RASFF of EU

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Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

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email: htarimo@gov.bw or hhttarimo@yahoo.co.uk
• The European Union established an RASFF in 2002

• When a RASFF member has any information about a serious health risk deriving from food or feed, it must immediately notify the European Commission using RASFF.
Food Safety Rapid Alert System

Article 50 identifies the **members of the system** and sets out when a RASFF notification is required:

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Food Safety Rapid Alert System

In particular, RASFF members have to notify the Commission if they take such measures as withdrawing or recalling food or feed products from the market in order to protect consumers’ health and if rapid action is required. They also have to notify if they agreed with the responsible operator that a food or feed should not be placed on the market if the measure is taken on account of a serious risk. The same applies when the product in question is placed on the market under conditions.
Food Safety Rapid Alert System (EU)

Article 51 gives the Commission the power to adopt measures implementing Article 50. A Commission Regulation is being drafted together with more detailed guidelines with implementing measures for the RASFF. Their adoption is scheduled for early 2010.
Food Safety Rapid Alert System

• Article 52 sets out the confidentiality requirements for the RASFF. Information in the RASFF shall in general be available to the public, but members of the network are not allowed to disclose any information which by its nature is covered by professional secrecy.
• The African Union announced plans to set up a new Food Safety Authority and a ‘Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed’ (RASFF) at its regional Food Safety workshop 29-30 October 2012 in Kigali, Rwanda
• The establishment of a Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed based at ARSO was approved by the ARSO General Assembly held in Nairobi Kenya on 3rd December 2010.
Food Safety Rapid Alert System In Africa

- The SADC SPS Annex to the Protocol on Trade is based on the WTO SPS Agreement and draws regulatory requirements from it.
Food Safety Rapid Alert System In Africa

Conclusion:

In Africa (and indeed in SADC) proclamation to establish RASFF have been made but is yet to be translated into action.