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Rice Food
Safety & Other Facts

Newsletter
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FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	Notification type	notified by	subject
17/10/2011	border rejection	PORTUGAL	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt63) rice vermicelli from China
18/10/2011	border rejection	ITALY	basmati rice from India infested with insects (beetles)
18/10/2011	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.028 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India
19/10/2011	information for attention	UNITED KINGDOM	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt63) rice vermicelli from China
19/10/2011	border rejection	UNITED KINGDOM	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt63) rice noodles from China
01/11/2011	border rejection	FINLAND	high content of aluminium (30 mg/kg - ppm) in rice vermicelli from Thailand
02/11/2011	alert	AUSTRIA	unauthorised GM (BT63) rice vermicelli from China, via the Netherlands
02/11/2011	border rejection	LATVIA	absence of health certificate(s) for organic rice from Kazakhstan
15/11/2011	information for follow-up	POLAND	dead insects in brown rice from Greece infested with moulds
15/11/2011	information for follow-up	LUXEMBOURG	unauthorised genetically modified (Pubi-cry construction) basmati long grain rice dispatched from Belgium
07/12/2011	information for attention	CZECH REP	high content of aluminium (16.4 mg/kg - ppm) in instant rice noodles from Vietnam
15/12/2011	alert	GERMANY	unauthorised genetically modified (cryIA(c)/T-nos-Reislinie Bt63) rice noodles from China, via Sweden, Netherlands
15/12/2011	information for attention	GERMANY	high content of aluminium (68 mg/kg - ppm) in rice flour from Vietnam
16/12/2011	alert	FINLAND	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt 63) vermicelli rice from China, via the Netherlands

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff_portal_database_en.htm

- EU controls on Chinese rice product imports will be tightened in response to an increasing number of food alerts and border rejections of genetically modified (GM) contaminated products. Last week the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health voted to reinforce previously introduced emergency controls, that obliged Chinese authorities to provide a pre-export report to demonstrate that the absence of GM rice had been maintained, before random checks on the consignments were made at the EU ports. The new inspection regime will mean that 100% of rice consignments from China will be inspected.

Source: www.foodqualitynews.com

- The EU Commission is discussing with the Member States the draft list of permitted health claims to be authorised for use on food. The process for the adoption of this list is entering its final stage after long discussions with the Member States and interested stakeholders. The list tabled for discussion now includes about 240 health claims covering some 500 entries from the consolidated list of claims submitted by Member States. The scientific substantiation of these has been favourably assessed by EFSA. If the scientific assessment concludes that the claimed role in functions of the body is founded

such claim can be recommended for approval. These health claims cover the role of walnuts, protein, vitamins and minerals, fibre, omega 3 fatty acids, in functions of the body like the immune system and the heart, keeping cholesterol levels normal, maintaining muscle mass etc. When approved the health claims will ensure a high level of protection for consumers, by facilitating the choice of products for a varied and balanced diet which is a prerequisite for good health. Claims must not mislead consumers: they must be accurate, truthful and substantiated by science. A number of claims remain on hold: those pending a further assessment by EFSA and those with a favourable EFSA assessment that remain under consideration before a decision can be taken.

Source: http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1460

LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1129/2011 of 11 November 2011 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing a Union list of food additives. The regulation shall apply from 1 June 2013. This grace period for the application was deemed necessary to allow the Union's food industry to adapt to the new rules. The list (see the online database at https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco_foods/?sector=FAD) will allow consumers, food business operators and control authorities to easily identify which additives are authorised in a particular foodstuff.

- **Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of **food information to consumers**, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004. The regulation shall apply from 13 December 2014

- Directive 2011/91/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on indications or marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs.

Source: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- International Conference on Plant Biotechnology for Food Security: New Frontiers, New Delhi – India, 21/24 Feb 2012. Advances in agriculture and plant breeding have lead to substantial increase in crop productivity in the past four decades. However, the global population is expected to reach 9 billions by the year 2050, making food security the most important social issue. Food production will have to be doubled to meet the needs of this population. The additional food will have to be produced on existing agricultural land with dwindling water resources. In addition, crop losses due to pests and diseases have to be controlled in an eco-friendly and sustainable manner. The challenges of malnutrition and enhanced productivity can only be met by breeding more productive, more nutritious and at the same time less resource input demanding crops. This challenge calls for harnessing the powerful tools of biochemistry and biotechnology in agriculture. Keeping this in view the Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology is going to organize this Conference.

Source: Crop Biotech Update