

# Aflatoxins

**Specific measures as regards import  
of feed and food into the EU as the  
consequence of presence of high  
levels of aflatoxins**

**RASFF**

**Codex Alimentarius**



# **COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) NO 669/2009 OF 24 JULY 2009**

Implementing Regulation (EC) No 882/2004  
of the European Parliament and of the Council as  
regards the increased level of official controls on  
imports of certain feed and food of non-animal  
origin and amending Decision 2006/504/EC



## REG. (EC) 669/2009 - BACKGROUND

### Basic principles (1): Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 (the «General Food Law»)

All imported **food and feed** shall comply with EU Food law requirements or equivalent (or with bilaterally agreed requirements where they exist).



## REG. (EC) 669/2009 - BACKGROUND

### Basic principles (2): Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 («Official Controls Regulation»)

MS shall ensure that official controls are carried out:

- **Regularly**
- On a **risk basis**
- With **appropriate frequency**, so as to achieve the objectives of this Regulation taking account of: [...]

[risk, own checks, past records, suspicion of non-compliance ..]



## REG. (EC) 669/2009 - BACKGROUND

### Article 15(5): 'emerging or known risks'

### Article 15(5) of the Official Controls Regulation (EC)882/2004:

A list of **feed and food of non-animal origin** that is, on the basis of known or emerging risk, to be subject to an **increased** level of **official controls** at the **point of entry** into territories referred to in Annex I shall be drawn up and updated, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 62(3). The frequency and nature of these controls shall be established [...]



## REG. (EC) 669/2009 - BACKGROUND

### Commission Reg. (EC) No 669/2009 (implementing Art. 15.5 of Reg (EC) No 882/2004)

- An **import control system** for certain food and feed of non-animal origin
- Controls at the **point of entry**
- A **list** of food and feed concerned (Annex I)
- Applicable as of 25 January 2010



# THE IMPORT CONTROL SYSTEM – MAIN FEATURES (1)

- **Prior notification of arrival through the Common Entry Document (CED)**
  - ❖ CED to be used for prior notification of arrival
  - ❖ Duly completed, for the release for free circulation
  - ❖ e-CED as soon as feasible
- **Designated Point of Entry**
  - ❖ Requirements: staff, facilities, equipment
  - ❖ EU Member States designate the DPEs (and de-list them)
  - ❖ List of DPEs available on European Commission website

## THE IMPORT CONTROL SYSTEM – MAIN FEATURES (2)

- **Documentary + identity and physical checks**
  - ❖ Frequency of physical checks in the Annex, depends on risk
- **« without undue delay »**
  - ❖ Documentary checks within 2 working days from arrival
  - ❖ Physical checks: the result shall be made available as soon as technically possible
- **Release for free circulation**
  - ❖ Only possible when all controls carried out and results of analysis (if required) available
  - ❖ On presentation of a duly completed CED





# IMPLEMENTATION

## As of 25 January 2010

- EU Member States designate DPEs and equip them, including with laboratory capacities, and
- Prepare CA for the increased controls at border and increased follow-up action (also at the point of destination)
- European Commission prepares internal procedures and organises quarterly reviews and related procedures
- Guidance document



## FRAMEWORK OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

- Tool designed to ensure a **common and uniform understanding** of the principles and the operational functioning of the regime
- Subject to **regular updates** in order to take into account and reflect on experience gained during application
- **No formal legal status** and, in the event of a dispute, ultimate responsibility for the interpretation of the law lies with the Court of Justice of the European Union
- Q&A on scope, implementation, control activities and review of Annex I



**Guidance document (Q&A paper)  
can be found at DG SANTE's  
website:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/controls/increased\\_checks/docs/QandA\\_paper\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/controls/increased_checks/docs/QandA_paper_en.pdf)



# THE LIST OF PRODUCTS (1)

«Regulation (Ec) 669/2009 » Vs  
"safeguard measures"

- No urgency measures
- No restrictive measures (ban, certificates, pre-export checks etc...)
- **Only increased level of attention at the borders**

# THE LIST OF PRODUCTS (2)

## « Known or emerging risks »

- **Sources of information:**
  - Reports from Directorate F – Health and food audits and analysis
  - RASFF notifications
  - EFSA, other risk assessors
  - EU Member States
  - other
- **Quarterly reviews → from mid 2016 onwards : review every two quarters**

# THE LIST OF PRODUCTS (3)

## QUARTERLY REVIEWS

- DG SANTE collects relevant information/data
- DG SANTE 15 (5) Expert Group expresses recommendations
- 15 (5) MS Working Group considers amendments
- Consultation with other European Commission services
- Standing Committee formal approval
- Publication in the Official Journal and entry into application of amended list

# THE LIST OF PRODUCTS (4)

Current products/hazards

- **Nuts, groundnuts, dried spices, fruits / Mycotoxins (i.e. aflatoxins and ochratoxin A)**
- **Fruits, vegetables, herbs, tea / Pesticides**
- **Sesamum seed / Salmonella**
- **Raspberries / norovirus**
- **Palm oil / sudan dyes**
- **Enzymes / Chloramphenicol**
- **Fruits / Sulphites**
- **....**

# THE LIST OF PRODUCTS (5) AFLATOXINS

- **Groundnuts – Gambia : 50 %**
- **Hazelnuts – Georgia : 20 %**
- **Groundnuts – Madagascar: 50 %**
- **Watermelon seeds – Sierra Leone: 50 %**
- **Groundnuts – Sudan: 50 %**
- **Pistachios – United States: 20 %**



# CONTROL RESULTS AFLATOXINS – AFRICA

- **Groundnuts – Gambia: 50 %**
  - Listed as from 1 October 2015
  - In 2014: 4 RASFF notifications
  - In 2015: 7 RASFF notifications
  - In 2016: 0 RASFF notifications (since listing no/very limited import)
- **Groundnuts – Madagascar: 50 %**
  - Listed as from 1 April 2016
  - In 2014: 1 RASFF notification
  - In 2015: 2 RASFF notifications
  - In 2016: 6 RASFF notifications (5 since 1 April 2016)

# CONTROL RESULTS

## AFLATOXINS – AFRICA

- **Watermelon seeds – Sierra Leone: 50 %**  
Listed as from 1 January 2013  
In 2012: 4 RASFF notifications  
No imports since 2013
- **Groundnuts – Sudan: 50 %**  
Listed as from 1 April 2014  
In 2014: 7 RASFF notifications  
2014: 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter: 11 consignments imported, 7 sampled, 5 non-compliant  
2015: 2 consignments imported, 1 sampled, 0 non-compliant

# FINAL CONSIDERATIONS (1)

**The 15(5) system is a novelty**

- **Coordinated assessment of risk**
- **Coordinated response (harmonised frequency of checks)**
- **No « port shopping »**
- **Important: quarterly reporting contributes to more accurate assessment of risk**

## **FINAL CONSIDERATIONS (2)**

### **A new way of coordinating the approach to import controls**

- **To optimise the use of control resources**
- **To ensure a more informed assessment of risk and**
- **A more proportionate response to it**
- **Timely adjustment of the intensity of controls**



# **COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) NO 884/2014 OF 13 AUGUST 2014**

Imposing special conditions governing the import of certain feed and food from certain third countries due to contamination risk by aflatoxins and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1152/2009

# REGULATION (EU) NO 884/2014

## HISTORY (1)

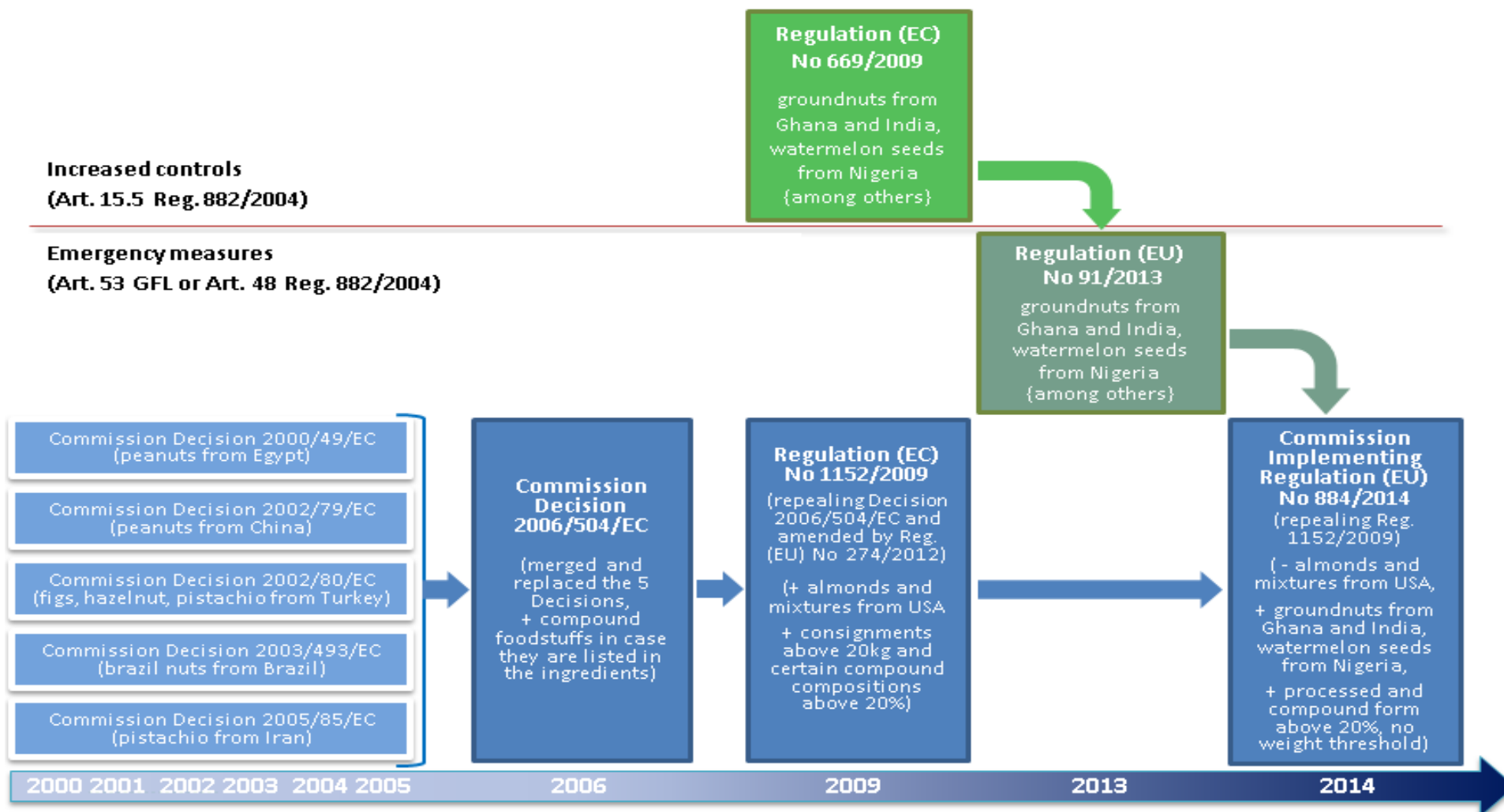
- Aflatoxins: serious threat to public health, long-standing issue
- Mainly nuts, pistachios and figs from various non-EU countries
- In 1999: Set of different safeguard measures related to aflatoxins
- 2006: harmonisation - all safeguard measures related to aflatoxins merged under Dec. 2006/504/EC (Brazil, China, Egypt, Iran, Turkey)
- Safeguard measure taken following frequent non-compliances with maximum levels

# REGULATION (EU) NO 884/2014

## HISTORY (2)

- 2009: situation revised by Reg. (EC) No 1152/2009 (some new products, reviewed control intensities, new system for official control by Designated point of Entry (DPE)/Designated Point of Import (DPI).
- 2013: Reg. 91/2013 lays down import conditions for other few products with aflatoxin risk
- 2014: further and more thorough revision by Reg.(EU) No 884/2014. All imports of non-animal origin presenting high *risk* of aflatoxins are in one single legislative instrument.
- 2016: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/24 amending Regulation 884/2014

## CHRONOLOGY OF EU EMERGENCY MEASURES ON IMPORTS OF NON-ANIMAL ORIGIN PRESENTING HIGH RISK OF AFLATOXIN







## REGULATION (EU) NO 884/2014 (AS AMENDED BY REG. (EU) NO 2016/24 MAIN ELEMENTS - SCOPE (ART. 1.)

Applies to the following imports:

- **Brazil:** Brazil nuts in shell (food) (**Random**) groundnuts, peanut butter (feed and food) (**10 %**)
- **China:** groundnuts, peanut butter (feed and food): **20 %**
- **Egypt:** groundnuts, peanut butter (feed and food): **20 %**
- **Iran:** pistachios (food) : **50 %**
- **Turkey:** dried figs (**20 %**), hazelnuts (*Corylus spp.*) (**random**), pistachios (**50 %**).
- **Ghana:** groundnuts, peanut butter (feed and food):**50 %**



# REGULATION (EU) NO 884/2014

## MAIN ELEMENTS - SCOPE (ART. 1.)

Applies to the following imports:

- **India:** groundnuts, peanut butter (feed and food) (**20%**), nutmeg (**20%**), dried spices (*Capsicum* and nutmeg) (**20%**)
- **Nigeria:** watermelon seeds and derived products (food): **50 %**
- **Indonesia: nutmeg (20 %)**

Processed and compound products (more than 20%) are covered, but personal consumption is out of the scope. No derogation yet for small consignments.

# REGULATION (EU) NO 884/2014

## MAIN ELEMENTS - DEFINITIONS (ART. 2.)

**'Designated Points of Imports (DPIs):** 'means any point designated by the competent authority, through which the food or feed [...] may be imported into the EU'

➤ IN PRACTICE: may be located at EU borders, but also inland

**'Designated Points of Entry (DPEs):** 'means the point of entry as defined in Article 3 (b) of Commission Regulation (EC) 669/2009',

➤ IN PRACTICE: located at EU borders (i.e. sea ports, airports or land borders), where imports first reach physically the EU territory

**'Consignment'** = 'lot' as in Reg. 401/2006 and 152/2009



# **REGULATION (EU) NO 884/2014**

## **MAIN ELEMENTS - RESULTS OF SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS**

### **(ART. 4.)**

In order to ascertain compliance with EU legislation on maximum levels of aflatoxins

- **each consignment must be sampled and analysed**
  - performed by the CAs of the country of origin, or of the country where the consignment is consigned from (if different from the country of origin)
  - performed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 for aflatoxins (feed) and with Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 for aflatoxins (food).



# REGULATION (EU) NO 884/2014

## MAIN ELEMENTS - HEALTH CERTIFICATE (ART. 5.)

- **each consignment has to be accompanied by a health certificate** - model set out in Annex II
  - completed, signed and verified by an authorised representative of the CA of the country of origin or the CA of the country where the consignment is consigned from (if is different from the country of origin)
  - in the official language of the MS where the DPE is located
  - valid during 4 months from the date of issue

# Regulation (EU) No 884/2014

## Main elements - Identification (Art.6.)

- **each consignment identified**
  - identification code (consignment code) corresponds to the identification code on the results of the sampling and analysis and on health certificate
  - each individual bag must be identified with the same code



# Regulation (EU) No 884/2014

## Main elements - Prior notification (Art.7.)

### *Operators/representatives:*

- Shall give prior notification of time of arrival at the DPE and the nature of consignment
- Shall complete part I of the CED (Reg.669/2009) and send at least 1 working day prior to arrival (notes for guidance in Annex III)
- **!** If DPI  $\neq$  DPE, the operator shall notify the DPI at least 1 working day prior to physical arrival (sending the copy of the CED completed for documentary checks by the DPE)
- CEDs in the official language of the DPE Member State

# Regulation (EU) No 884/2014

## Main elements - Designated Point of Import (DPI) (Art.8.) (1)

### **CA at DPI needs to meet the minimum requirements:**

- Sufficient number of qualified staff
- Detailed instructions and documents for sampling
- Appropriate facilities for staff (sheltered space)
- Storage facilities
- Equipment for unloading and sampling
- Laboratory facilities (within reach)



# Regulation (EU) No 884/2014

## Main elements - Designated Point of Import (DPI) (Art.8.) (2)

- ✓ MSs maintain and make publicly available an up-to-date list of DPIs → communicate the list of DPIs to SANTE → SANTE displays national links on its website (for info)
- ✓ Operators ensure unloading for representative sampling
- ✓ Special transport or specific packaging forms: appropriate sampling equipment provided by the operator

## REGULATION (EU) NO 884/2014

### MAIN ELEMENTS – OFFICIAL CONTROLS (ART.9.) (1)

- All controls shall be performed (+ completion of the CED) within **15 working days** from the moment the consignment was offered for import and physically available
- DPE: documentary checks on results of sampling/analysis and health certificate
- No documents available ➡ re-dispatch, destroy
- DPE authorises transfer to a DPI, original documents should follow. Both DPE and Operator informs DPI!
- DPI: identity and physical checks (sampling and analysis) according to frequency and in accordance with 152/2009 and 401/2006 (recently amended by Reg. (EU) 519/2014)



## Regulation (EU) No 884/2014

### Main elements – Official controls (Art.9.) (2)

After completion of checks, CA shall:

- Complete the relevant part of Annex II of CED
- Join the results of sampling/analysis
- Provide and fill the CED reference number on the CED
- Stamp and sign the original
- Make and retain a copy (notes for guidance in Annex III)

The original of the **health certificate**, the **results of sampling and analysis** and the **CED** accompanies the consignment during its transfer until it is released for free circulation.

## Regulation (EU) No 884/2014

### Main elements – Place and type of controls

<b><i>Place of controls</i></b>	<b><i>Geographical locations</i></b>	<b><i>Type of controls</i></b>
<b><i>DPE</i></b> (Point of first physical arrival)	<i>EU border (i.e. seaport, airport, land border)</i>	<i>Documentary checks (compulsory)</i>  <i>Identity and physical checks (possible provided that DPE is also a DPI)</i>
<b><i>DPI</i></b> (Any point where consignment can be offered for import)	<i>EU border (i.e. seaport, airport, land border) or inland</i>	<i>Identity and physical checks</i>



## **Regulation (EU) No 884/2014**

### **Main elements – Splitting of consignment (Art.10.)**

- Only after completion of all official controls and CED fully completed
- In case of subsequent splitting: each part of the consignment needs to be accompanied by an authenticated copy of the CED (until release for free circulation)



## Regulation (EU) No 884/2014

### Main elements – Release for free circulation (Art.11.)

- Subject to the presentation (physically or electronically) by the operator to the custom authorities of a CED duly completed by the CA once all official controls have been carried out
- Custom authorities shall **only release** the consignment for free circulation **if favourable** decision by the CA is indicated in box II.14 and signed in box II.21 of the **CED**.

## Regulation (EU) No 884/2014

### Main elements – Reporting (Art.13.)

- EU MSs shall submit to the COMM every 3 months a report of all analytical results of official controls on consignments
- The report shall be submitted during the month following each quarter
- The report shall include the following information:
  - ✓ **number of consignments imported**
  - ✓ **number of consignments subjected to sampling for analysis**
  - ✓ **results of the checks**



## Regulation (EU) No 884/2014 Final considerations

- Harmonised framework for official controls
- Based/reviewed on RASFF, trade volumes, FVO inspections, controls
- Consolidated legislation on food/feed with a high risk of aflatoxin contamination
- Prior notification of consignments (Common Entry Document) at 'Designated Point of Entry'
- System of Designated Points of Import
- Consignments to be accompanied by **health certificate** and **analysis** (emergency measure)
- Fees to cover the costs – FBOs pay



## Approval of pre-export checks by third countries

\* Specific pre-export checks that a third country carries out on feed and food immediately prior to export to the EU may be approved for one or more products

\* Where such an approval has been granted, the frequency of import controls may be reduced as a consequence. A reduced level of controls is maintained to ensure that the pre-export checks remain effective

# Approval of pre-export checks by third countries

- \*Approval of pre-export checks is granted if
  - a European Union audit has shown that food exported to the EU meets EU requirements or equivalent
  - controls carried out in the third country prior to dispatch are considered sufficiently effective and efficient as to replace or reduce the documentary, identity and physical checks at import.
- \*Designation of competent authority (CA) responsible for pre-export - control body that the CA may delegate tasks
- \* CA or control body ensure the official certification and approval of pre-export shall specify the model for such certificates



## **Approval of pre-export checks by third countries**

If it is found that in a significant number of consignments the goods do not correspond to the information in the certificates issued by the CA of country of origin, the reduced frequency of controls shall no longer apply.

# Approval of pre-export checks carried out by third countries

**Commission Regulation (EU) 949/2015 of 19 June 2015 approving the pre-export checks carried out on certain food by certain third countries as regards the presence of certain mycotoxins**

- \* Aflatoxins – peanuts – US
- \* Ochratoxin A – Wheat – Canada
- \* Aflatoxins – almonds – US



## **What is RASFF?**

Legal basis: Articles 50-52 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (food law)

information on food and feed which present a risk to the health of consumers.



European  
Commission

# Members of the RASFF

<b>Austria</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>Iceland</b> <b>Norway</b> <b>Liechtenstein</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>	
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>	
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Spain</b>	
<b>Finland</b>	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>	
<b>France</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>	
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>Romania</b>	
<b>Croatia</b>			



**European Food Safety Authority**



**European Commission**



**EFTA Surveillance Authority**

Health and  
Consumers

## Alert Notifications

- Food or feed for which a serious risk has been identified
- Product is on the market
- Immediate action is required by members of the network



## Informations Notifications

- **Food or feed for which a serious risk has been identified but no rapid action required on the product**
- Or
- **Not a serious risk but useful for food/feed control in other member countries**





# Border Rejections Notifications

- Any rejection, related to a direct or indirect risk, of a batch, container or cargo of food or feed at a border post



# News Notifications

- **Information related to the safety of food/feed**
- **Not communicated as an 'alert' or an 'information'**
- **But judged interesting for the control authorities**



# Criteria for notification

Food and feed for which exists a direct or indirect risk to human health

Since 2006 also animal health and environmental threat for feed: this includes pet food!

Basis is EU legislation or if not harmonised: national legislation



# Criteria for notification

- Prohibited substances or ingredients
- Unauthorised substances or ingredients
- Exceeding of legal limits
- Unauthorised establishment for food of animal origin



# Criteria for notification

Unauthorised novel food / GM food

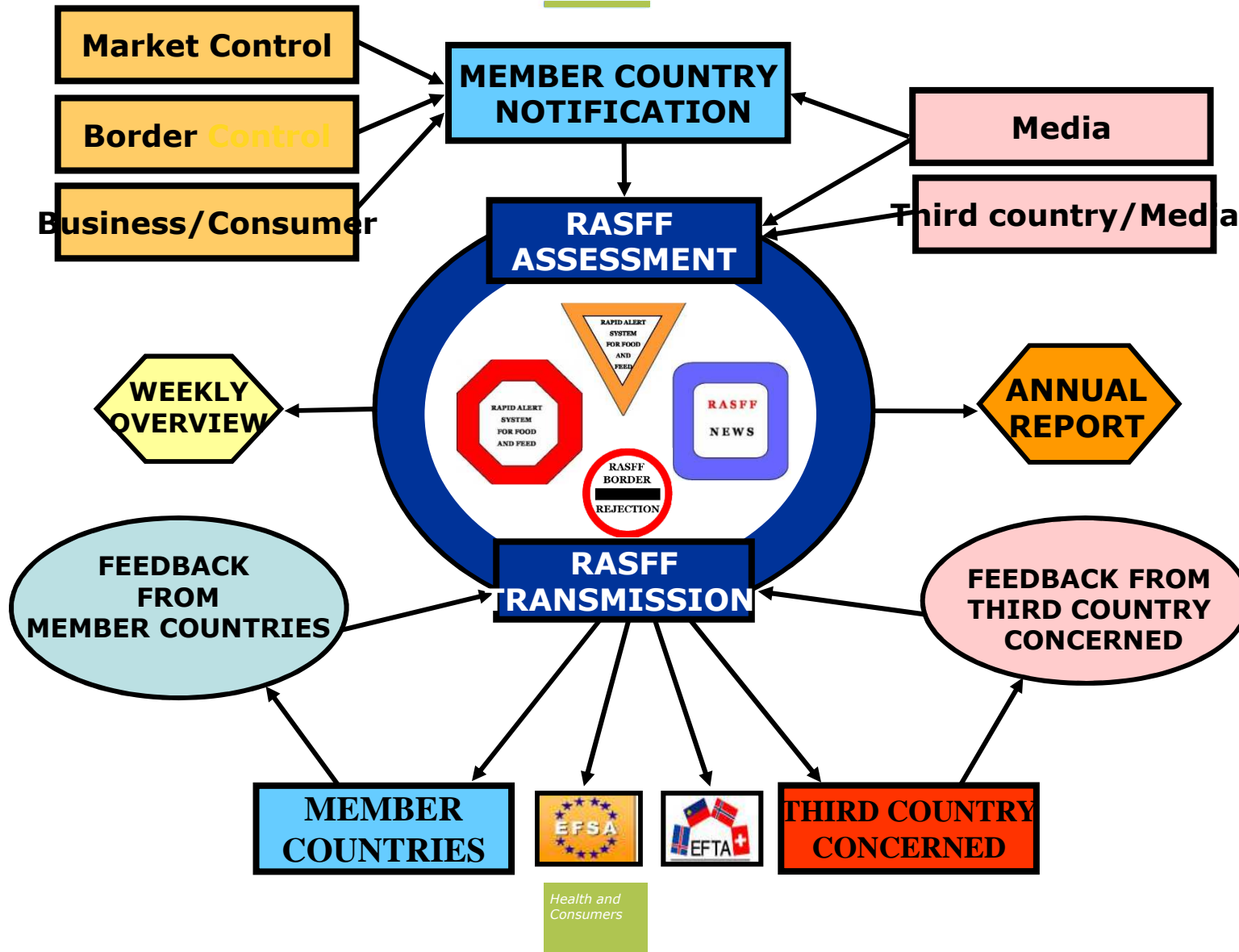
Physical risk (foreign bodies)

Incorrect labelling / improper health certificate implying health risk /

Other risk based on risk assessment



European Commission





## **RASFF findings**

As driving force for new legislation

As basis for safeguard measures

As basis for increased frequency of controls at import

As basis for inspections by Directorate F – Health and Food audits and analysis



# **RASFF findings aflatoxins in products from Africa 2016 (until 24/08/2016)**

**53 notifications on a total of 318 notifications on aflatoxins**

**Peanuts/peanut butter (41)** from Egypt (28) Madagascar (6), South Africa (3), Senegal (2), Ivory Coast (1) and Uganda (1) ;

Spice mix from Ethiopia **(7)**

Watermelon seeds from Ghana (1) and Nigeria (1)

Sunflower seeds from Egypt (2)

Tiger nuts from Burkina Faso (1)





# RASFF findings aflatoxins in products from Africa 2015

**40 notifications on a total of 438 notifications on aflatoxins**

**Peanuts (27)** from Egypt (13) Gambia (7), South Africa (2), Madagascar (2), Nigeria (1) Cameroon (1) and Guinea (1);

Spice mix from Ethiopia (5) and Ghana(1)

Barley from Ethiopia (1)

Cotton seed cake from Madagascar (1)

Sesame seeds from Nigeria(1)

Watermelon seeds from Ghana (2), Togo (1)

Bitter almonds from Morocco (1)



# RASFF findings aflatoxins in products from Africa 2014

**38 notifications on a total of 340 notifications on aflatoxins**

**Peanuts (28)** from Egypt (13), Sudan (7) Gambia (4), South Africa (1), Mauritius (1), Madagascar (1) and Uganda(1);

Sunflower seeds from Egypt (1); dried peppers from Morocco (1); spice mixture from Ethiopia (1) and Benin(1); cotton seeds from Ghana (1); fermented maize flour from Ghana (1); maize flour from South Africa (1) tiger nuts from Ghana (1); nutmeg from Nigeria (1); watermelon seeds from Benin (1)



# RASFF findings aflatoxins in products from Africa 2013

**37 notifications on a total of 342 notifications on aflatoxins**

**Peanuts (27)** from Egypt (11), Togo (4), Senegal (4) Nigeria (2) South Africa (2), Ghana (1), Benin (1), Madagascar (1) and Mozambique (1);

Watermelon seeds from Ghana(1) and Nigeria (1);

Pepper from Mauritius (1) and Ethiopia (1);

Maize from Egypt (1); palm kernel from Sierra Leone (1);

Almonds from Ghana (1) and Morocco (1)

Crushed chilli from Ethiopia(1); Sunflower/groundnuts mix from Ethiopia (1)



# RASFF findings aflatoxins in products from Africa 2012

**49 notifications on a total of 485 notifications on aflatoxins**

**Peanuts (22)** from Egypt (8), Senegal (3) Nigeria (1) South Africa (3), Ghana (2), Gambia (2), Ivory coast (1) and Sierra Leone (2)

Watermelon seeds (16) from Nigeria (12) and Sierra Leone (4);

Sunflower seeds from Egypt (3); Sorghum from Egypt (1)

Maize from Nigeria (2) and Madagascar (1)

Instant cereals from Nigeria(1)

Corn dough from Ghana (1)

Ogbono nuts from Sierra Leone (2)



# RASFF findings aflatoxins in products from Africa 2011

**57 notifications on a total of 585 notifications on aflatoxins**

**Peanuts (37)** from Egypt (16) South Africa (12), Senegal (4) Nigeria (1), Ghana (2), Togo (1) and Congo (1)

Watermelon seeds (10) from Nigeria (8) and Ghana (2);

Maize from Nigeria (1);

Ogbono nuts from Nigeria (1);

Sunflower seed from Egypt(1)

Kebab spice from Ghana (3)

Feed sorghum from Egypt (1)

Banku mix from Ghana(1);

Pistachio nuts from Egypt (1); Brazil nut fromTunesia (1)



# RASFF findings aflatoxins in products from Africa 2010

**53 notifications on a total of 650 notifications on aflatoxins**

**Peanuts (36)** from South Africa (22), Egypt (4), Sierra Leone (2) Senegal (1) Benin (2); Ghana (3), Togo (1) and Nigeria (1)

Watermelon seeds from Nigeria (8);

Ogbono nuts from Nigeria (2);

Banku mix from Ghana(3);

Kebab pepper from Ghana (1)

Instant cereal from Ghana (1) and Nigeria (1)

Bitter almonds from Egypt (1)

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

## - Structure -

### Subsidiary bodies



- Executive Committee
- Worldwide Technical Bodies
  - General committees → horizontal standards applying across food or food groups & mainly dealing with food safety issues: **CCCF**
  - Commodity committees
  - Task Forces
- Regional Committees

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



- Intergovernmental food standards-setting body established by FAO and WHO
- Development of international food quality and safety standards
- Point of reference for the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements





# WTO Agreements and Codex

## Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (The SPS Agreement)

- The SPS Agreement calls on countries to harmonize their national standards with “international standards, guidelines or recommendations like the **Codex Alimentarius Commission** for sanitary measures to protect human health” (Preamble & Article 3.1).
- **Codex Standards** are defined as “international standards, guidelines or recommendations” for food safety (Annex A).

## • Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (The TBT Agreement)

- The TBT Agreement calls on countries to use relevant international standards when they exist (Article 2.4).



# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

## - Mandate -

- Protect consumers health  
**WTO/SPS - TBT**
- Ensure fair trade practices  
**WTO/SPS - TBT**
- Coordinate work on food standards with other international organizations (INGOs & IGOs)
- Develop and maintain the **Codex Alimentarius**

Dual Objective

Facilitate  
international trade

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



## — Members

- 183 Member countries
- 1 Member organization (European Union)

## — Observers

- UN Specialized Agencies
- International intergovernmental organizations
- International non-governmental organizations

# **CODEX ALIMENTARIUS ADOPTION PROCEDURE**

## **— 8-step procedure**

- **Step 1:** The project proposal is reviewed by the Executive Committee and compared against the criteria and priorities established by the Commission.
- **Step 2,3 and 4:** draft text is prepared (Step 2) and circulated to member countries and all interested parties for comment (Step 3). The draft and the comments are reviewed at Committee level (Step 4) and, if necessary, a new draft is prepared.
- **Step 5:** The Commission reviews the progress made and agrees that the draft should go to finalization. After this stage, the draft is also endorsed by the relevant General Subject Committees so that it is consistent with Codex general standards.\*

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS ADOPTION PROCEDURE

## — 8-step procedure

- (\*): Sometimes the text is considered to be ready for final adoption at this stage – often called Step 5/8.
- **Step 6,7:** The approved draft is sent again to governments and interested parties for comment (Step 6) and finalized by the relevant Committee (Step 7). The draft is submitted to the Commission for adoption.
- **Step 8:** Following a final round of comments, the Commission adopts the draft as a formal Codex text. The standard, guideline or other text is then published by the Codex Secretariat.



# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



## - Structure -

### Subsidiary bodies



- Executive Committee
- Worldwide Technical Bodies
  - *General committees; developing provisions applicable to all food or food groups & applying mainly to food safety → CCCF*
  - Commodity committees
  - Task Forces
- Regional Committees

# COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

## CCCF

- Development of **Maximum levels (MLs)** for contaminants and toxins in food and feed → provision of scientific advice by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
- Development of **Codes of Practice (COP)** for the prevention and reduction of a specific contaminant in food and feed
- Identification of **methods of analysis (MA)** and development of **sampling plans (SP)** → compliance with the MLs

# CCCF WORK RELEVANT TO ANIMAL FEED

- **General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (GSCTFF)** (CODEX STAN 193-1995) → MLs (may include MA / SP)

**Contaminant** = Any substance not intentionally added to food or **feed** for *food producing animals* present in such food or **feed** as a result of the *production, manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packaging, transport or holding* or such food or **feed** or as a result of *environmental contamination*.

**ML for contaminant food or feed** = maximum concentration of the contaminant recommended by CAC to be legally permitted in a commodity

- MLs for contaminants in feed →
  - carry-over from feed to food moving in international trade
  - relevant to public health





# **Codex General Standard for Contaminants and toxins in food and feed (GSCTFF)**

Preamble:

- \* Principles regarding contaminants in food and feed including principles for establishing maximum levels in food and feed
- \* criteria for the establishment of maximum levels in food and feed

# Codex General Standard for Contaminants and toxins in food and feed (GSCTFF)

## Schedule Maximum (ML) and Guideline levels (GL) for contaminants and toxins in Food and Feed

**Mycotoxins:** Aflatoxins Total, Aflatoxins M1, Ochratoxin A, patulin, fumonisins and deoxynivalenol.

**Metals:** Arsenic, inorganic arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, methylmercury(GL) and tin

**Radionuclides** (GL)

**Others:** acrylonitrile (GL), chloropropanols, hydrocyanic acid, melamine and vinylchloride monomer (GL)

# **Codex General Standard for Contaminants and toxins in food and feed (GSCTFF)**

## **Schedule Maximum (ML) and Guideline levels (GL) for contaminants and toxins in Food and Feed**

Detailed sampling provisions and specific requirements for the method of analysis for: aflatoxin total in unprocessed peanuts, tree nuts (almonds, hazelnuts, pistachios and shelled Brazil nuts) and dried figs

## Codes of practices related to contaminants

Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of

- **CAC/RCP 45-1997: aflatoxin B1 in feed for milk producing animals**
- **CAC/RCP 49-2001:** source directed measures chemicals in food
- **CAC/RCP 50-2003:** patulin in apple juice
- **CAC/RCP 51-2003: mycotoxin in cereals**
- **CAC/RCP 55-2004: aflatoxins in peanuts**
- **CAC/RCP 56-2004:** lead in food
- **CAC/RCP 59-2005: aflatoxins in tree nuts**
- **CAC/RCP 60-2005:** tin in canned foods
- **CAC/RCP 62-2006:** dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in food and feed

# Codes of practices related to contaminants

Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of

- **CAC/RCP 63-2007:** ochratoxin A in wine
- **CAC/RCP 64-2008:** 3-MCPD in acid-hydrolysed vegetable protein
- **CAC/RCP 65-2008: aflatoxin in figs**
- **CAC/RCP 67-2009:** acrylamide in food
- **CAC/RCP 68-2009:** PAH from smoking and direct drying processes
- **CAC/RCP 69-2009:** ochratoxin A in coffee
- **CAC/RCP 70-2011:** ethylcarbamate in stone fruit distillates
- **CAC/RCP 72-2013:** ochratoxin A in cocoa
- **CAC/RCP 73-2013:** hydrocyanic acid in cassava and cassava products
- **Annex for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxins and ochratoxin A contamination in sorghum (Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals (CAC/RCP 51-2003))**

## **Aflatoxin issues under discussion in CCCF**

### **Issues under discussion**

- establishment of ML of aflatoxin total in peanuts ready-to-eat (pending JECFA evaluation)
- MLs for mycotoxins in spices
- Code of Practice for mycotoxins in spices
- aflatoxins in cereals (data to be provided to GEMS/Food – no further work for the time being)

## Aflatoxin issues under discussion in CCCF

- Sorghum project finalised
  - **four participating countries – Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and Sudan**
  - **1532 samples of sorghum analysed**
  - **High prevalence of sterigmatocystin and diacetoxyscirpenol observed, previously not been reported in Africa**

	positive samples	mean µg/kg	max µg/kg
Diacetoxyscirpenol	173 (11.29%)	6.9	109
Sterigmatocystin	246 (16.05%)	56	1189

## Aflatoxin issues under discussion in CCCF

### - Sorghum project

Also high levels of aflatoxins reported

	positive samples	mean µg/kg	max µg/kg
Aflatoxins B1	109 (7.11%)	41	359
Aflatoxins B2	55 (3.59%)	8.5	49
Aflatoxins G1	47 (3.06%)	32	714
Aflatoxins G2	6 (0.39%)	12	32



## **Aflatoxin issues under discussion in CCCF**

- Sorghum project

\* FAO and WHO to analyse data and provide recommendations to the CCCF in 2016 as regards mycotoxins of importance and the feasibility to establish MLs for these mycotoxins and to propose changes to Code of practice for the Reduction and Prevention of Mycotoxins Contamination in Cereals  
→ further follow-up to be decided in 2017 taking into account the JECFA evaluation (November 2016)



**Thank you  
for your  
attention !**