

# Food Legislation News

No. 1 – February 2024

## News from the BfR

Amongst others, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR)) published the following:

### Spicy test of courage – health risks from extremely spicy food:

The burning hot taste of chilli peppers and foods seasoned with chilli is caused by ingredients from the capsaicinoid group (such as capsaicin). The excessive consumption of the alkaloid capsaicin can lead to serious health problems and children in particular react sensitively to hot chilli products. The BfR recommends labelling chilli and other seasoning sauces as well as products containing more than 100 mg capsaicin per kilogram of food and providing the packaging with child-resistant closures (Communication 39/2023, updated on 20 November 2023, in German: <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/scharfe-mutprobe-extrem-scharfe-speisen-koennen-besonders-kindern-gesundheitlich-schaden.pdf>).

### Food supplements with vitamin D:

In its statement 055/2023 of 31 October 2023, the BfR advises against general vitamin D supplementation. However, as vitamin D deficiency should absolutely be avoided, it is recommended that people who wish to supplement vitamin D should take food supplements containing up to 20 µg of vitamin D (800 IU) per day. This dosage is considered to be safe for health even with long-term use and taking into account other sources of vitamin D in the food (in German: <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/nahrungs-ergaenzungsmittel-mit-vitamin-d-sinnvoll-oder-ueberfluessig.pdf>).

However, high-dose food supplements with vitamin D can impair health in the long term (Statement 065/2023 of 7 December 2023, in German: <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/hochdosierte-nahrungs-ergaenzungsmittel-mit-vitamin-d-koennen-langfristig-die-gesundheit-beeintraechtigen.pdf>).

### Copper – FAQ:

On 1 November 2023, the BfR published a catalogue of questions and answers regarding the intake of copper (in German: <https://www.bfr.bund.de/de/aufnahme-von-kupfer-in-spuren-lebensnotwendig-in-groesseren-mengen-riskant-313260.html>).

### Coenzyme Q10 – FAQ:

The BfR compiled questions and answers regarding the coenzyme Q10 on 10 November 2023 (<https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/coenzyme-q10-what-is-known-about-the-health-risks-and-what-is-not.pdf>).

### Preparations with omega-3 fatty acids – risk for heart patients:

An evaluation of several clinical studies has shown that the intake of omega-3 fatty acid-containing preparations can increase the risk of atrial fibrillation (a heart rhythm disorder) in people with an existing or impending heart disease. The risk increases with the daily dose. Therefore, the BfR recommends that particularly those with a heart disease or corresponding risk factors only take omega-3 fatty acid-containing medicines or food supplements in consultation with a doctor.

In addition, the BfR points out that the omega-3 fatty acids naturally occurring in fish do not reach the intake levels associated with the described health risks when fish is consumed regularly once or twice a week. On the contrary: regular fish consumption has health-promoting effects (Communication 57/2023 of 16 November 2023, <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/omega-3-fatty-acid-supplements-can-increase-the-risk-of-atrial-fibrillation-in-heart-patients.pdf>).

### BfR2GO:

The 2/2023 edition of the science magazine of the BfR ("BfR2GO") was released and is available at <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/364/bfr-2-go-issue-2-2023.pdf>.

### Matrine and oxymatrine in liquorice root:

Residues of the plant alkaloids matrine and oxymatrine were found in samples of liquorice root and liquorice extracts, as used in the production of liquorice. The BfR assessed the health risk of these residues and concluded that the likelihood of negative effects on human health is low according to current knowledge (Statement 067/2023 of 19 December 2023, <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/plant-alkaloids-in-liquorice-roots-genetic-damage-by-matrine-and-oxymatrine-unlikely.pdf>).

### New mandatory deposit for milk – effects?

If bottles made of disposable plastic in which milk, milk products and mixed milk drinks were filled are returned via deposit return machines, beverage residues contaminate the machines. However, in its current assessment, the BfR comes to the conclusion that an increased health risk for consumers is not to be expected. The BfR also considers the effects on food safety to be unlikely (Communication 0001/2024 of 10 January 2024, in German: <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/neue-pfandpflicht-fuer-milch-auswirkungen-auf-die-lebensmittelsicherheit-bei-sachgerechter-reinigung-der-automaten-nicht-zu-erwarten.pdf>).

### *E. coli* in flour and dough – FAQ:

In particular, Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), which can cause serious illness in humans, were repeatedly detected in flour, baking mixes and dough samples. The BfR compiled a catalogue of questions and answers on what is important for "enjoyment without remorse" (FAQ from 15 January 2024, in German: <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/escherichia-coli-in-mehl-und-teig-was-ist-wichtig-fuer-einen-genuss-ohne-reue.pdf>).

## EFSA publications

Amongst others, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published the following:

### Smoke flavourings:

The EFSA has re-evaluated eight primary products for the production of smoke flavourings from a health perspective. Genotoxic (mutagenic) substances were detected in six products, while safety concerns could not be ruled out for two products due to a lack of data.

Links:

- Smoke flavourings: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/smoke-flavourings>
- Smoke flavourings, questions and answers with Wim Mennes: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/smoke-flavourings-qa-wim-mennes-efsas-working-group-chair-flavourings>

### UL reassessment for folate:

In its Statement published on 13 November 2023, EFSA set a tolerable upper daily intake level (UL) of 1000 µg folic acid per day. For children, ULs of between 200 and 800 µg/day are derived, depending on the individual's age (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/de/efsajournal/pub/8353>).

### UL reassessment for manganese:

In its Statement of 8 December 2023, the EFSA explained that it is currently not possible to set a UL for manganese due to a lack of data. It is, therefore, proposed to set a safe intake level of 8 mg manganese/day for adults and between 2 and 7 mg/day for other population groups (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/de/node/18095>).

## Modifications regarding pesticides

### Glyphosate – approval extension:

With Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2660, the active agent glyphosate was approved for a further 10 years in the EU. However, the authorisation is subject to various conditions and restrictions ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L\\_202302660](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202302660)).

The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) extended the corresponding approvals, which were previously valid until 15 December 2023, to 15 December 2024 (in German: [https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Fachmeldungen/04\\_pflanzenschutzmittel/2023/2023\\_12\\_04\\_Fa\\_Zulassungsende\\_PSM\\_Glyphosat.html](https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Fachmeldungen/04_pflanzenschutzmittel/2023/2023_12_04_Fa_Zulassungsende_PSM_Glyphosat.html)).

### Information on pesticides from the BVL:

Extensive information on approved pesticides, revoked and suspended approvals as well as on emergency approvals, for example, can be obtained on the homepage of the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) at [www.bvl.bund.de](http://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)).

## Further publications of the BVL

The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) released, amongst others, the following information:

### Annual reports 2022:

The BVL published various reports on the subject of food safety on its website:

Links:

- Overview reports (in German):  
[https://www.bvl.bund.de/DE/Service/01\\_Infothek/03\\_berichte/infothek\\_berichte\\_node.html](https://www.bvl.bund.de/DE/Service/01_Infothek/03_berichte/infothek_berichte_node.html)
- Monitoring 2022:  
[https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/01\\_Lebensmittel/01\\_Im\\_mon\\_dokumente/01\\_Monitoring\\_Berichte/2022\\_Im\\_monitoring\\_bericht\\_en.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile&v=2](https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/01_Lebensmittel/01_Im_mon_dokumente/01_Monitoring_Berichte/2022_Im_monitoring_bericht_en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2)
- Zoonotic diseases – monitoring:  
[https://www.bvl.bund.de/EN/Tasks/01\\_Food/01\\_tasks/02\\_OfficialFoodControl/06\\_ZoonosesMonitoring/ZoonosesMonitoring\\_node.html](https://www.bvl.bund.de/EN/Tasks/01_Food/01_tasks/02_OfficialFoodControl/06_ZoonosesMonitoring/ZoonosesMonitoring_node.html)
- Report regarding the Nationwide Monitoring Plan 2022 (in German):  
[https://www.bvl.bund.de/DE/Arbeitsbereiche/01\\_Lebensmittel/01\\_Aufgaben/02\\_AmtlicheLebensmittelueberwachung/03\\_BUEP/Im\\_buep\\_node.html](https://www.bvl.bund.de/DE/Arbeitsbereiche/01_Lebensmittel/01_Aufgaben/02_AmtlicheLebensmittelueberwachung/03_BUEP/Im_buep_node.html)

In addition, background information was published in a press release (in German: [https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/10\\_Veranstaltungen/JPK2023/jpk23-praesentation.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile&v=3](https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/10_Veranstaltungen/JPK2023/jpk23-praesentation.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3)), reporting, among other things, on the microbiological contamination of fattening poultry and loose olives as well as on the insufficient amount of squid in squid rings.

#### Veterinary drugs:

The BVL published the announcements regarding the approval of veterinary drugs and other official acts as of 24 October and 21 November 2023.

Links (in German):

- [https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Fachmeldungen/05\\_tierarzneimittel/2023/2023\\_11\\_23\\_Fa\\_Bekanntmachung\\_Zulassung\\_TA.html](https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Fachmeldungen/05_tierarzneimittel/2023/2023_11_23_Fa_Bekanntmachung_Zulassung_TA.html)
- [https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Fachmeldungen/05\\_tierarzneimittel/2023/2023\\_11\\_23\\_Fa\\_Bekanntmachung\\_Zulassung\\_TA\\_2.html](https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Fachmeldungen/05_tierarzneimittel/2023/2023_11_23_Fa_Bekanntmachung_Zulassung_TA_2.html)
- [https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Fachmeldungen/05\\_tierarzneimittel/2024/2024\\_01\\_02\\_Fa\\_Bekanntmachung\\_Zulassung\\_TA.html](https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Fachmeldungen/05_tierarzneimittel/2024/2024_01_02_Fa_Bekanntmachung_Zulassung_TA.html).

## Sentences

#### Misleading advertising with the regionality:

The claim "German poultry from regional farms" is misleading if the poultry is sold in Stuttgart but comes from farms in Saxony-Anhalt. This decision by the Oldenburg Higher Regional Court as of 28 February 2023 is now legally binding following the dismissal of the appeal against denial of leave to appeal by the Federal Court of Justice at the end of November 2023 (Oldenburg Higher Regional Court Ref. no. 6 U 125/22, previous instance Oldenburg Regional Court, 13 September 2022, Ref. no. 12 O 112/22; in German: <https://www.verbraucherzentrale-bawue.de/pressemitteilungen/presse-bw/wiesenhof-scheitert-vor-dem-bundesgerichtshof-90015>).

#### Food supplements – health-related indications:

If advertising for an intestinal rehabilitation programme suggests to the consumer that the dietary supplements used for this purpose, among other things, have a positive effect on health, then this is to be regarded as an inadmissible health claim (District Court Frankfurt a.M., 27 October 2023, Ref. no. 3-10 O 34/23, not legally binding, in German: <https://dejure.org/dienste/vernetzung/rechtsprechung?Gericht=LG%20Frankfurt%2FMain&Datum=27.10.2023&Aktenzeichen=10%20O%2034%2F23>).

#### Beer – delusion of origin, suspicion of "greenwashing":

The District Court of Munich considers the designation "Wunderbraeu" for a beer in connection with the indication of an address in Munich, which is typical for breweries, to be a misleading indication of origin, as the beer is not brewed there. Secondly, the court objects to the claims "CO2 positive" and "climate-neutral production" because the consumer was not sufficiently informed about the assessment standards for these claims (Munich District Court, 8 December 2023, Ref. no. 37 O 2041/23, not legally effective, in German: <https://www.justiz.bayern.de/gerichte-und-behoerden/landgericht/muenchen-1/presse/2023/32.php>).

#### Wine – advertising with environmental compatibility:

The advertising message "FOOT PRINT REDUCES YOUR CO2 FOOTPRINT" on a wine bottle is misleading without sufficient explanatory information if the wine contained in the bottle does not also contribute to reducing the CO2 footprint (reference decision of the Higher Regional Court of Nuremberg, 15 November 2023, Ref. 3 U 1722/23, in German: <https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/Y-300-Z-GRURRS-B-2023-N-36495?hl=true>; previous instance District Court of Amsberg, 14 July 2023, Ref. 41 HK O 959/22).

## Miscellaneous

### Nutritional labelling of wine, sparkling wine and mulled wine:

The labelling requirements for wine, sparkling wine and aromatised wine products laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/2117 have been in force since 8 December 2023. For products manufactured starting from this date, it is mandatory to include a list of ingredients and nutritional labelling, among other things (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R2117>).

### Novel Food Status Catalogue update:

On 16 November 2023, the EU Commission replaced the Novel Food Status Catalogue with a revised version. It is expressly pointed out that the catalogue is non-binding and should always be read in conjunction with the Union list of novel foods ([https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/novel-food/novel-food-status-catalogue\\_en?etransnolive=1](https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/novel-food/novel-food-status-catalogue_en?etransnolive=1)).

**Last update:** 15 January 2024

## 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 4 November 2023 and 23 January 2024**.

Source:

[https://www.bvl.bund.de/DE/Arbeitsbereiche/01\\_Lebensmittel/01\\_Aufgaben/04\\_Warn\\_und\\_Informationssysteme/00\\_Warn\\_und\\_Informationssysteme/01\\_RASFF/021\\_aktuelle\\_rasff\\_meldungen/aktuelle\\_meldungen\\_lm\\_box.html](https://www.bvl.bund.de/DE/Arbeitsbereiche/01_Lebensmittel/01_Aufgaben/04_Warn_und_Informationssysteme/00_Warn_und_Informationssysteme/01_RASFF/021_aktuelle_rasff_meldungen/aktuelle_meldungen_lm_box.html) (in German)

| Reason for Notifying    | Product                                                                         | Country of Origin                     | Notes                              | Number |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Mycotoxins</b>       |                                                                                 |                                       |                                    |        |
| Aflatoxins<br>total: 95 | peanuts, pistachios, figs, almonds, hazelnuts, brazil nuts (including products) |                                       |                                    | 89     |
|                         | rice flour                                                                      | Netherlands                           | B1: 3.1 µg/kg                      | 1      |
|                         | maize flour, polenta                                                            | Cote d'Ivoire, Bosnia and Herzegovina | B1: up 58.6 µg/kg                  | 2      |
|                         | popcorn                                                                         | Argentina                             | B1: 8.8 µg/kg;<br>total: 9.4 µg/kg | 1      |
|                         | nutmeg                                                                          | Indonesia                             | B1: 11 µg/kg                       | 1      |
|                         | cheese spread                                                                   | Serbia                                | M1: 0.37 µg/kg                     | 1      |
| Ochratoxin A            | dried figs                                                                      | Turkey, Spain                         | up 261.7 µg/kg                     | 10     |
|                         | raisins                                                                         | Turkey, Uzbekistan                    | up 18.5 µg/kg                      | 2      |
|                         | fruit bars                                                                      | Hungary                               | 6.4 µg/kg                          | 1      |
|                         | dried paprika                                                                   | Thailand                              | 417 µg/kg                          | 1      |
|                         | pistachios                                                                      | China, USA                            | up 59 µg/kg                        | 3      |
|                         | maize flour, polenta                                                            | Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina      | up 7.7 µg/kg                       | 2      |
|                         | spice preparation                                                               | Pakistan, Turkey                      | up 76 µg/kg                        | 2      |
|                         | ground coffee                                                                   | Kenya                                 | up 15.4 µg/kg                      | 2      |
| Patulin                 | apple juice and mint                                                            | Italy                                 | 58 µg/kg                           | 1      |

| Reason for Notifying                 | Product                                                   | Country of Origin             | Notes                                           | Number |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Heavy Metals / Other Metals</b>   |                                                           |                               |                                                 |        |
| Lead                                 | sheep livers                                              | UK                            | up 0.35 mg/kg                                   | 3      |
|                                      | wild boar meat                                            | Spain                         | up 11 mg/kg                                     | 2      |
|                                      | ground cloves                                             | Madagascar                    | 1.7 mg/kg                                       | 1      |
|                                      | baby tea                                                  | Czech Rep.                    | 0.70 mg/kg                                      | 1      |
|                                      | food supplement                                           | India                         | 4.1 mg/kg DM                                    | 1      |
| Cadmium                              | sheep livers                                              | UK                            |                                                 | 1      |
|                                      | cocoa powder                                              | Netherlands, Italy            | up 1.28 mg/kg                                   | 2      |
|                                      | red chili peppers, bell peppers                           | India, Poland                 | up 0.051 mg/kg                                  | 2      |
|                                      | dried spring onions                                       | Germany                       | 0.23 mg/kg                                      | 1      |
|                                      | beetroot leaves                                           | Italy                         | 0.19 mg/kg                                      | 1      |
|                                      | passion fruits                                            | Angola                        | 0.357 mg/kg                                     | 1      |
|                                      | rice                                                      | Italy and Hungary             | 0.2605 mg/kg                                    | 1      |
| Mercury                              | fish / fish products                                      | Spain, Indonesia, Ecuador     | up 2.5 mg/kg                                    | 13     |
|                                      | cinnamon                                                  | Indonesia, Vietnam            | up 0.043 mg/kg                                  | 2      |
|                                      | food supplement                                           | India                         | up 2.6 mg/kg DM                                 | 2      |
| Copper                               | rabbit liver                                              | France                        | 85 mg/kg                                        | 1      |
| <b>Other Contaminants / Residues</b> |                                                           |                               |                                                 |        |
| Ethylene oxide, 2-Chloroethanol      | cumin seeds, spice mix, psyllium husk powder, puffed rice | India                         |                                                 | 6      |
|                                      | spice mixture, paprika powder                             | Pakistan, Turkey              |                                                 | 2      |
|                                      | bakery product                                            | USA                           |                                                 | 1      |
|                                      | black beans                                               | Madagascar                    |                                                 | 1      |
|                                      | calcium chloride solution                                 | Germany                       |                                                 | 1      |
| Chlorate                             | chicken meat products                                     | China                         | up 1.22 mg/kg                                   | 22     |
| Benzo(a)pyrene, PAH                  | smoked fish                                               | Ghana                         | Benzo(a)pyrene: up 124 µg/kg; PAH: up 685 µg/kg | 1      |
|                                      | black pepper, paprika powder, mixed spices, lovage roots  | Turkey, Spain, China, Germany | Benzo(a)pyrene: up 28 µg/kg; PAH: up 140 µg/kg  | 4      |
|                                      | cocoa powder                                              | Italy, Indonesia              | Benzo(a)pyrene: up 27.8 µg/kg; PAH: 151.2 µg/kg | 2      |
|                                      | sunflower oil                                             | Turkey                        | Benzo(a)pyrene: 3.6 µg/kg; PAH: 15 µg/kg        | 1      |
|                                      | food supplement spirulina                                 | Russia                        | PAH: 60.95 µg/kg                                | 1      |

| Reason for Notifying                             | Product                                 | Country of Origin                                                             | Notes                                                 | Number |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Mineral oil hydrocarbons                         | rice                                    | Pakistan                                                                      | MOAH:<br>up 2.17 mg/kg                                | 2      |
|                                                  | candy                                   | Netherlands                                                                   | MOSH: 270 mg/kg                                       | 1      |
|                                                  | pepper                                  | Belgium                                                                       | MOAH: 20.2 mg/kg                                      | 1      |
|                                                  | cinnamon                                | Indonesia, Vietnam                                                            | MOAH: 1.5 mg/kg;<br>MOSH/POSH:<br>24.9 mg/kg          | 2      |
| Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) | skim milk concentrate                   | UK                                                                            | PFOS:<br>up 0.046 µg/kg                               | 2      |
|                                                  | bovine meat                             | Belgium                                                                       | PFOS:<br>up 5.0 µg/kg                                 | 2      |
| Bis(2-ethylhexyl) terephthalate (DEHT)           | organic peanut butter, vegetable salads | Ireland, Armenia                                                              |                                                       | 2      |
| Acrylamide                                       | cookies                                 | Ukraine                                                                       | up 686 µg/kg                                          | 2      |
|                                                  | cereal based baby food                  | Belgium                                                                       | 234.9 µg/kg                                           | 1      |
|                                                  | vegetable chips                         | Netherlands                                                                   | 5,000 µg/kg                                           | 1      |
| 3-Monochloro-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD)            | pastry                                  | Sweden, Sri Lanka                                                             | up 4,000 µg/kg                                        | 2      |
|                                                  | crystal ghee                            | Egypt                                                                         | 4,900 µg/kg                                           | 1      |
| Glycidyl esters                                  | pastry                                  | Sweden, Sri Lanka                                                             | up 1,790 µg/kg                                        | 2      |
|                                                  | chili oil, corn oil                     | China, Turkey                                                                 | up 2,500 µg/kg                                        | 2      |
|                                                  | crystal ghee                            | Egypt                                                                         | 3,900 µg/kg                                           | 1      |
| Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA)                     | cumin                                   | Turkey, Belgium, Spain, Lebanon                                               | up 6,080 µg/kg                                        | 6      |
|                                                  | oregano, lovage leaf                    | Turkey, Greece, Jordan, Germany                                               | up 49,432.8 µg/kg                                     | 10     |
|                                                  | mint tea, chamomile tea                 | Serbia, Czech Rep.                                                            | up > 8,550.5 µg/kg                                    | 2      |
|                                                  | green tea                               | Germany                                                                       | 165 µg/kg                                             | 1      |
|                                                  | pollen                                  | Spain                                                                         | up 1,430 µg/kg                                        | 2      |
|                                                  | food supplement                         | Norway                                                                        | 1,100 µg/kg                                           | 1      |
|                                                  | chili powder                            | Spain                                                                         | 2,790 µg/kg                                           | 1      |
| Tropanic alkaloids                               | organic corn flower                     | France                                                                        | Atropine:<br>57.2 µg/kg;<br>Scopolamine:<br>5.3 µg/kg | 1      |
|                                                  | dried raspberry leaves                  | Albania                                                                       | Atropine:<br>376 µg/kg;<br>Scopolamine:<br>27.8 µg/kg | 1      |
| Shellfish toxins (DSP)                           | mussels                                 | Portugal                                                                      |                                                       | 1      |
| Ergot alkaloids                                  | whole grain pasta                       | Germany                                                                       | 216 µg/kg                                             | 1      |
|                                                  | rye flour                               | Germany                                                                       | 692 µg/kg                                             | 1      |
| Histamine                                        | fish / fish products                    | India, Vietnam, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Spain, Morocco, Indonesia, Seychelles | up 1,520 mg/kg                                        | 9      |

| Reason for Notifying                     | Product                                | Country of Origin                                                      | Notes                   | Number |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Hydrocyanic acid                         | apricot kernels                        | Pakistan                                                               | >150 mg/kg              | 1      |
|                                          | organic linseed                        | Egypt                                                                  | 284 mg/kg               | 1      |
| Iodine                                   | dried seaweed                          | South Korea, China                                                     | up 4,829 mg/kg DM       | 4      |
| Nitrate                                  | spinach                                | Italy                                                                  | 4,200 mg/kg             | 1      |
| <b>Pharmacological Active Substances</b> |                                        |                                                                        |                         |        |
| Ampicillin                               | bacon                                  | Belgien                                                                | >125 µg/kg              | 1      |
| Diclofenac                               | veal meat                              | Netherlands                                                            | 7.1 µg/kg               | 1      |
| Hydroxyanthracene derivatives (Aloin)    | food supplement                        | Poland                                                                 |                         | 1      |
| Cannabidiol (CBD)                        | food supplement                        | UK                                                                     |                         | 1      |
|                                          | CBD oil, CBD products                  | Czech Rep., Netherlands, France, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, unknown |                         | 8      |
|                                          | CBD drinks, soft drinks, rum           | France, UK                                                             |                         | 3      |
|                                          | sweets                                 | Switzerland                                                            |                         | 1      |
| Hexahydrocannabinol (HHC)                | sweets                                 | Czech Rep., Netherlands                                                |                         | 2      |
| Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)               | CBD oil                                | Switzerland                                                            | 994 mg/kg               | 1      |
|                                          | organic hemp seed oil                  | Lithuania                                                              | 18.80 mg/kg             | 1      |
|                                          | CBD drink                              | Netherlands                                                            | 0.33 mg/l               | 1      |
|                                          | hemp + protein mix, hemp powder        | Germany, UK                                                            | up 147.9 mg/kg          | 2      |
|                                          | sweets                                 | France, Czech Rep.                                                     | 118.68 mg/kg            | 2      |
| Tetrahydrocannabiphorol (THCP)           | sweets, different products             | unknown                                                                |                         | 4      |
| Leucomalachite green                     | tilapia                                | Vietnam                                                                | 0.51 µg/kg              | 1      |
| Meloxicam                                | beef                                   | Portugal                                                               | 152 µg/kg               | 1      |
| Morphine alkaloids                       | poppy seeds                            | Spain, Slovakia, Turkey                                                | up 111 mg/kg            | 3      |
| Tetracycline                             | prawns                                 | Vietnam                                                                | Tetracycline: 267 µg/kg | 1      |
| Sibutramine                              | tea, food supplement                   | Turkey                                                                 |                         | 2      |
| Sildenafil                               | tea, herbal mix paste, food supplement | Turkey, UK, China                                                      |                         | 5      |
| Nortadalafil                             | food supplement                        | Slovakia                                                               |                         | 1      |
| Tadalafil                                | food supplement                        | Portugal, UK, Slovakia                                                 |                         | 3      |
| Yohimbine                                | food supplement                        | USA, Switzerland, unknown                                              |                         | 4      |

| Reason for Notifying                | Product                                                                                   | Country of Origin                                               | Notes          | Number |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| <b>Unauthorised Colours</b>         |                                                                                           |                                                                 |                |        |
| Sudan I                             | sauce spicy                                                                               | Russia                                                          |                | 1      |
| Sudan IV                            | palm oil                                                                                  | Ghana                                                           |                | 2      |
| Titanium dioxide (E 171)            | food supplement                                                                           | UK, Romania, Switzerland, Bulgaria                              |                | 6      |
|                                     | sweets                                                                                    | Brazil, China, Spain, Ukraine                                   |                | 4      |
|                                     | breakfast cereals, syrup for use in beverages                                             | USA, Taiwan                                                     |                | 2      |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>                |                                                                                           |                                                                 |                |        |
| Diluted nitric acid                 | yoghurt                                                                                   | France                                                          |                | 1      |
| Too high content of capsaicinoids   | chips                                                                                     | India                                                           | up 2,956 mg/kg | 1      |
|                                     | chili challenge products                                                                  | USA                                                             |                | 1      |
| Parasitic infestation with Anisakis | fish / fish products                                                                      | USA, Denmark, South Africa                                      |                | 5      |
| GMO, not authorised                 | rice noodles                                                                              | Vietnam                                                         |                | 2      |
| Unauthorised irradiation            | dried goji berries, paprika, frog legs                                                    | China, Vietnam                                                  |                | 3      |
| Foodborne disease outbreak          | oysters                                                                                   | France                                                          |                | 2      |
|                                     | parsley                                                                                   | Italy                                                           |                | 1      |
| <b>Pathogenic Germs</b>             |                                                                                           |                                                                 |                |        |
| Salmonella total: 85                | meat / meat products (including poultry)                                                  |                                                                 |                | 57     |
|                                     | mussels                                                                                   | Ireland                                                         |                | 1      |
|                                     | eggs, sugared egg yolk                                                                    | Germany, Czech Rep., Netherlands                                |                | 3      |
|                                     | feta cheese                                                                               | Greece                                                          |                | 1      |
|                                     | sesame / sesame products                                                                  | Uganda, India, Nigeria, Turkey                                  |                | 10     |
|                                     | pistachio paste, almond kernels, macadamias, walnuts                                      | Italy, USA, Malawi                                              |                | 5      |
|                                     | moringa powder                                                                            | Tanzania                                                        |                | 1      |
|                                     | parsley leaves, black pepper, blackberry leaves, dandelion leaves, majoram, annatto seeds | Poland, Brazil, Albania, Poland (raw mat. Egypt), Cote d'Ivoire |                | 6      |
|                                     | sprout mix                                                                                | Finland (raw mat. Italy)                                        |                | 1      |
| <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>       | meat / meat products (including poultry)                                                  | France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Netherlands, Spain |                | 12     |
|                                     | fish / fish products                                                                      | Norway, France, Lithuania, Estonia                              |                | 5      |
|                                     | shrimps, north sea crabs                                                                  | India, Germany                                                  |                | 2      |
|                                     | gorgonzola, cheese, raw milk sheep cheese, raw milk goat's cheese                         | Italy, France                                                   |                | 10     |

| Reason for Notifying                                      | Product                                                           | Country of Origin                   | Notes | Number |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|
|                                                           | organic sprouts, soy sprouts                                      | Netherlands                         |       | 2      |
|                                                           | ravioli with goat's cheese and honey                              | Italy                               |       | 1      |
| <i>Bacillus cereus</i>                                    | calcini chicken, dried mushrooms, sprouted organic broccoli seeds | Netherlands, China, Germany         |       | 3      |
| <i>Campylobacter spp.</i>                                 | oysters                                                           | Netherlands                         |       | 1      |
| <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> ,<br><i>Cronobacter spp.</i> | Infant formula                                                    | USA, Germany                        |       | 3      |
| Clostridium sulphite reducer                              | cooked sausage made from poultry                                  | France                              |       | 1      |
| Shiga toxin-producing E.coli (STEC)                       | minced bovine meat, bos taurus cut                                | Netherlands, Brazil                 |       | 2      |
|                                                           | garlic sausage, salami with deer meat                             | Poland, Italy                       |       | 2      |
|                                                           | cheese, raw milk cheese, raw milk goat's cheese                   | France                              |       | 5      |
|                                                           | pizzadough and sauce                                              | France                              |       | 1      |
|                                                           | goat's cheese salad, salad mix                                    | Netherlands                         |       | 2      |
| Staphylococcus coagulase-positive                         | dried sausage, raw milk cheese                                    | Belgium, France                     |       | 2      |
| <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i>                                  | shrimps                                                           | Venezuela, Honduras, India, Ecuador |       | 7      |
| Norovirus                                                 | oysters, mussels                                                  | France, Netherlands, Spain          |       | 15     |

**Created:**  
Susanne Ermert-Knauf  
Eurofins Analytik GmbH  
Neuländer Kamp 1  
D-21079 Hamburg  
[SusanneErmert-Knauf@eurofins.de](mailto:SusanneErmert-Knauf@eurofins.de)

**Date of publication:** 29 February 2024

The information included in this publication is based on our current knowledge and was thoroughly verified. Nevertheless there is no guarantee for it to be up-to-date, complete and correct. Eurofins is not to be held liable for damages or injury, which are connected to the use of this information. Especially the confirmation of legal details is up to the user. All offers are non-binding and without obligation.