

Food Legislation News

No. 4 – August 2025

News from BfR

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

PFAS – Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in wine - update:

On 18 June, the BfR published a Q&A document on the topic of TFA in wine ([Trifluoroacetic acid \(TFA\) in wine - How does the chemical get into the glass? Is there a health risk? - BfR](#)).

Additionally, on 26 May 2025, the BfR issued a press release stating that German authorities classify TFA as a reproductive toxicant and environmentally critical ([Trifluoroacetic acid \(TFA\): Assessment for classification in new hazard classes submitted - BfR](#)).

BfR2GO:

Issue 1/2025 of the BfR's science magazine "BfR2GO" has been published and is available at [BfR2GO - BfR](#).

EFSA Publication

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published the following:

Perchlorate – update:

The risk assessment for perchlorate was updated and published on 12 May 2025. The tolerable daily intake (TDI) was raised from 0.3 µg/kg body weight to 1.4 µg/kg body weight (<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9393>).

Changes in plant protection products

Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs):

Regulations (EU) 2025/1163 and 2025/1164 amended the MRLs for the following active substances in plant products:

Chlorpropham, Cyantraniliprole, Cyflumetofen, Deltamethrin, Fuberidazole, Ipconazole, Mefentrifluconazole, Mepiquat, Methoxyfenozide, Oxathiapiprolin, S-Metolachlor und Triflurosulfuron.

EU Monitoring:

The Union's multiannual control programme for pesticide residues was updated for the years 2026, 2027, and 2028 by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/854 of 7 May 2025 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202500854).

Information on plant protection products from the BVL:

Comprehensive information on authorised plant protection products, as well as revoked or suspended authorisations, and emergency authorisations can be found on the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) website:

(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 by the BVL

The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) has, among other things, published the following information:

Veterinary medicinal products:

The BVL published the announcement on the authorisation of veterinary medicinal products and other official acts on 13 May 2025 (in German: https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/05_Tierarzneimittel/Bekanntmachungen/2025_06_12_Bekanntmachung_BAnz.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2).

Information on allergens:

In its press release of 18 June 2025, the BVL pointed out that inadequate labelling of allergens can be life-threatening for allergy sufferers. The consumer protection portal [Lebensmittelwarnung.de](https://www.lebensmittelwarnung.de) offers additional safety through its information services for allergy sufferers

(in German: https://www.bvl.bund.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/01_lebensmittel/2025/2025_06_18_PM_Kennzeichnung.html).

Judgements

Crunchy muesli – misleading packaging?

In individual cases, the usual requirement of a minimum fill level of 70% of the packaging volume may be waived. In its ruling of 23 May 2025, the Stuttgart Regional Court held that, due to the type of packaging (a box with an inner plastic bag) and the inhomogeneity of the product, consumers would not expect a higher fill level. Therefore, there was no misleading information regarding the fill quantity (LG Stuttgart, Ref. 33 O 56/24 KfH, in German: <https://www.verbraucherzentrale-bawue.de/sites/default/files/2025-05/lg-stuttgart-urteil-vom-23.05.2025-az.-33-o-56-24-kfh.pdf>).

Swiss Federal Court – veggie labelling:

In Switzerland, naming an animal species for plant-based meat substitutes is not permitted. In this case, a company was prohibited from labelling its pea protein-based meat substitutes with terms such as “planted.chicken”, “like chicken”, “like pork”, or “chicken from plants” (Swiss Federal Court, 2 May 2025, Ref. 2 C_26/2023, in German: https://www.bger.ch/files/live/sites/tfl/files/pdf/de/2c_0026_2023_yyyy_mm_dd_T_d_12_34_39.pdf).

Miscellaneous

Animal husbandry labelling:

The transitional period for animal husbandry labelling has been extended until 1 March 2026 (Press release BMLEH No. 41/2025 of 28 May 2025, in German: <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2025/041-tierhaltungskennzeichnung.html>).

Flavourings:

Regulation (EU) 2025/1112 of 4 June 2025 authorised the substances Naringin and 2-Methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one as flavouring substances (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202501112).

Additive sodium ascorbate (E 301):

The permitted use of sodium ascorbate (E 301) has been extended by Regulation (EU) 2025/1150 to include preparations of microencapsulated vitamin A for infant formula and follow-on formula. The maximum permitted level is 50,000 mg/kg of preparation, with a maximum residual content in the final food of 1 mg/l (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202501150&qid=1751291984564).

Last update: 23 June 2025

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 16 May and 30 June 2025**.

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 (in German)

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
Mykotoxins				
Aflatoxins total: 80	peanuts, pistachios, figs, hazelnuts, almonds, brazil nuts (including products)			63
	nutmeg	unknown	B1: 23.8 µg/kg; total: 29.4 µg/kg	1
	frozen sweet peppers	Sri Lanka	B1: 18 µg/kg; total: 19 µg/kg	1
	black pepper	China	B1: up 10.72 µg/kg	1
	sorghum flour	Tunisia	B1: 4.13 µg/kg	1
	corn and cassava flour mix	France	B1: 26.68 µg/kg; total: 30.73 µg/kg	1
	rice, brown rice, basmati rice	India, Pakistan	B1: up 15 µg/kg	6
	rice cakes	Belgium	B1: up 0.5 µg/kg	1

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
	honey with nuts	Turkey	B1: 10.2 µg/kg; total: 11.7 µg/kg	1
	dubai chocolate	Turkey, United Arab Emirates	B1: 9.12 µg/kg; total: up 10.4 µg/kg	3
	dried apricots	Turkey	B1: 3.05 µg/kg	1
Ochratoxin A	dried figs	Turkey	up 42 µg/kg	5
	raisins	Uzbekistan	up 24 µg/kg	2
	dried apricots	Turkey	up 20.69 µg/kg	3
	date syrup	Belgium	35.8 µg/kg	1
	pears	Turkey	4.7 µg/kg	1
	organic licorice root powder	Turkey, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden	up 729 µg/kg	2
	nutmeg	Indonesia	34 µg/kg	1
	organic brown rice	India	6.2 µg/kg	1
	spelt flour	Poland	5.2 µg/kg	1
	extra hot chili powder	unknown	64.8 µg/kg	1
	roasted coffee	Netherlands	9.0 µg/kg	1
	pistachios	USA	30 µg/kg	1
Fumonisin	corn flour	Italy	1,600 µg/kg	1
Alternaria toxins	hazelnuts	Turkey	Alternariol: up 62 µg/kg, Tenuazonic acid: up 5,000 µg/kg, Alternariol mono- methyl ether (AME): up 39 µg/kg	3
	dried figs	Slovakia	Tenuazonic acid: 4,275 µg/kg	1
	organic sesame seeds	Pakistan	Alternariol mono- methyl ether (AME): 67.0 µg/kg	1
Heavy Metals / Other Metals				
Lead	wild boar meat	Spain	>6 mg/kg	1
	dried garlic	India	4.337 mg/kg	1
	noodles	Italy	1.0 mg/kg	1
	cinnamon	Vietnam	up 9.03 mg/kg	2
	food supplement	Germany	13.3 mg/kg	1
Cadmium	squid	India	up 15.8 mg/kg	2
	mussels	France	1.22 mg/kg	1

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
	avocados	Peru	up 0.086 mg/kg	5
	beans (Lablab purpureus)	Peru	0.048 mg/kg	1
	kidney beans	China	0.249 mg/kg	1
Mercury	fish, fish products	Spain, Tunisia	up 1.8 mg/kg	5
Arsenic	food supplement	USA	total: 15.7 mg/kg; inorganic arsenic: 4.827 mg/kg	1
Other Contaminants / Residues				
Ethylene oxide, 2-Chloroethanol	spice mix, coriander, cumin	UK, Georgia, India		5
Benzo(a)pyrene, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)	smoked fish	Ghana	Benzo(a)pyrene: 3.5 µg/kg; PAH: 18.8 µg/kg	1
	oil mix (sunflower, rapeseed)	Belarus	Benzo(a)pyrene: up 5.52 µg/kg; PAH: up 32.47 µg/kg	2
	crude sunflower oil unrefined	Ukraine	Benzo(a)pyrene: 5.5 µg/kg; PAH: 23.2 µg/kg	1
	food supplement	Italy, Italy and Belgium	Benzo(a)pyrene: 15 µg/kg; PAH: up 168.2 µg/kg	2
Chlorate	poultry meat preparations	Brazil, China	up 1.4 mg/kg	3
	cucumbers	Netherlands	0.59 mg/kg	1
Mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOSH/MOAH)	madras curry powder	India	19 mg/kg	1
	olive oil	Spain	20 mg/kg0	1
	noodles	Pakistan	1.3 mg/kg	1
	tomato pure	Spain	1.7 mg/kg	1
	potatol chips	Netherlands	520 mg/kg	1
	frozen creme brule	Belgium	2.53 mg/kg	1
	basmati rice	Pakistan	42 mg/kg	1
	sweets	Canada		1
	cured ham	Belgium	272 mg/kg	1
	glutenfree flour	Serbia	4.3 mg/kg	1
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	popcorn with sugar	Hungary	PFOA: 535.52 mg/kg	1
Acrylamide	potato chips	Spain	2,025 µg/kg	1
3-Monochloro-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD)	corn snack	Philippines	642 µg/kg	1
	palm kernel oil	Ghana	2,040 µg/kg	1
	biscuits	India	up 9,200 µg/kg	1

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
Glycidyl esters	palm fat	Malaysia	2,205 µg/kg	1
	vegetable crisps	UK	1,100 µg/kg	1
	wheat snack	Bulgaria	2,343 µg/kg fat	1
	biscuits	India	5,400 µg/kg	1
Grayanotoxins	honey	Nepal		1
Ergot (<i>Claviceps purpurea</i>)	wheat	France	sclerotia	1
	flour, wholemeal wheat flour	France	Ergot alkaloids: up 358 µg/kg	2
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA)	cumin	France, Syria	up 6,529 µg/kg	2
	lovage	Poland, Bulgaria	6,012.1 µg/kg	1
	oregano	Turkey	up 3,518 µg/kg	2
	majoram	Egypt, Germany	up 50,684 µg/kg	1
	sage	Turkey	645 µg/kg	1
	coriander leaf	Germany	1,700 µg/kg	1
	peppermint tea	UK	1,708.6 µg/kg	1
Tropane alkaloids	glutenfree flour	Italy, Netherlands	Atropine: 12.6 µg/kg; Scopolamine: 10.7 µg/kg	1
Histamine	fish, fish products	Spain, Sri Lanka, Italy	up 416 mg/kg	3
Hydrocyanic acid	linseed	Paraguay, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, unknown	up 293.3 mg/kg	5
	almonds	Spain	43.9 mg/kg	1
	cassava flour	unknown	26.8 mg/kg	1
Pharmacological Active Substances				
Hydroxyanthracene derivates	food supplement	Netherlands	Emodin: 190,154 µg/kg	1
Cannabidiol (CBD)	CBD oils, confectionery, chewing gum, pastry, food supplement	Belgium, France, Czech Rep., Netherlands, USA, Slovenia	CBD	7
Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)	hemp oil	France	9.6 mg/kg	1
	confectionery, food supplement	USA, Netherlands, Slovenia	up 1,715 mg/kg	6
Melatonin	food supplement	USA	content high, content too high	2
Nitrofuran metabolite	frog legs	Vietnam	Furazolidone (AOZ): 3.1 µg/kg	1
Unauthorised Colours				
Reactive Red 141	powder mixture of different fruits	Turkey and Bulgaria		1
Rhodamine B	turmeric powder	India		1

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
Sudan IV	palm oil	Cote d'Ivoire		1
Titanium dioxide (E 171)	baked goods	Netherlands		1
Miscellaneous				
GMO, not authorised	rice noodles, miso paste	China	(rice)	3
Foodborne disease outbreak	cashew mousse	Germany		1
	food supplement	Italy		1
Pathogenic Germs				
Salmonella total: 84	meat, meat products (including poultry)			58
	eggs, egg products	Netherlands, Poland		2
	sesame, sesame products	Uganda, Turkey, Italy (raw mat. Pakistan), India		13
	chia seeds	Uganda		1
	red clover flowers	Albania		1
	rocket, caraway, sweet peppers	Italy, Austria, China		3
	coconut flakes	Philippines		1
	macadamia flour	Germany, Italy, unknown		1
	walnut kernels	USA		1
	pistachios	Jordan		1
	cauliflower-cheese-product	Austria		1
	white chocolate callets with caramel	Belgium		1
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	meat, meat products (including poultry)	Denmark, Italy		2
	fish, fish products	France, Latvia		2
	shrimps	France		1
	cheese, soft cheese, raw milk cheese	France, Portugal		4
	enoki mushrooms	China		1
	hummus	Belgium		1
	blackened olives with garlic	Turkey		1
	ready to eat salads, chocolate mousse	France		3
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	ground ginger	Turkey		1
<i>Clostridium botulinum</i>	sandwiches	Italy		1

Reason for Notifying	Product	Country of Origin	Notes	Number
Shiga toxin-producing E.coli (STEC)	wild boar meat	Germany		1
	pork chops	Lithuania		1
	teff flour	Germany (raw mat. Netherlands)		1
	dill	Uzbekistan		1
	red clover seeds for sprouting	Italy		1
Coagulase-positive staphylococci	raw milk cheese	Belgium		1
<i>Vibrio cholerae</i> , <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> , <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i>	shrimps, mussels	Ecuador, India, Honduras, Spain, Greece		11
Norovirus	oysters	Italy		1

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