Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

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SCOPE OF PRESENTATION

• Historical Background

• RASFF legal basis

• Duties of the members of the network

• Types of RASFF notifications

• The way forward

• Conclusion
THE EARLY YEARS (1979-1994)

- Network existed informally from 1979

- Informal exchange of information concerning food or feed which could be considered of risk to human health

- With the major food scares in the late 1990s, it seemed necessary to establish a formal system for a high level of protection of human life and health (Food Law)
RASFF- Formal System Created

- Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

- The European Commission established an RASFF in 2002- Formalised in Regulation EC (No.) 178/2002

- Aimed at allowing swift exchange of information on food or feed of (in)direct risk to human health

- Enables immediate action to be taken on food/feed of risk detected on the market and or at the port of entry.
LEGAL BASIS FOR RASFF

**Article 50 - establishes the network:**
(Identifies the members of the system and sets out when a RASFF notification is required)

- **Article 51 - implementing measures for RASFF (Reg EC 16/2011 on 10/01/2011)**
  (Gives the Commission the power to adopt measures implementing Article 50)

- **Article 52 - confidentiality rules**
  (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.)
1. Members of the Network:

- Must immediately notify any information of serious direct or indirect risk to human health to the Commission
- Includes the Commission, Member States, EFSA and also
- Participation open to applicants, third countries or international organisations following procedures defined in agreements.
Duties of the Members of Network (cont)

2. The European Commission:
   - Manages the network
   - Transmits information (+ supplementary information from competent authorities) without delay to the members of the network and EU border posts
   - Inform third country(ies) of origin and those where the food/feed has been dispatched to.
   - Provide templates and manage list of contacts
Duties of the Members of Network (cont)

3. EFSA

- Required to provide information for the purpose of risk analysis (article 35 of 178/2002)
- May supplement any notification with scientific or technical information to inform risk management by MS (article 50.2 (second para.)
4. **EU Member States (Competent authorities) must notify the Commission of:**

- any measures aimed at restricting, forcing the withdrawal of, and recall of products from the market
- Recommendations or agreements with operators concerning voluntary or obligatory measures to prevent, limit or imposed with regards to the eventual use of the food and or feed concerned
Duties of the Members of Network (cont)

4. EU Members States (continued)

• Inform on rejections (batch, container or cargo) at the border post within the EU

• The notifications should be accompanied by
  – Detailed explanation of the actions taken
  – Followed by supplementary information on any modification/withdrawal of the notification

• Designate one contact point, set up effective communication with the EC and internally (24/7)
Types of RASFF notifications

- **Alert notifications (Year/Number)**
  - Food or feed for which a risk has been identified (to be notified within 48 hours by MSs/24 hours by the EC)
  - Product is already on the market
  - Immediate action is required by members
  - Action usually withdrawal/recall
    - Consumers can be reassured that products subject to an alert notification have been withdrawn or are in the process of being withdrawn from the market
Types of RASFF notifications

**Information notifications (Year/Number)**
- Food or feed for which a risk has been identified
- Product has not reached the market or is no longer on the market
- Immediate action is not required by members
- Should be notified without undue delay
- For follow up/ for attention

**News notifications**
- Information related to the safety of food/feed
- Not communicated as an 'alert' or an 'information'
- interesting for the control authorities
Types of RASFF notifications

**Border Rejections (Year/Letter code)**

- Food or feed consignments for which a risk has been identified
- Tested and **rejected** at the external borders of the EU (and EEA)
- Notifications circulated to all border posts of the EU (and EEA) for **re-inforced controls** and
- To ensure rejected products do not **re-enter** the EU (and EEA)
Access to information on RASFF

The Public

• Article 52 of 178/2002 requires members of the network to make available to the public information relating to a risk to human health

• Should have access to:
  – Product identification
  – The nature of the risk concerned
  – Measures taken
Access to information on RASFF (cont)

- **Article 52**

- However, the members of the network should ensure not to disclose information obtained which by its nature is covered by professional secrecy
Access to information on RASFFs (cont)

• RASFF Annual reports
  http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/docs/report
  2009_en.pdf

• RASFF Portal (general public)
  http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/portal/

• RASFF Window (restricted)
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

• The SADC-wide RASFF project
• The Africa-wide RASFF Project
• The worldwide RASFF Project
• Increased participation of third countries
RASFF In Africa

• 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
RASFF In Africa

• 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.
RASFF In Africa

• The SADC SPS Annex to the Protocol on Trade is based on the WTO SPS Agreement and draws regulatory requirements from it.
Proposed First Steps to be taken by SADC

• Establishing a SADC RASFF contact point which must be dynamic and flexible in its approach to spearhead the establishment of a SADC-Wide- RASFF system.

• A pilot system on voluntary or on informal basis at the beginning

• Developing a Legal Framework and Administrative Framework through amendment or review of the SPS Annex to SADC Protocol on Trade.

• Benchmarking with EC RASFF
RASFF FOR SADC

Conclusion:

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

✓ We shall pioneer the establishment of SADC wide RASFF as from today. It can be done play your part.

✓ E.U should be requested to develop a strategy for sharing emergency food safety information quickly with SADC.
Thank you

- Muito Obrigado
- Merci
- Keale Boga
- Asante sana
- Shukran
MoH warns against slimming coffee

GABORONE - The public has been warned to stop using a product called Best Share Green Coffee: Brazilian slimming coffee with immediate effect.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Health, the slimming coffee contains a hidden drug ingredient called sibutramine.

Sibutramine is a controlled substance that was removed from the market by the Food and Drugs Administration of the USA in October 2010 for safety reasons, the release states.

“The substance, sibutramine, is known to substantially increase high blood pressure and pulse rate in some patients and presents a significant health risk for patients with a history of coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, and stroke. This product may also interact in life-threatening ways with other medications a consumer may be taking.”

The release further states that consumers are advised to seek medical attention immediately if they have experienced any negative side effects.

For more information contact the office of Nutrition and Food Control Division at 363 2134 or Call the toll free number 0800 600 740. BOPA
PRODUCT RECALL PRESS RELEASE

KALINDA TRADING CC
6 SESMYLSPRUIT STREET
SUNDERLANDRIDGE CENTURION, SOUTH AFRICA
TELL: 012 666 7483/80    FAX: 012 6667489

RECALL OF PEANUT BUTTER DUE TO CONTAMINATION WITH EXCESS LEVELS OF AFLATOXINS

We are recalling all the batches of Econo and Monkey nut Brands of peanut butter recently distributed in Botswana because of possible contamination with excess levels of aflatoxins. Aflatoxins are naturally occurring toxic chemical by-products from the growth of the fungus Aspergillus flavus, on corn, peanuts and other crops.

Our distributor in Botswana, Transworld, has already recalled the stock from the wholesalers and supermarkets countrywide. Customers with these brands should return them to any Trident, Eureka or Saverite store where they will be given a full refund before 15th June 2012.

The following are the batches that were recently imported into Botswana and affected by this recall;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BATCH NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE OF MANUFACTURE</th>
<th>BEST BEFORE DATE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KAL 727</td>
<td>22/02/2012</td>
<td>22/08/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAL 736</td>
<td>13/03/2012</td>
<td>13/09/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAL 740</td>
<td>12/04/2012</td>
<td>12/10/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like any further information on this recall please contact

1) In Botswana: Mr Saradhi
   Tell: 3902906
   Cell: 75017974
   Fax: 3187586
   Email: transworld@info.bw

2) In South Africa: Mr Wouter Roux
   Tell: 012 666 7483/80
   Cell: 082 789 0908
   Fax: 012 666 7489
   Email: sales@kalindatrading.co.za

We are sorry this has happened and are busy getting to the bottom of it to make sure it never happens again.
Happy Weigh Loss Coffee

Take one daily to keep perfect shape

100% Kilogram比亞天然咖啡豆制成