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CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

HARDGOODS

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EU – 2014 MARKET SURVEILLANCE REPORT FOR FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS PUBLISHED

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) preliminary annual report 2014 not only includes the market surveillance activities connected to food and feedstuff but for food contact materials (FCM) as well. The total notifications connected to FCM have decreased by 15% compared to the previous year. However, notifications for FCM still make it to the top 10 of all product category findings by EU Member State authorities in 2014.

The criteria for notification to the [RASFF](#) are provided in Article 50 of European Commission [Regulation \(EC\) No 178/2002](#). Whenever a member of the network has any information relating to the existence of a serious direct or indirect risk to human health deriving from food or feed, this information is immediately notified to the Commission under the RASFF. The Commission immediately transmits the information to the members of the network.

In the preliminary [2014](#) report, a total of 3157 (vs. 3205 in previous year) original notifications were transmitted through the RASFF, and 185 (vs. 218 in previous year) are connected to FCM. This represents 5.9% of all reported incidents in 2014. The percentage of FCM notifications is again slightly lower than previous years and is a confirmation of the positive trend as the FCM related notifications accounted for 6.8% of all findings in 2013, 8.2% in 2012 and 8.4% in 2011.

The most frequent findings for FCM are connected to release of heavy metals. Release of chromium and manganese are of particular concern; repeating the findings in 2013. Both parameters together account for 34.1% of all FCM notifications in 2014 - ranking fourth and eighth, respectively, in the top 10 of the RASFF report. It has been reported that the country of origin of the concerned products is China in both cases. Nickel release also contributed significantly to the notifications. Including it in the statistics of heavy metal release related notifications it totals 42.9% of all FCM related findings. The most active EU Member State for surveillance of FCM in 2014 has again been Italy.



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TABLE 1. RASSF NOTIFICATIONS TOP 10 IN 2014 BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

| HAZARD | PRODUCT CATEGORY | COUNTRY OF ORIGIN | # OF NOTIFICATIONS |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| Mercury | Fish and fish products | Spain | 54 |
| Aflatoxins | Nuts, nut products and seeds | Iran | 49 |
| Salmonella spp. | poultry meat and poultry meat products | Brazil | 49 |
| Release of chromium | Food contact materials | China | 38 |
| Aflatoxins | Nuts, nut products and seeds | China | 38 |
| Aflatoxins | Nuts, nut products and seeds | Turkey | 38 |
| Aflatoxins | Fruits and vegetables | Turkey | 37 |
| Listeria monocytogenes | Fish and fish products | Poland | 27 |
| Norovirus | Bivalve molluscs and products thereof | Vietnam | 25 |
| Shigatoxin-producing Escherichia coli | Meat and meat products (other than poultry) | New Zealand | 25 |
| Release of manganese | Food contact materials | China | 25 |
| Unauthorised genetically modified | Feed additive | China | 25 |
| Unauthorised genetically modified | Fruits and vegetables | Nigeria | 25 |

SGS technical experts have extensive knowledge and testing experience in materials and articles in contact with food. They work to ensure that your products meet the appropriate regulations for food contact materials and pave the way for compliance. From overall migration test to expert advices on emerging regulations and compliance issues and documentation review, SGS is the partner to trust. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or [visit our website](#).



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