protection products

Maximum residue levels (MRLs):

Through Regulations (EU) 2026/742, 2026/751, 2026/840 and 2026/876, the MRLs of the plant protection active substances acetamiprid, aclonifen, cyflufenamid, deltamethrin, fenazaquin, flupyradifurone, potassium phosphates, potassium phosphonates, copper, nicotine and oxathiapiprolin have been amended or corrected.

The following substances were included in Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005 by Regulation (EU) 2026/752 as an MRL is considered unnecessary:

Allium fistulosum (Welsh onion), processed, lysate of *Willaertia magna*, magnesium hydroxide (E 528), *Onobrychis viciifolia* (sainfoin), dried pellets and extract from kernels of *Vitis vinifera* L (grape seed extract).

EU monitoring:

A new regulation on a multiannual European Union control programme for pesticide residues for the years 2027, 2028 and 2029 was published in the Official Journal of the European Union. This implementing regulation (IR) (EU) 2026/748 of 31 March was then corrected by IR (EU) 2026/824 of 14 April 2026.

Links:

- DVO 2026/748: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202600748
- DVO 2026/824: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202600824&qid=1777905677564

Information on plant protection products from the BVL:

Extensive information on authorised plant protection products, revoked and suspended authorisations and emergency authorisations etc. can be accessed on the website of the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) at [www.bvl.bund.de](https://www.bvl.bund.de/EN/Tasks/04_Plant_protection_products/01_ppp_tasks/02_ppp_AuthorisationReviewActSub/01_ppps_authorised/ppp_authorised_node.html) (https://www.bvl.bund.de/EN/Tasks/04_Plant_protection_products/01_ppp_tasks/02_ppp_AuthorisationReviewActSub/01_ppps_authorised/ppp_authorised_node.html).

Changes regarding veterinary medicinal products

The BVL has published the following announcements to the authorisation of veterinary medicinal products and other official acts:

- Announcement of 2 December 2025 (in German):
https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/05_Tierarzneimittel/Bekanntmachungen/2026_03_20_Bekanntmachung_BAnz.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2,
- of 24 March 2026 (in German):
https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/05_Tierarzneimittel/Bekanntmachungen/2026_04_24_Bekanntmachung_BAnz.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3

Further Publications from BVL

The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) has published, among others:

Zoonoses:

The BVL has published the “Zoonoses Trend Report” for the year 2024 on its website (in German: https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Fachmeldungen/01_lebensmittel/2026/2026_03_11_Trendbericht_Zoonosen_Berichtsjahr2024.html).

Substances List Working Group:

The Substances List Working Group (AG Stoffliste) has compiled extensive lists on plants, fungi and algae as well as explanations of these lists and published them on the BVL website. These lists are intended to facilitate the classification of plants, plant parts, fungi and algae as ingredients in foods and their differentiation from medicinal products.

The second edition of the algae list in German and English, along with the fourth edition of the preface in English, have recently been published.

Links:

- https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Berichte/08_Stoffliste_Bund_Bundeslaender/ListofAlgae_2_editon_March_2026.html?nn=690478;
- https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Berichte/08_Stoffliste_Bund_Bundeslaender/Preface_ListsOfSubstances_4th_edition_March2026.html?nn=690478

Judgements

“Mini grilled sausages” – no reference to protected geographical indication:

According to a ruling by the Higher Regional Court of Munich, the designation “Mini Rostbratwürstchen” does not constitute an inadmissible reference to the protected geographical indication “Nürnberger Rostbratwürstchen” (judgement of 6 February 2026, case No. 6 U 2413/24, in German: <https://www.lto.de/recht/nachrichten/n/6u241324-olg-muenchen-rostbratwuerstchen-muessen-keine-nuernberger-sein>). The Higher Regional Court thus confirmed the judgement of the lower court (Regional Court Munich I, 13 June 2024, case No. 33 O 4023/23, in German: <https://www.justiz.bayern.de/gerichte-und-behoerden/landgericht/muenchen-1/presse/2024/6.php>).

Price advertising:

When advertising price reductions, the percentage figures must refer to the lowest price in the last 30 days. It is not permitted to advertise a price reduction if a price is indicated in a footnote but the discount does not refer to it. In the present case, the price advertised as reduced was even higher than the lowest price in the last 30 days (Higher Regional Court of Karlsruhe, judgement of 3 March 2026, case No. 14 U 83/25, in German: <https://www.verbraucherzentrale-bawue.de/urteilsdatenbank/lebensmittel/irrefuehrender-superknueeller-preis-bei-edeka-109126>).

Canned fruit – “no added sugar”, “naturally sweet”:

The statements “no added sugar” and “naturally sweet” are misleading if additional sugar has been added to the canned fruit (in this case, mandarin oranges) through the use of a covering liquid with persimmon juice concentrate (Higher Regional Court of Frankfurt, judgement of 12 March 2026, case No. 6 U 221/24, not yet final, in German: <https://www.lebensmittelklarheit.de/news/olg-urteil-konservenobst-saft-ist-nicht-natursuess>).

Miscellaneous

Novel Food – extension of the Union list:

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2470 establishing the European Union list of novel foods was amended by further implementing regulations (IRs). As part of this, the following authorisations were granted (https://food.ec.europa.eu/food-safety/novel-food/authorisations/union-list-novel-foods_en):

- Powder from defatted rapeseed (IR (EU) 2026/386 of 20 February 2026)
- Lacto-N-tetraose from a derived strain of Escherichia coli K-12 MG 1655 (ATCC 700926) (IR (EU) 2026/397 of 23 February 2026).

Guidelines of the German Food Code:

The following amendments have been published in the Federal Gazette:

- Amendment of the guidelines for bread and pastries (in German:

[https://www.bundesanzeiger.de/pub/publication/UxLbkvb76yAugfn5VND/content/UxLbkvb76yAugfn5VND/BAanz%20AT%2006.03.2026%20B3.pdf?inline\)](https://www.bundesanzeiger.de/pub/publication/UxLbkvb76yAugfn5VND/content/UxLbkvb76yAugfn5VND/BAanz%20AT%2006.03.2026%20B3.pdf?inline))

- Revised version of the guidelines for potato products (in German:

[https://www.bundesanzeiger.de/pub/publication/L6qk5Aowqr1PnVGjrqr/content/L6qk5Aowqr1PnVGjrqr/BAanz%20AT%2012.03.2026%20B2.pdf?inline\)](https://www.bundesanzeiger.de/pub/publication/L6qk5Aowqr1PnVGjrqr/content/L6qk5Aowqr1PnVGjrqr/BAanz%20AT%2012.03.2026%20B2.pdf?inline)).

Last update: 30 April 2026

EC Alert Notifications

Following are notifications chosen from the European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed. Considered were alerts for food, information and border rejections which arrived **between 19 March and 8 May 2026**.

Source: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/search>

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
Mycotoxins				
Aflatoxins total: 86	peanuts, pistachios, figs, hazelnuts, almonds, brazil nuts, walnuts (including products)			77
	chia seeds	Italy	B1: up 5.95 µg/kg	1
	sesame seeds	Denmark	B1: 3.7 µg/kg	1
	dried apricots	Italy and Turkey, Turkey	B1: 2.8 µg/kg; total: up 12.2 µg/kg	2
	chilli flakes, cayenne pepper	India, Turkey	B1: up 20.4 µg/kg; total: up 21.4 µg/kg	2
	red chili powder	Syria	B1: 64.0 µg/kg	1
	basmati rice	Italy	B1: up 6.903 µg/kg	1
	corn wafers	Hungary		1
Ochratoxin A	dried figs, fig paste	Turkey	up 340 µg/kg	36
	dried apricots	Turkey, Italy	up 54 µg/kg	2
	raisins, sultanas	Argentina, Uzbekistan	up 62 µg/kg	4
	pistachios, pistachio cream	Sweden, Italy	up 11.7 µg/kg	2
	hot paprika, cayenne pepper	Spain, Turkey	up 146 µg/kg	2
	coffee	Honduras	9.8 µg/kg	1
Fumonisin	corn flour	Italy	>1,000 µg/kg	1

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
Alternaria toxins	sunflower seeds	Argentina	Alternariol mono-methyl ether (AME): 77 µg/kg; Alternariol (AOH): 532 µg/kg; Tenuazonic acid: 5,618 µg/kg	1
	hazelnut spread	Turkey	Tenuazonic acid: 1,860 µg/kg	1
Ergot (<i>Claviceps purpurea</i>)	wheat flour	France	Ergot alkaloids: up 312 µg/kg	1
Heavy Metals / Other Metals				
Lead	lovage root	Poland	0.84 mg/kg	1
	food supplement	India, Italy	up 130 mg/kg	1
	food supplement	Germany	31.9 mg/kg	1
Cadmium	horse carcass	Netherlands	43 mg/kg	1
	squid	Portugal, unknown	1.3 mg/kg	1
	crab meat	South Korea	1.1 mg/kg	1
	scallops	Belgium	4.87 mg/kg	1
	avocados	Peru	up 0.22 mg/kg	3
	garlic	China	up 0.092 mg/kg	3
	mung beans	Venezuela	0.097 mg/kg	1
	mangosteen	Colombia	0.045 mg/kg	1
	raspberries	Serbia	0.071 mg/kg	1
	food supplement	Germany	2.55 mg/kg	1
Mercury	fish, fish products	Sri Lanka, Spain	up 2.360 mg/kg	2
	horse carcass	Netherlands	0.13 mg/kg	1
	food supplement	Germany	0.378 mg/kg	1
Nickel	pekan nuts	Denmark	5.58 mg/kg	1
	asparagus	Spain	up 1.0 mg/kg	1
Other Contaminants / Residues				
Chlorate	pears	Belgium	0.12 mg/kg	1
	xanthan gum	China	up 71.1 mg/kg	6
Perchlorate	kale	Spain	0.17 mg/kg	1
	strawberries	Chile	0.098 mg/kg	1
Ethylene oxide	chilli powder	India	0.97 mg/kg	1

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
Benzo(a)pyrene, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)	cocoa powder	Bulgaria	Benzo(a)pyrene: 12.1 µg/kg; PAH: 66.9 µg/kg	1
	goldenrod (<i>Herba solidaginis</i>)	Poland	Benzo(a)pyrene: 29 µg/kg; PAH: 108 µg/kg	1
	ginseng extract	China	Benzo(a)pyrene: 15.5 µg/kg	1
	food supplement	UK	Benzo(a)pyrene: 19.6 µg/kg; PAH: 89.6 µg/kg	1
Mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOSH/MOAH)	olive oil	Spain, Italy	MOSH: up 150 mg/kg; MOAH: 26 mg/kg	2
	rice	India, Italy	MOSH: up 1,204.70 mg/kg; MOAH: up 6.9 mg/kg	3
	peas	Philippines	MOAH: up 7.8 mg/kg	2
	cracker	Philippines	MOAH: 5.0 mg/kg	1
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	crab blue swimming	Sri Lanka		1
	crab blue swimming	China	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA): 3.1 µg/kg	1
3-Monochloro-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD)	instant noodles	South Korea	1,793 µg/kg	1
	corn snacks	Thailand, Iran	up 4,716 µg/kg	2
	snack product	Afghanistan	6,863 µg/kg	1
Glycidyl esters	instant noodles	Hong Kong, Singapore, Philippines, South Korea	up 3,800 µg/kg	5
	avocado oil	Netherlands	1,400 µg/kg	1
	biscuits	South Africa	1,710 µg/kg	1
	corn snacks	Thailand, Iran	up 2,943 µg/kg	2
	snack product	Afghanistan	3,240 µg/kg fat	1
Shellfish toxins (ASP, DSP)	mussels	France, Ireland	ASP: 25.9 mg/kg	2
	mussels	France, Portugal, Italy	DSP: Okadaic acid: up 275 µg/kg	3
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA)	green tea	China	399.4 µg/kg	1
	tea for children	Poland	220 µg/kg	1
	oregano	Turkey	up >2,349 µg/kg	2
Erucic acid	mustard oil	Bangladesh, India	up 49.07 %	3

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
Coumarin	granola cereals	UK (Northern Ireland)	up 27.3 mg/kg	2
Hydrocyanic acid	linseed	Kazakhstan	228 mg/kg	1
	apricot kernels	Afghanistan	56 mg/kg	1
	almonds	Spain	172 mg/kg	1
Histamine	fish, fish products	Spain, Morocco, Poland	up 579 mg/kg	3
Pharmacological Active Substances				
Muscimol	gummies	Netherlands, Greece		2
Cannabidiol (CBD)	CBD oil	Czech Rep.		1
	confectionery, gummies, chewing gum	Slovenia, Czech Rep., Netherlands, Cyprus, UK, unknown		5
	brownies, cookies	Czech Rep., Netherlands		4
	beverage	Netherlands		1
	food supplement	Czech Rep.		1
Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)	food supplement	Czech Rep.	127.3 mg/kg	1
	confectionery, gummies	Slovenia, Czech Rep., Netherlands, Cyprus	up 2,080 mg/kg	7
	brownies, cookies	Czech Rep., Netherlands	up 2,150 mg/kg	4
Melatonin	food supplement	China		1
Benzimidazole	bovine carcass	Ireland	6.7 µg/kg	1
Chloramphenicol	raw milk to produce cheese-like products	Poland	1.12 µg/kg	1
Closantel	ovine liver	UK (Northern Ireland)	14,482 µg/kg	1
Flunixin	horse meat	Poland	31.2 µg/kg	1
Ivermectin	pangasius fillets	Vietnam	4.0 µg/kg	1
Malachite green, Leucomalachite green	shrimps	Bangladesh	Malachite green: 2.8 µg/kg; Leucomalachite green: 1.6 µg/kg	1
	shrimps	India		1
Nitrofurantoin (metabolite)	honey	Ukraine	SEM: 0.90 µg/kg	1
Tetracyclines	eggs	Ukraine	Doxycycline: 163 µg/kg	1

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
Inhibitory substances positive	raw milk	Germany		1
Morphardenafil	food supplement	Estonia		1
Sildenafil	food supplement	Colombia, Thailand, Bulgaria, Turkey		6
	chocolate, soft drink, macun paste	Turkey		6
	various products	Netherlands		1
Yohimbine	yohimbe extract	USA		1
Unauthorised Colours				
Unauthorised Colours	noodles/snacks	UK		1
Sudan III, Sudan IV	palm oil	Ivory Coast		1
Sudan I	chilli powder	Lebanon		1
Titanium dioxide (E 171)	food supplement	Poland		1
	confectionery	Argentina, Honduras, Netherlands, unknown		4
Miscellaneous				
Foodborne disease outbreak	oysters	France		3
	pastry	Italy		1
	various seeds	India, Italy, USA		1
Parasitic infestation with Anisakis	fish, fish products	Spain, Poland, Norway, USA		9
Irradiation, not authorised	pangasius fillets	Vietnam		1
GMO, not authorised	protein wraps	Belgium, Netherlands	(flax)	1
Pathogenic Germs				
Salmonella total: 96	meat, meat products (including poultry)			71
	fish	Thailand		1
	mussels	Spain		1
	Eggs, egg products	Poland, China, Netherlands, Italy		5
	sesame, sesame products	Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Turkey		5
	pistachios, pistachio cream	Sweden, Italy, Turkey		3
	almond paste	Vietnam, Australia		2
	nugat spread	Germany		1

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
	dried mushrooms, paprika, herb mixture, betel leaves	China, Iran, India		4
	moringa powder	Belgium		1
	sprouted seeds	Spain		1
	food supplement	Germany		1
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	meat, meat products (including poultry)	Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, UK, Poland, France		6
	fish, fish products	Spain, Lithuania, France, Italy, Poland		4
	shrimps, shrimp products	Netherlands, Belgium, Germany		3
	cheese, cheese board, sheep milk cheese	Poland, France, UK, Netherlands, Italy		6
	ready-to-eat products, sushi platters	France, Luxembourg		2
	baby corn, enoki mushrooms	Kenya, China		3
	soy beans	Italy		1
	peas, sugar snap peas, romanesco	Austria, Italy, Spain		3
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	tomatoes	Turkey		1
<i>B. cereus</i> toxin cereulide	infant formula	Ireland, Poland, Netherlands	up 0.63 µg/kg	4
<i>Cronobacter</i>	infant formula	Ireland		1
Shiga toxin-producing E.coli (STEC)	meat, meat products (beef, pork, sheep)	Belgium, Germany, New Zealand, Poland		8
	cheese, raw milk cheese, camembert	France		4
	herbs	France		1
	seeds for sprouting	Italy		1
<i>Vibrio cholerae, Vibrio vulnificus</i>	shrimps	Ecuador, India		2
Norovirus	mussels	USA, Canada		2
	oysters	Netherlands		1
	raspberries	Poland		1

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