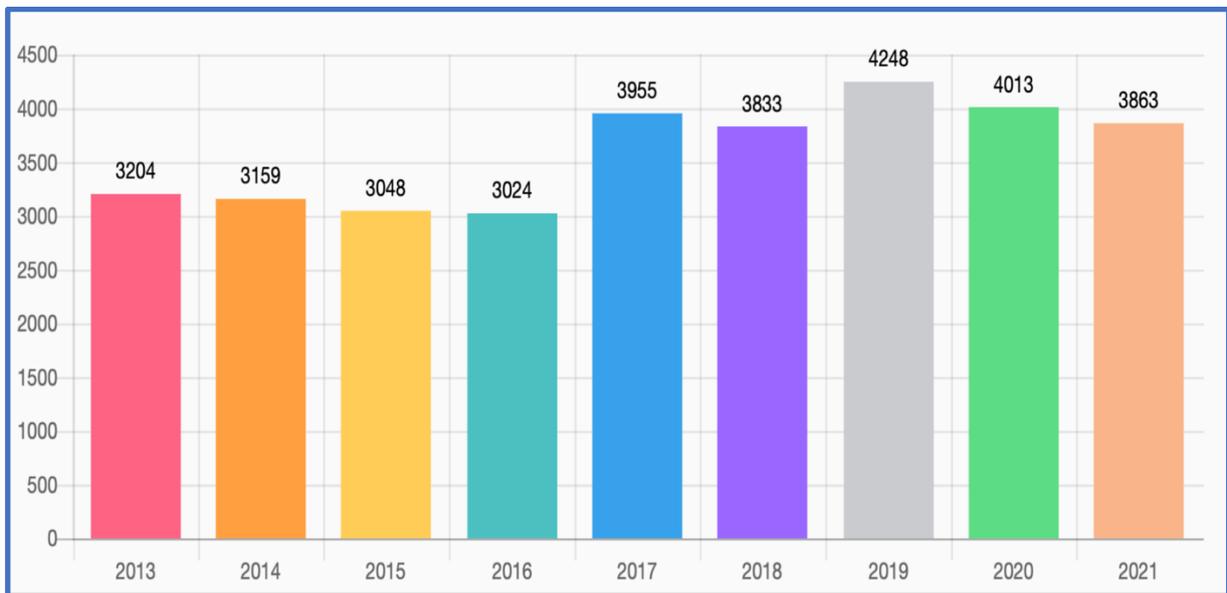


Safefood-Online

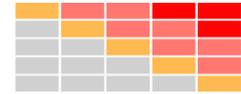
Newsletter



(RASFF notifications and monthly Food Fraud notifications (EU))



Notifications according to the type of notification (from the dashboard on www.safefood.online.de)



Dear Safefood-Online users,

in this issue of the Safefood-Online newsletter we inform you about changes in maximum levels of some pesticides, about new developments at EU level on the topic of ethylene oxide, and about new maximum levels for ergot sclerotia and ergot alkaloids. In this newsletter you will find also the evaluations of the RASFF notifications as well as a media review on the topics of food safety and food fraud.

Under "Questions and answers about the Safefood-Online database", we look at how the results of company-specific investigations and findings can be integrated into Safefood-Online and thus also made available for evaluations (HACCP Export, Test Plan, Food Fraud).

We hope that this edition of the Safefood-Online newsletter will be of interest to you and of course we are looking forward to your feedback, because this is the only way we can improve.

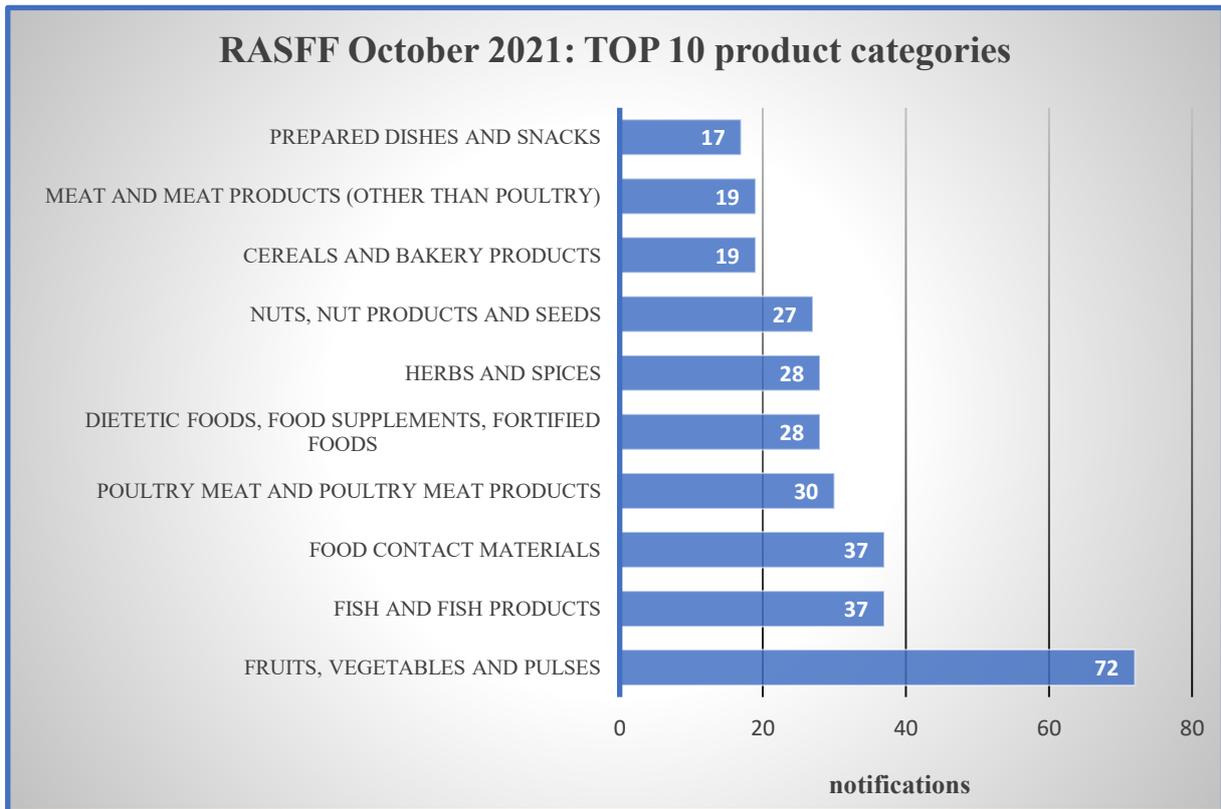
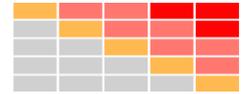
Finally, we would like to draw your attention to a publication regarding Safefood-Online in the journal "[Fleischwirtschaft](#)" (October 2021) in German language titled "Identifying and minimizing risks quickly".

Your Safefood-Online Team

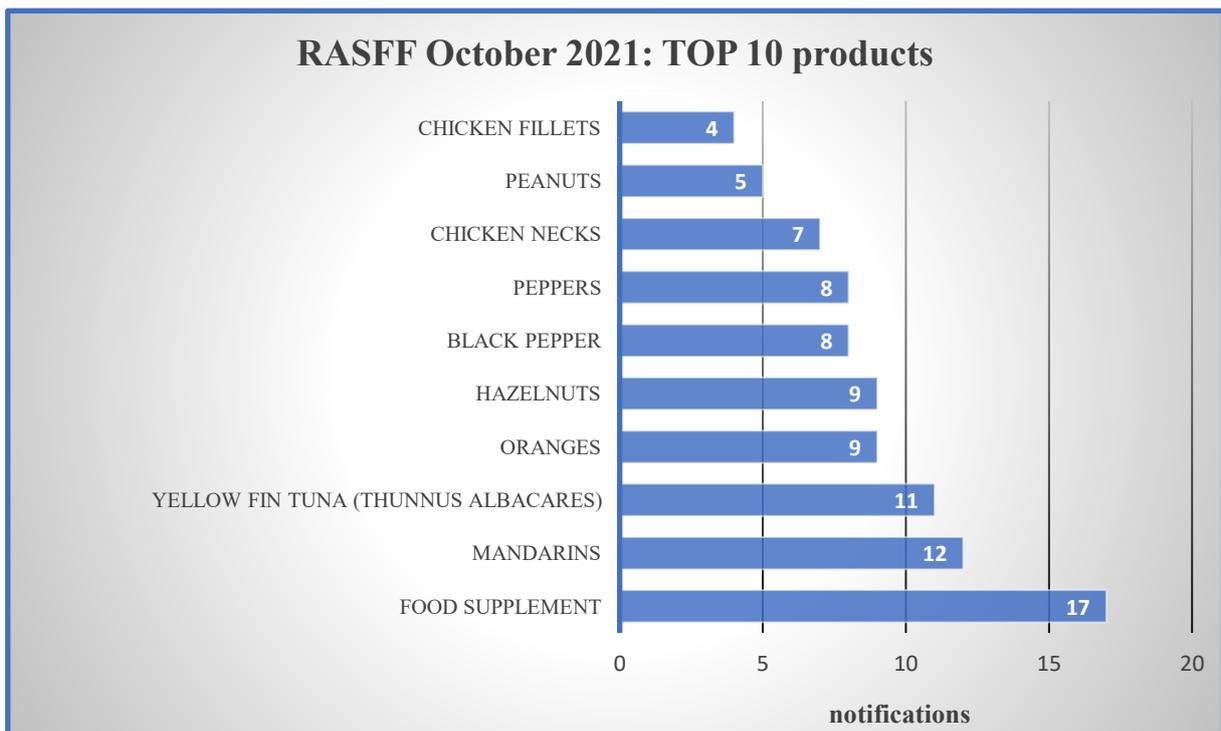
1 RASFF notifications October 2021

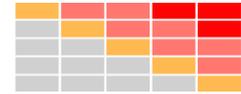
Compared to the previous month, the number of notifications in October 2021 increased from 387 to 419 (+8%).

By far the most notifications were submitted in the product category "fruits, vegetables and legumes" (72 notifications), followed by "fish and fishery products (excluding molluscs and crustaceans)" (37 notifications) and "food contact articles and materials" (37 notifications). Of the 72 notifications on "fruits, vegetables and legumes", 54 notifications are related to the hazard category pesticides. Here again, as in previous months, most of the notifications are due to chlorpyrifos and its compounds (chlorpyrifos-ethyl, chlorpyrifos-methyl) (30 notifications). Of the 37 notifications concerning the product category "fish and fishery products", 11 notifications are due to excessive levels of ascorbic acid in yellowfin tuna, as is often found in consumer fraud through illegal color stabilization:

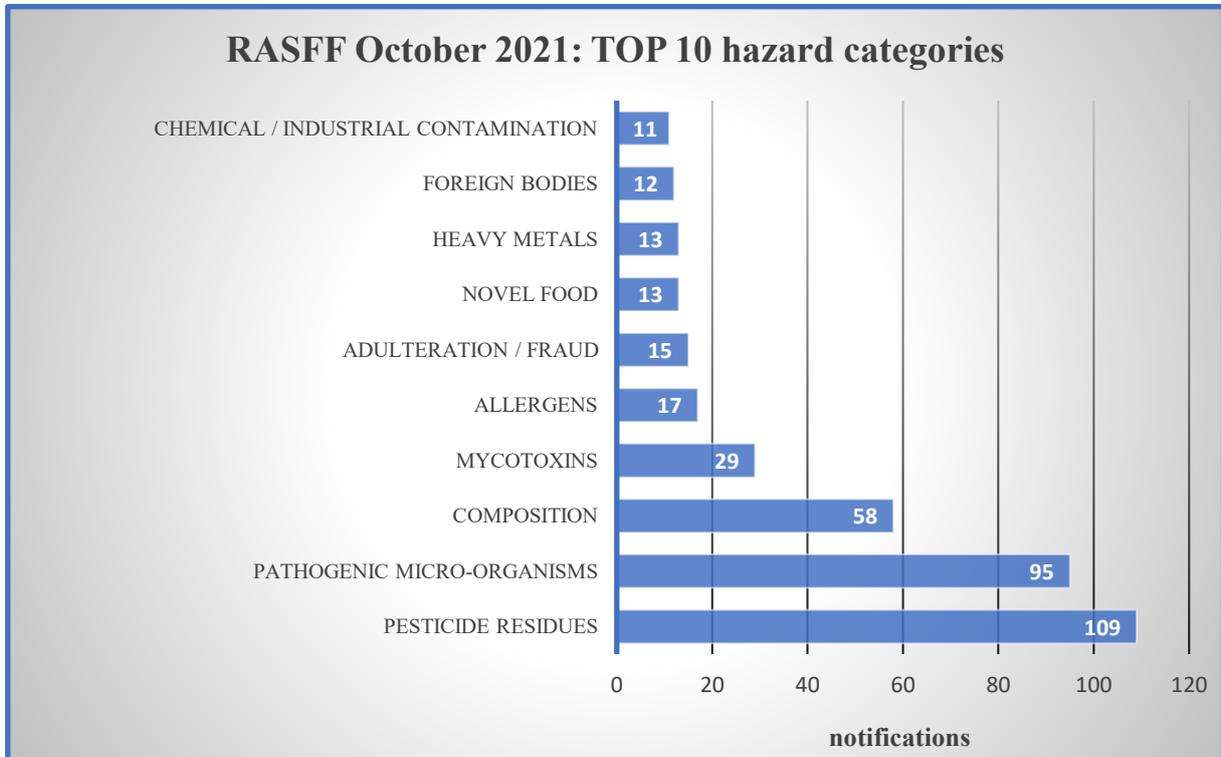


At the top of the TOP 10 products are food supplements with 17 notifications, of which 5 notifications are due to ethylene oxide/ 2-chloroethanol. 11 of 12 notifications on mandarins are due to chlorpyrifos. All reports on yellowfin tuna are due to high levels of ascorbic acid, as already explained:

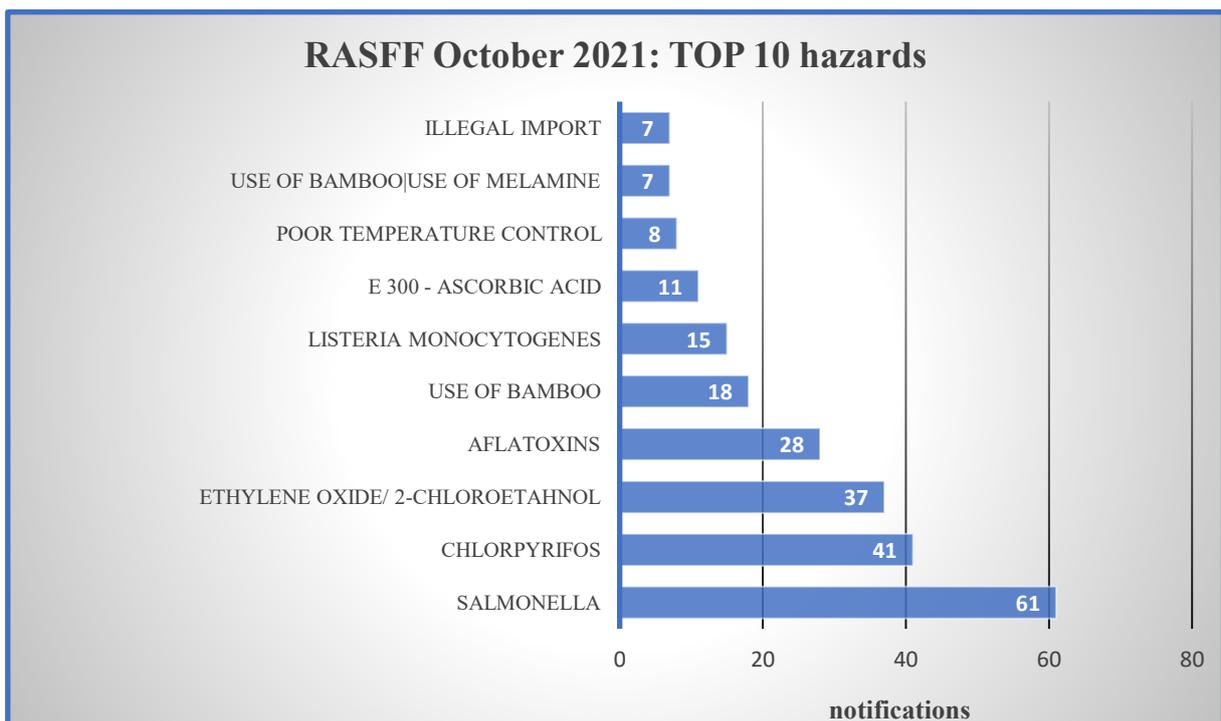


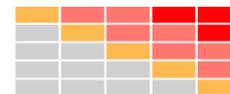


In October 2021, the hazard category pesticides had the highest number of reports with 109 reports, followed by the hazard category pathogenic micro-organisms (95 reports) and the hazard category composition (58 reports):



The high number of notifications in the hazard category pesticides is still due to many notifications on ethylene oxide/ 2-chloroethanol (37 notifications) and chlorpyrifos (41 notifications). In October only Salmonella had more notifications (61):





2 Pesticides and Contaminants

2.1 Regulation (EU) 2021/1531

With Regulation (EU) 2021/1531 the maximum levels in Regulation (EC) 396/2005 for the following substances were amended:

- Aclonifen
- Acrinathrin
- Bacillus pumilus QST 2808
- Ethirimol
- Penthiopyrad
- Picloram
- Pseudomonas sp. strain DSMZ 13134

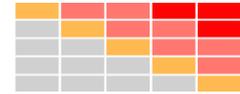
Regulation (EU) 2021/1531 was published in the Official Journal of the European Commission on September 20, 2021. With the exception of ethirimol, the amended MRLs apply from October 10, 2021. For ethirimol, the new MRL applies from May 17, 2021. In this regard, the recitals state:

" For ethirimol, several MRLs were modified by Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/1566 (3). That Regulation lowered the MRL for ethirimol in cucumbers to 0,05 mg/kg due to a reporting error. Ethirimol is the main metabolite of bupirimate, which is currently used in plant protection products in several Member States. As a consequence, the lowering of the MRL for ethirimol may result in potential MRL exceedances following the lawful use of bupirimate. To avoid this, the Rapporteur Member State submitted on 25 August 2020 an amended evaluation report to the Authority, who has published a correction to the relevant reasoned opinion on 30 September 2020 (4), where it recommended setting the MRL for ethirimol in cucumbers at 0,2 mg/kg. In the interest of legal certainty, it is appropriate for the MRL for ethirimol in cucumbers, provided for by this Regulation, to apply from the same date as the date of application of Regulation (EU) 2020/1566. "

2.2 Ethylene oxide

On October 4, 2021, another meeting of experts from the EU member states took place (see also the comments on this topic in the Safefood-Online newsletter of July 2021). [Here](#) is the summary. For compound foodstuffs ("problem case" locust bean gum) it was stated:

As regards composite foods such as noodles, without information on the use of a non-compliant ingredient, the Commission clarified that by default the MRL at the LOQ of 0.02 mg/kg should apply (considering the two components of the residue definition for ETO). In case of information on the use of a non-compliant ingredient, the conclusions as agreed at the (CC) meeting on 13 July apply (withdrawal/recall of the product from the market, or in case of imports rejection at border). In case there is detailed information on the composition and/or processing factors (PF), then Article 20 of the MRL Regulation is applicable to calculate the composite LOQ to assess compliance. In the absence of any information on PF for either ETO or 2CE, the default PF is 1.*



Furthermore, the EU Commission renewed its position on food waste and ETO:

The Commission recalled its commitment to reduce food waste in line with Sustainable Development Goals, as laid down in the Farm to Fork Strategy. This however cannot undermine food safety. There can be no compromise as food safety is a key prerequisite for a sustainable food system. While it is regrettable to discard food, it is essential that unsafe food should be removed from the food supply chain and discarded in accordance with relevant EU legislation.

2.3 Maximum levels for ergot sclerotia and ergot alkaloids

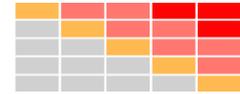
While Regulation (EC) 1881/2006 previously is only setting maximum levels for ergot sclerotia, [Regulation 2021/1399](#) of August 24, 2021 is now also introducing maximum levels for ergot alkaloids in addition to amended maximum levels for ergot sclerotia.

For unprocessed cereals other than maize, rye and rice, the maximum level has been reduced from 0.5mg/kg to 0.2mg/kg. There is an exception for unprocessed rye: here the previous maximum level of 0.5mg/ kg remains in force until June, 30. 2024. Only from July,01, 2024 the maximum level for unprocessed rye will also be reduced to 0.2 mg/kg.

For ergot alkaloids, maximum levels were set as follows:

Milling products of barley, wheat, spelt and oats (with an ash content lower than 900mg/100g)	100 µg/kg 50 µg/kg as from 1.7.2024
Milling products of barley, wheat, spelt and oats (with an ash content equal or higher than 900mg/100g) Barley, wheat, spelt and oats grains placed on the market for the final consumer	150 µg/kg
Rye milling products	500 µg/kg until 30.6.2024
Rye placed on the market for the final consumer	250 µg/kg as from 1.7.2024
Wheat gluten	400 µg/kg
Processed cereal based food for infants and young children	20 µg/kg

[Regulation \(EC\) No 1881/2006 of 19 December 2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs \(consolidated text\)](#)



3 NEWS

product/ issue	content
Food Fraud	UK: FSA and FSS present updates on food crime cases
Food Fraud	Australia: New traceability pilot to safeguard exports from fraudulent activity
Food Safety	EU-GRACED-project: A sensor is being developed by an EU-funded consortium to check for pesticides or bacteria in fruits and vegetables
Food Safety	EU Commission warns Czech Republic about official food control rules
Food Safety	UK shows low trust in U.S. food
Food Fraud	University Basel: "low cost" country of origin detection
Food Fraud	Covid-19 pandemic and Food Fraud
Food Fraud	Food Fraud cases in 2020: a review
Food Safety	US: FDA pesticide-report
Food Fraud	The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized 2,500 kg contaminated spices
Food Fraud	Ghana: Food Fraud is increasing
Food Safety	industry can use reports on outbreaks for improvement of safety programs

4 Questions and answers regarding the database Safefood-Online

Is it possible to include company-specific data in the evaluation at Safefood-Online?

In Safefood-Online it is possible to enter the results of company-specific (analytical) results or findings (internal/ external) and to include them in the evaluations (HACCP Export, Test Plan, Food Fraud).

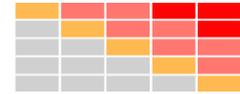
This is particularly helpful during audits to show that the raw materials for which there are no known incidents have been also included in the hazard analysis.

Clicking on the "My Data" button (under the "LOGIN" field) opens the "My Data" page.

There are 2 options to enter company-specific data into Safefood-Online: either the data is entered directly into a corresponding input mask or the data is imported into Safefood-Online as a "CSV"- file:



A) Direct entering:



My Data ⓘ

[Add new data](#) [Own data import](#)

Enter data

Date: Day Month Year

Message:

Description:

Product category:

Food:

Hazard:

Country of origin:

Message Type:

Investigation results:

Comment:

Food type:

Continent:

Risk category:

Here you see the data you inserted. These are considered SUPPLY ONLY at your own database queries!

B) Example for company-specific added data:

My Data ⓘ

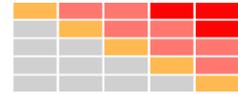
[Add new data](#) [Own data import](#)

Here you see the data you inserted. These are considered SUPPLY ONLY at your own database queries!

Year	Description	Food	Hazard	Country of origin	
2019	Propargit in fresh strawberries from Egypt	strawberries	Propargit	Egypt	delete edit details

C) Import of company-specific data:

Clicking on "Import own data" opens a window with information on the structure of the CSV file (EXCEL):



Add new data **Own data import**

Own data import

Here you have the opportunity to present your own data as a CSV file to import. Use separator as the ";" (semicolon).

In Excel select Save as "(*. csv) CSV (Comma delimited)"

As the order of the column please use the following:

Column 1: Date (Format: DD.MM.YYYY)

Column 2: Message Type (Values: W for critical risk, I for unacceptable risks, GZ for conditionally acceptable, N for justifiable)

Column 3: Description (max. 100 characters)

Column 4: Food category ([Possible food categories](#))

Column 5: Food

Column 6: Hazard ([Possible hazard categories](#))

Column 7: Country of origin ([Possible country of origin](#))

Column 8: Investigation results (max. 100 characters)

Column 9: Comment (max. 100 characters)

Column 10: Article (Possible types: **FOOD, FEED, FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS**)

Column 11: Continent ([Possible continents](#))

Column 12: Risk category ([Possible risk categories](#))

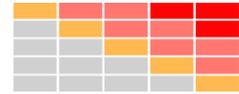
WARNING: Your existing data will be overwritten!

File to import: Keine Datei ausgewählt

An already formatted EXCEL Spreadsheet is available under "Download".
The data you have entered yourself is available to all users of your own company (your own user group) and can be included in further evaluation. Users from other companies (other user groups) do not have access to the data and cannot see the messages entered by other participants. In this way, each company can work with all the data available in Safefood-Online and also include company-internal findings.

Please forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:

info@safefood-online.de



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Dr. Bernhard Müller