

SAFEGUARDS

CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

HARDGOODS

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EU – 2013 MARKET SURVEILLANCE REPORT FOR FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS PUBLISHED

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) annual report 2013¹ includes the market surveillance activities related to food and feedstuff² as well as food contact materials (FCM). The total notifications have decreased compared to the previous year by 13% for FCM. However, FCM notifications are still in the top 10 of all findings by Member State authorities in 2013.

The criteria for notification to the RASFF³ are provided in Article 50 of European Commission Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002.⁴ 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 2013, a total of 3205 original notifications were transmitted through the RASFF, and 223 are connected to FCM. This represents 6.9% of all reported incidents in 2013. However, this is a positive trend as the FCM related notifications accounted for 8.2% of all findings in 2012 and 8.4% in 2011.

The most frequent findings for FCM are connected to migration of heavy metals. Migration of chromium and manganese are of particular concern. Both parameters together account for 43.5% of all FCM notifications in 2013. It has been reported that the country of origin of the concerned products is China in both cases. The most active EU Member State for surveillance of FCM in 2013 has been Italy.

Another issue of interest for market surveillance in regard of chemical safety for FCM has been the migration of primary aromatic amines (PAA) in kitchen helpers as presented in the infographic⁵ published additionally to the 2013 RASFF report. However, compared to 2012, the migration of PAA and formaldehyde from plastic products no longer rank in the top 10 notifications. This implies that the measures implemented by Regulation (EU) No. 284/2011⁶ for the import of polyamide and melamine plastic kitchenware and applicable from July 2011 show some effect.

The infographic also indicates that physical safety of FCM was a concern as some soft drink bottles have been reported with a risk of breakage.



¹ [RASFF annual report 2013](#)

² [SGS-Safeguard 122/14](#)

³ [RASFF](#)

⁴ [\(EC\) No. 178/2002](#)

⁵ [RASFF NOTIFICATIONS BY PRODUCT CATEGORY](#)

⁶ [\(EU\) No. 284/2011](#)

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TABLE 1: RASSF NOTIFICATIONS TOP 10 IN 2013 BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

HAZARD	PRODUCT CATEGORY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NO. OF 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

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