



HOT SOURCE

Global food integrity issues and emerging risks

April - June 2019

Q2



Original thinking... applied



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Dear Reader

First ever World Food Safety Day (WFSD) was celebrated on 7 June 2019

The United Nations General Assembly (UN food and health bodies) declared this initiative back in a December 2018 resolution, in order to lead efforts across the globe to raise awareness of food safety issues and contribute to the UN's development goals. For this inaugural World Food Safety Day, food safety organisations took a stance to highlight that everyone involved in food systems has a part to play. Many initiatives were held aiming to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

Everyone has the right to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Still today, almost one in ten people in the world fall ill after eating contaminated food. When food is not safe, children cannot learn, adults cannot work. Human development cannot take place.

HorizonScan can play a key part in the sharing of intelligence and data on emerging and increasing food safety issues. HorizonScan houses data since 1999 to date, a web-based food safety alerting tool of raw material and global commodity issues across all food integrity areas. The system will help keep you posted on hazard and risk assessments across all food sectors from around the world and specific issues that may concern you like fraud, microbial contaminants, residues of veterinary drugs, pesticide residues, mycotoxins, allergens, heavy metals, dioxins, PCBs and many more. Developed and researched by industry experts, these insights will keep you up to date with regulatory breaches and compliance (e.g. BRC v8), emerging risks in specific markets, industry developments and hazards focusing on food quality, safety and sustainability.

To learn more about HorizonScan, contact HorizonScan@foodchainid.com

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Food fraud issues:

- The UK Food Standards Agency has issued a warning for possible adulterated honey after tests on many popular supermarket brands suggested they may be adulterated with foreign sugars, colourings and flavours.
- The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority in Pakistan have seized 1,000 kg of coloured bran in a crackdown on spice adulteration. The bran is coloured and illegally added to spices.
- A study was carried out to evaluate Italian PDO cheese and meat products to check that they conform with EU requirements. The study found 71.4% of dairy PDO products and 46.1% of PDO meat product samples involved species substitution, and 55% of samples were incorrectly labelled.
- Mexican authorities have warned that 3,400 bottles of counterfeit Reeba Reeba tequila due to be auctioned in Australia 'may cause injury if consumed'.
- A study carried out by Quadram Institute found two thirds of supermarket and restaurant pizzas and other dishes labelled as containing buffalo mozzarella in fact contained mozzarella that was made wholly or partially from cows' milk.
- A year long DNA study carried out by the Environmental Justice Foundation has revealed that the mislabelling of seafood in South Korea is a common occurrence across several key species sold at restaurants, fish markets and supermarkets. 34.8% of samples were found to be a different species to the one they were being sold as.
- Europol, Eurojust, the NAS Carabinieri from Italy, the Italian public prosecution office of Foggia, and the tribunal of Darmstadt in Germany have dismantled an organised criminal group found trading adulterated olive oil in Italy and Germany. 150,000 litres of fake oil were seized (believed to have a commercial value of €1,200,000) and 24 people have been arrested. Low quality oils, including sunflower oil, were found to be having substances added to them to change the colour to make them appear to be oils of higher quality.
- The Dutch broadcaster RTL has carried out an investigation into the organic sector in The Netherlands which has found hundreds of Dutch organic food producers were being allowed to sell products as 'organic' despite not meeting all the necessary rules. It is believed around 10% of producers were not complying with organic rules.
- Authorities across 6 European countries have dismantled a criminal network believed to have been selling fish unsuitable for human consumption. The investigation was coordinated by Eurojust and involved a day of almost 250 searches, 13 arrests and 11 boats and 30 tonnes of fish being seized. Illegal operations that those involved in the criminal network are accused of include illegal fishing in contaminated waters, tax evasion and money laundering.
- The National Food Authority in Albania has uncovered a food fraud scheme where margarine was being falsely sold as butter. The margarine was imported from the Ukraine and relabelled as butter with the country of origin changed to Germany. 47 tonnes of the margarine were seized.
- Calls are being made for a criminal investigation to be carried out in France following the uncovering of adulterated chopped beef steaks. The steaks were found to contain excess fat, low quality meat, starch and soy (the latter two not being allowed in chopped steak). 1,500 tonnes of beef products were delivered by a French company to charitable organisations who provide food for the poor. The unnamed French company obtained the supplies from a Polish manufacturer via another French company acting as intermediary.
- The Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF) in Brazil has been investigating fraud in rice. They have found rice sold as being Type 1 (best quality) has been mixed with Types 2 and Type 3 rice (lower quality). In 2018, 39 of 72 samples taken were found to be of a different quality to that declared.
- The initial results of operation OPSON VIII have been released by Europol and Interpol. The operation was carried out between December 2018-April 2019 across 78 countries, with more than 67,000 checks carried out at shops, markets, airports, seaports and industrial estates. The checks resulted in the seizure of more than 16,000 tonnes and 33 million litres of either counterfeit or substandard food and beverages, with 67 individuals arrested with investigations in many countries continuing. Some examples highlighted by Europol include organic foods being investigated for the first time following a growing trend of falsely labelled products, mislabelled coffee and the threat from 2,4-Dinitrophenol in supplements.
- Red meat exports from Canada to China have been suspended in the wake of further counterfeit health certificates allegedly being found on shipments of pork. The initial incident took place earlier this month when the Chinese authorities found residues of banned feed additive ractopamine in a batch of pork being exported from Canada.

Emerging issues:

- Following the release of a RASFF report, an emerging issue has been picked up in HorizonScan concerning the presence of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in oregano from Turkey.
- A report over high content of total volatile basic nitrogen (52 mg/100g) in frozen vacuum-packed cod fillets (*Gadus morhua*) from France has been considered an emerging issue by HorizonScan.
- An emerging issue involving pesticide residues in peppers from Uganda has become apparent in Spain and Italy. The unauthorised substances being found are profenofos, omethoate and carbendazim.
- Irradiation in an unauthorised facility (suspicion) of sweet paprika powder from Spain, via the United Kingdom, has been notified by Malta for the first time.
- The Czech Republic is reporting an emerging issue about cooked meat not complying with pyrogen-free limit and the PAU 4 amount set by the legislation.
- An emerging issue has been picked up by HorizonScan following the release of several recalls in Italy due to Hepatitis A in food and dietary supplements.

Increasing issues:

- Number of reports alerting about the presence of Salmonella in sesame seeds from Ethiopia has increased during the last twelve months. United States and Greece are the two countries notifying the issue.
- Several countries (Austria, France, Portugal, France, The Slovak Republic, United States and the United Kingdom) are seeing an increase in the number of reports regarding pesticide residues in goji berries from China.
- An increasing issue has been picked up in HorizonScan concerning the presence of unauthorised colours in pickled turnips from Syria.
- Scientific researchers have raised concerns that the risk of food poisoning by histamine could increase in Europe if current trends continue. This follows an average 5% annual increase of fresh tuna imports into Europe between 2011 and 2015.



Q2 results 2019

		Quarter change from Q1 2019	Annual change from Q2 2018
	Poultry & poultry products	↑ 57.9%	↑ 70.7%
	Seafood	↓ 25.6%	↓ 22.8%
	Milk & dairy products	↑ 19.1%	↑ 21.3%
	Meat & meat products (excluding poultry)	↑ 9.4%	↓ 9.7%
	Herbs & spices	↑ 48.0%	↑ 41.0%
	Fruit & vegetables	↓ 13.7%	↓ 29.5%
	Nuts, nut products & seeds	↑ 2.9%	↓ 7.0%

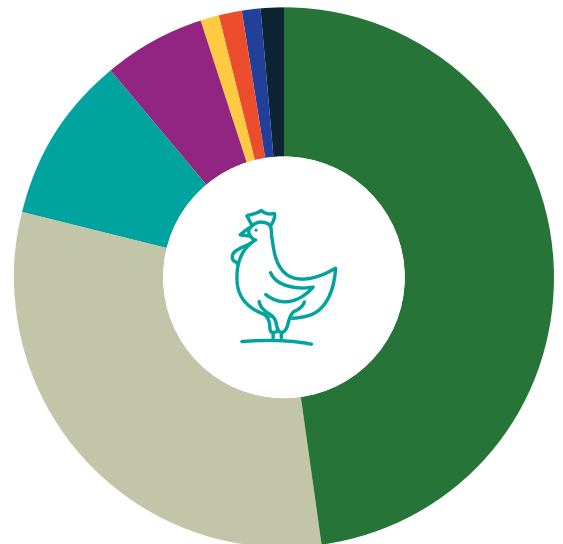


Poultry meat and poultry products

Main issues reported during Q2 2019

Total of 170 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
●	Meat - chicken	47.1	<i>Salmonella</i>
●	Meat products (pate, burgers etc)	30.6	<i>Salmonella</i> or foreign bodies
●	Eggs	10	<i>Salmonella</i>
●	Meat - turkey	5.9	<i>Salmonella</i>
●	Eggs (dried/powdered)	1.2	Fraudulent documentation or <i>Salmonella</i>
●	Offal - chicken	1.2	<i>Mislabelling</i> or <i>Salmonella</i>
●	Meat - duck	1.2	<i>Salmonella</i>
●	Meat, minced, ground - chicken	1.2	<i>Salmonella</i>



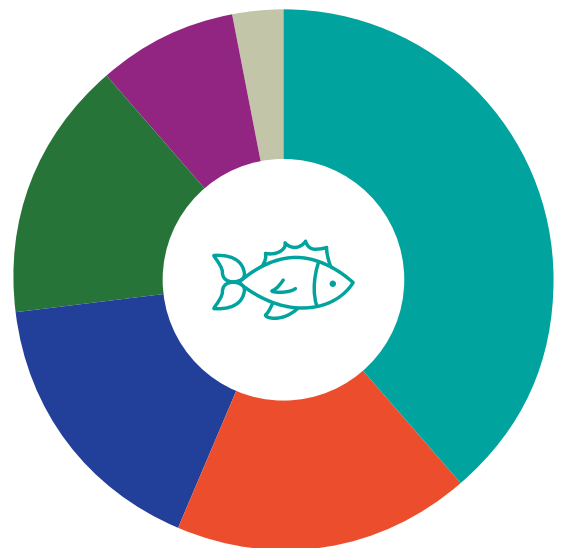


Seafood

Main issues reported during Q2 2019

Total of 186 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
●	Fish - fresh/frozen	37.6	Mercury
●	Fish - smoked/cured/dried	17.2	<i>Listeria</i>
●	Bivalve molluscs (mussels etc.)	16.1	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> or DSP
●	Crustaceans (crab, shrimps etc.)	15.1	Altered organolepsis or vet drugs
●	Cephalopods (octopus, squid etc.)	8.1	Altered organolepsis or Cadmium
●	Seaweed, algae, carrageenan	2.7	Iodine



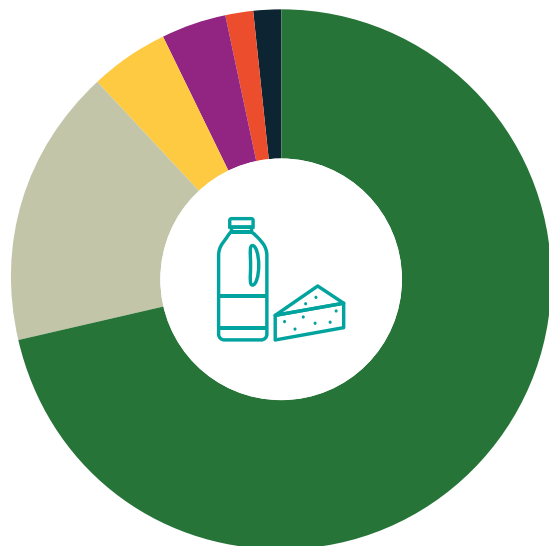


Milk & dairy products

Main issues reported during Q2 2019

Total of 131 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
●	Milk products - cheese	68.7	<i>E. coli</i> or <i>Listeria</i>
●	Milk products - ice-cream etc.	16	Undeclared tree nuts
●	Milk - bovine (cow)	4.6	<i>E. coli</i>
●	Milk products - yoghurt	3.8	Foreign bodies
●	Milk products - milk powder	1.5	Fraudulent documentation or vet drugs
●	Milk products - others (e.g. caseins)	1.5	Norovirus



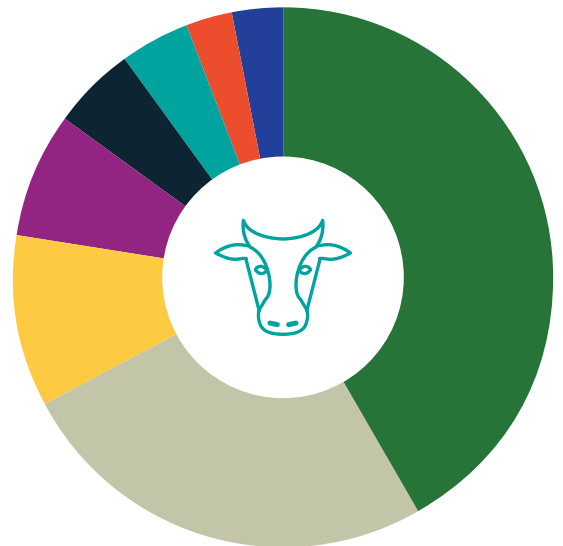


Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

Main issues reported during Q2 2019

Total of 186 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
●	Meat products - sausages	39.2	<i>Listeria, Salmonella or adulteration</i>
●	Meat products - preparations	23.7	<i>Listeria or Salmonella</i>
●	Meat - bovine (beef, veal, cow)	9.7	<i>E. coli</i>
●	Minced meat - (beef, veal, cow)	7	Foreign bodies
●	Meat products - pork hams	4.8	<i>Listeria or adulteration</i>
●	Meat - equidae (horse)	3.8	Fraudulent documentation or dioxins
●	Meat - ovine (lamb, mutton, sheep)	2.7	<i>Salmonella</i>
●	Meat - porcine (pork, pig)	2.7	<i>Salmonella</i>





Herbs & spices

Main issues reported during Q2 2019

Total of 148 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
●	Spice mixtures & curry powder	27.7	Undeclared allergens
●	Pepper, black, pink and white	10.8	<i>Salmonella</i>
●	Paprika and chilli powder	8.1	<i>Salmonella</i> , aflatoxins or ochratoxin A
●	Ginger	6.8	Pesticides
●	Nutmeg whole & ground	6.1	Aflatoxins
●	Oregano	5.4	Other natural toxicants
●	Paan leaves (Betel)	5.4	<i>E. coli</i> or <i>Salmonella</i>
●	Coriander leaves (cilantro)	5.4	Pesticides



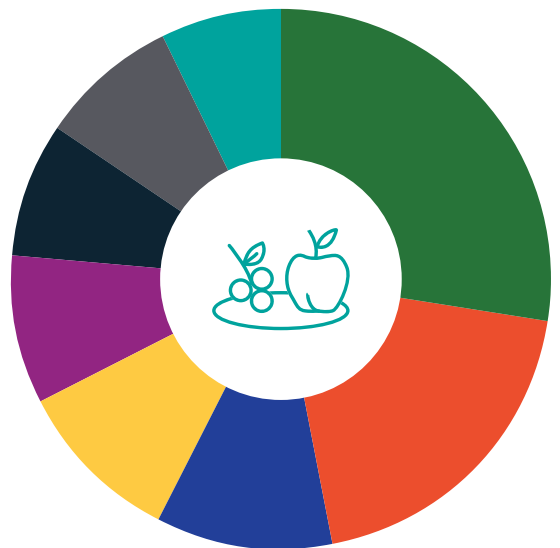


Fruit & vegetables

Main issues reported during Q2 2019

Total of 246 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
●	Peppers (sweet or bell)	12.6	Pesticides or <i>Listeria</i>
●	Vine fruits – raisins	8.9	Ochratoxin A, undeclared sulphites or pesticides
●	Chilli peppers - fresh or dried	4.9	Pesticides or aflatoxins
●	Figs – dried	4.5	Aflatoxins or infestation
●	Raspberries	4.1	Norovirus
●	Spinach	3.7	Pesticides
●	Other small fruit & berries	3.7	Hepatitis A
●	Beans (dry)	3.3	Pesticides or fraudulent documentation



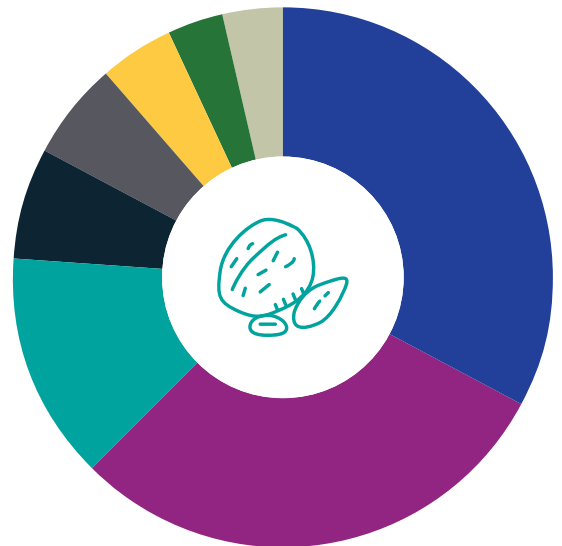


Nuts, nut products and seeds

Main issues reported during Q2 2019

Total of 107 issues

Key	Commodity	%	Main issues
●	Pistachios	27.1	Aflatoxins
●	Almonds	24.3	Aflatoxins
●	Hazelnuts	11.2	Aflatoxins
●	Coconut - fresh	5.6	<i>Salmonella</i>
●	Melon (egusi) seeds	4.7	Fraudulent documentation
●	Alfalfa sprouts	3.7	<i>E. coli</i>
●	Bean sprouts (mung beans)	2.8	Pesticides
●	Walnuts	2.8	Altered organolepsis or aflatoxins





KEY

'%' relates to the number of issues concerning that commodity in its group, for example 36% of all issues concerning nuts, nut products and seeds involved pistachios.

'Main issues' reflects the majority of issues reported for that commodity, but does not include every minor issue, for example, most reported issues concerning chicken meat were the presence of *Salmonella*.

'Issues' relates to food recalls, border rejections and other such notifications at a global level collated from over 90 official government and other additional reliable sources around the world.



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