

# NSF INTERNATIONAL

## FOOD SAFETY BITES

March 2019



If you have any comments or queries about the articles below or would like further information on any matter, please contact [foodsafetybites@nsf.org](mailto:foodsafetybites@nsf.org)

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### 1) Brexit

#### **A) European food makers call for 'special consideration' in event of no-deal Brexit**

Representatives of the European food industry met with the European Union's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, this week to press for "special consideration" for the industry in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

The delegation included representatives from Copa and Cogeca, CELCAA and FoodDrinkEurope (FDE). During the meeting – and in a follow-up joint letter signed by the three organisations – the food sector stressed the need to avoid a no-deal Brexit scenario and deliver "*an orderly Brexit*" to ensure trade between the EU and the UK "*remains as frictionless as possible*".

Read more [here](#)

### **b) UK food industry calls for 'pause' on food policy amid no-deal Brexit planning**

Industry organisations representing the UK food chain have called on the government to halt “non-Brexit related policy consultations or initiatives”, insisting that they are overwhelmed with the need to prepare for the possibility of a no-deal withdrawal.

Read more [here](#)

### **c) No-deal Brexit and food prices: How much will it push up the average basket?**

There is broad agreement that a no-deal Brexit will result in higher UK food prices - but what does this mean for the average family?

Britain is due to leave the on 29 March.

If a deal cannot be reached, UK industry will be faced with the 'cliff edge' of trading on World Trade Organization terms. This will further increase costs because imported food and ingredients will be subject to tariffs. Currently, the UK imports 30% of the food it eats from the EU.

Read more [here](#)

### **d) Tariffs impact every part of the food chain**

Imposing tariffs on food post-Brexit could start a chain reaction that would be felt by every member of the food and drink industry, according to the Food and Drink Federation (FDF).

Secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs Michael Gove confirmed that the UK would impose tariffs on all food coming into the country in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

Read more [here](#)

### **e) UK food industry calls for 'pause' on food policy amid no-deal Brexit planning**

Industry organisations representing the UK food chain have called on the government to halt “non-Brexit related policy consultations or initiatives”, insisting that they are overwhelmed with the need to prepare for the possibility of a no-deal withdrawal.

In a letter to Michael Gove, Secretary of State at the Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) the food sector warned: *“In fewer than 50 days, the UK will leave the European Union. The legal default is that we will do so irrespective of whether or not we have signed a withdrawal agreement and, at present, that no-deal Brexit looks ever more the likeliest outcome. “Businesses throughout the UK food chain – and their trade associations - are now totally focused on working to mitigate the catastrophic impact of a no-deal Brexit. Large amounts of time, money, people and effort are being diverted to that end.”*

Read more [here](#)

## 2) Diet and health

### **a) German Nutrition Society advises vegans to supplement diet with vitamin B12**

The German Nutrition Society (DGE) has updated vitamin B12 reference values that recommend vegan diet followers take a supplement daily to compensate for the regimen's nutritional deficiencies.

Guidelines issued by the non-profit organisation raise vitamin B12 (cobalamin) intake for adults to 4.0 micrograms ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) per day – up from the previously recommended intake of 3.0 $\mu\text{g}$  per day.

Read more [here](#)

### **b) Should Norway ban energy drink sales to kids? Ever-increasing consumption perceived 'a real problem'**

A survey has revealed that three out of four Norwegians support the introduction of age limits on energy drink sales.

Energy drinks have long been criticised for high levels of caffeine and sugar, and their appeal to children and adolescents.

Read more [here](#)

### **c) UK firm convicted of illegally selling DNP-containing fat burner tablets**

A UK-based company that distributed illegal "fat-burner" tablets containing 2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) has been prosecuted in the country's courts bringing an end to the firm's online retail operations.

Enhanced Athlete Europe, a company with registered offices in Cumbria and Gateshead, was found guilty of placing an unsafe food product on to the market and ordered to pay a €114,000 (£100,000) fine, plus costs.

Its sole director, Shaun Corrigan was given a nine-month custodial sentence, suspended for 12 months, 180 hours unpaid work, and was disqualified from being a director of a company for two years.

Read more [here](#)

### **d) Why are European consumers eating less fibre than recommended?**

Our research found that consumers in European countries are only eating approximately half of the recommended daily intake of 25g of fibre.

The reasons for this are many fold: It is challenging to achieve the recommended intake of fibre solely by consuming food groups that are the most fibre rich, such as vegetables, grains and some fruits. Also, fibre-enriched products tend to have a grainy or bland taste.

Read more [here](#)

### 3) Food Fraud

#### a) 'Today's complex, fragmented, global food supply chains have led to an increase in food fraud'

Today's increasingly complex, fragmented and global food supply chains have led to a steep increase in food fraud, according to Bühler and the only way to tackle it is enhanced transparency across the entire value chain and emerging digital technology.

It claims the digital revolution is transforming the entire food industry and manufacturers need to embrace upcoming technologies to unlock traceability, transparency, and data intelligence.

Read more [here](#)

#### b) Food fraud fine not fit for purpose says British egg industry

The British Egg Industry Council is calling for stronger deterrents for food fraud following the news that an egg trader in the Netherlands convicted of fraudulently selling contaminated eggs as fit for human consumption has been fined just EUR30,000.

The egg trader from Mijnsheerenland in Zuid-Holland was also found guilty of selling battery eggs as free range. Inspections at the company's warehouse found eggs stamped with fake registration numbers, so their origin could not be determined.

Read more [here](#)

### 4) Catering Business

#### a) Meat-free meals on the rise

UK consumers ate 4.4bn meat-free dinners in 2018, as a growing trend of vegetarian, vegan and flexitarian diets saw a surge in sales of fruits and vegetables.

The latest data and commentary from research firm Kantar Worldpanel found that the number of consumers eating meat-free meals rose by 150m compared with the previous year. The shift to a more plant-based diet meant that 1% of households included a vegan, 5% had a vegetarian and 10% of households included a flexitarian in their ranks.

Read more [here](#)

### 5) Ethical and Sustainability

#### a) Cranswick tops animal welfare list

Meat processor Cranswick has topped the charts for animal welfare for the third consecutive year in the global Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare (BBFAW), while confectionery and snacks giant Mars lags behind.

Read more [here](#)

#### b) Fairtrade Fortnight focuses on plight of women in the cocoa sector

Fairtrade Fortnight, which starts on Monday, February 25, sees businesses backing Fairtrade's cocoa campaign with calls for more action from UK government.

Fairtrade is set to launch a new campaign on Monday, February 25, calling on the UK government, businesses and consumers to address the poverty in the cocoa industry by working towards living incomes for farmers.

Read more [here](#)

#### **c) 'Upgrading and securing local agriculture': Fairtrade pioneer Agri-Éthique on fairtrade for French producers**

Agri-Éthique is the first French fairtrade label that assures consumers French farmers and suppliers have received equitable treatment. Founder Ludovic Brindejonc explains that the association wants to play a "fundamental role" in "upgrading and securing local agriculture".

Read more [here](#)

#### **d) Fears over destination of non-stunned animals**

Animal welfare groups have expressed concern over the potential of meat from non-stunned animals being sold to consumers unaware of how it was slaughtered.

According to Food Standards Agency (FSA) figures, more than 94m animals were slaughtered without stunning in 2018. However, the data revealed that 90,500 animals, most of which were chickens, were deemed unsuitable for religious consumption and may have been repackaged and sold.

Read more [here](#)

#### **e) UK sets out plastic packaging tax plans, seeking to boost use of recycled content**

The UK government has launched a consultation to help shape its proposed plastic packaging tax, highlighting its aim to drive higher use of recycled content in packaging.

The UK plans to introduce 'world-leading' [tax on plastic packaging](#) in April 2022, applying to all single-use plastic packaging that doesn't include at least 30% recycled content. It has now opened plans up to consultation to determine issues such as what items the tax would be applied to, and the threshold of recycled content.

Meanwhile, plans for a Deposit Return Scheme for cans and bottles have also been opened up to consultation.

Read more [here](#)

## **6) Nutrition**

### **a) Labelling call for fluoride in products**

Food and drink manufacturers should be encouraged to label the fluoride content of their products to minimise consumers' risk of exposure to the mineral, a leading professor has argued.

The wide variation in fluoride content within different food and drink groups highlighted the need for comprehensive fluoride labelling of food and drink products.

Excess exposure to fluoride, particularly at a young age, can result in a bone disease known as skeletal fluorosis.

Read more [here](#)

## 7) Salt and Sugar

### a) UK challenges drinking yoghurt industry to cut sugar by 20%

Manufacturers and retailers of sweetened fermented yoghurt drinks are the focus of Public Health England's most recent guidance, which incites a 20% reduction of added sugar by 2021.

Public Health England (PHE), the body that advises the British government on public health policy for all of the UK, has expanded its sugar reduction guidelines to include sweetened fermented yoghurt drinks.

Read more [here](#)

## 8) Advertising and Labelling

### a) Alternative meats held back by confusing labelling laws

Europe must clear up the regulatory "uncertainties" that surround the marketing and labelling of meat alternatives, experts have warned.

The EU is a "hotbed" of research and development in meat analogues and plant-based meats, noted [UK think-tank Chatham House in a new analysis](#), and these products could potentially bring a raft of environmental, economic and social benefits.

However, there is a "high degree of uncertainty" regarding how these products can be named and marketed. Court cases have filled the gap where clear policy should be, and this could start to stifle growth, investment and innovation.

Read more [here](#)

### b) Consumers call for clearer pack labelling

Consumers have called on producers to clearly mark whether a product's packaging contains plastic and whether it is recyclable.

A report by sustainable packaging firm TIPA found that 48% of the British public wanted to see the changes made in food and drink packaging, with one in five admitting they had thrown away recyclable packaging because it wasn't clearly labelled.

TIPA also found that up to half of shoppers (46%) thought producers were not doing enough to make their plastic packaging compostable, while 49% said they would like to see the introduction of labelling to identify if packaging was compostable.

Read more [here](#)

### **c) Is food packaging doing enough to communicate allergen information?**

As high profile media coverage looks at the misguided, and as witnessed, dangerous consequences of unclear allergen information, we spoke to global intelligence agency, Mintel, about how big the problem of allergen labelling is.

After the recent death of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, who died after suffering an allergic reaction to a Pret baguette, the *“perceived lack of clarity and the dangerous health implications that ambiguous allergen labelling can have on consumers”* is an area that must be addressed to ensure the presence of allergens is not ambiguous.

Read more [here](#)

### **d) UK urged to cut cartoons on unhealthy breakfast cereals: “We must have more enforcement”**

Campaign groups in the UK have called for the ban of cartoons and bright packaging on unhealthy breakfast products after a recent survey found cereals are “still shockingly high in sugar”.

Poor diet and nutrition are recognised as major contributory risk factors for ill health and premature death in the UK.

Read more [here](#)

## **9) Food Safety**

### **a) FSS issues STEC food safety advice**

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) has issued a Public Information Statement to make clear its position regarding the presence of a group of harmful E.coli bacteria called STEC in food.

Citing existing expert scientific evidence, reinforced by a recent report from the World Health Organization and United Nations, FSS advises that the presence of any STEC in a ready-to-eat food is a potential risk to health, and could cause food poisoning.

Read more [here](#)

## **10) Origin**

### **a) Why is country of origin labelling important?**

Did you know that food shoppers rate country of origin labelling in the top three of the most important factors when food shopping? A recent YouGov survey shows that along with price and quality shoppers think it’s important to know where our food comes from.

Read more [here](#)

## **Food Alerts/Recalls – to 28<sup>th</sup> February**

1 February 2019

[Hill’s Pet Nutrition recalls a range of its selected dog food because it may contain high levels of Vitamin D](#)

Hill’s Pet Nutrition Ltd is recalling a selection of its canned dog food because it may contain high levels of vitamin D which exceed the maximum recommended intake.

15 February 2019

[Corleggy Cheese recalls its Cavanbert and Drumlin raw milk cheeses due to Mycobacterium bovis](#)

Corleggy Cheese is recalling its Cavanbert and Drumlin raw cows' milk cheeses because they were made from milk from a herd in which animals tested positive for Mycobacterium bovis.

17 February 2019

[The Condiment Company recalls Hunter & Gather Avocado Oil Mayonnaise because it may contain mould and salmonella](#)

The Condiment Company Ltd has taken the precautionary step of recalling Hunter & Gather Avocado Oil Mayonnaise because a recipe error has occurred which means the product might contain mould and be contaminated with salmonella.

21 February 2019

[EH Booths recalls various prepared vegetable products due to the presence of small pieces of metal](#)

EH Booths recalls Diced Red onion, Butternut Squash and Red Onion Soup Mix, Diced White Onions, Minestrone Soup Mix and Leek and Potato Soup Mix because they may contain small pieces of sharp metal.

22 February 2019

[Lidl recalls Kania Sea Salt Mills and Black Pepper Corn Mills as they may contain small pieces of glass](#)

Lidl recalls Kania Sea Salt Ceramic Grinders and Kania Black Peppercorns Ceramic Grinders as they may contain small pieces of glass. This presents a safety risk.

22 February 2019

[EH Booths recalls various prepared vegetable products due to the presence of small pieces of metal](#)

EH Booths recalls Diced Red onion, Butternut Squash and Red Onion Soup Mix, Diced White Onions, Minestrone Soup Mix and Leek and Potato Soup Mix because they may contain small pieces of sharp metal.

27 February 2019

[The Condiment Company recalls Hunter & Gather Avocado Oil Mayonnaise due to a lack of microbiological controls](#)

The Condiment Company Ltd is recalling Hunter & Gather Avocado Oil Mayonnaise because of concerns over the company's procedures in place to control Clostridium botulinum.

## **Allergy – to 28<sup>th</sup> February**

1 February 2019

[The Village Bakery Markethill recalls various own-branded bakery products because of incorrect allergen labelling](#)

The Village Bakery Markethill is recalling numerous bakery products because they contain various undeclared or incorrectly labelled allergens.

6 February 2019

[The Village Bakery Markethill recalls various own-branded bakery products because of incorrect allergen labelling](#)

The Village Bakery Markethill is extending its recall of numerous bakery products because they contain further undeclared or incorrectly labelled allergens and further affected products.

8 February 2019

[Rayan Patisserie recalls Assorted Baklawah due to undeclared allergens](#)

Rayan Patisserie is recalling its Assorted Baklawah because it contains milk and wheat (gluten) which are not mentioned on the label.

12 February 2019

[Real Handful recalls Choc Orange Chase Protein Bar due to undeclared sesame](#)

Real Handful recalls its Choc Orange Chase Protein Bar as it may contain sesame which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to sesame.

14 February 2019

[Bean & Pod recalls Dark Chocolate Honeycomb Dairy Free due to undeclared milk](#)

Bean & Pod Ltd is recalling Dark Chocolate Honeycomb Dairy Free because it contains milk which is not mentioned on the label.

15 February 2019

[Mr Dips recalls Cyprus Jasmine Tzatziki and Cyprus Jasmine Taramasalata due to undeclared allergens](#)

Mr Dips is recalling Cyprus Jasmine Tzatziki because it contains milk which is not mentioned on the label, this means this product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to milk or milk constituents.

16 February 2019

[Speedibake recalls Takeaway Garlic Slices because of incorrect allergy labelling](#)

Speedibake is recalling Takeaway 10 Garlic Slices because it contains milk which is not correctly declared on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to milk or milk constituents.

16 February 2019

[Lidl recalls Mister Choc Choco & Caramel Bars because they may contain undeclared peanuts](#)

Lidl is recalling Mister Choc Choco & Caramel Bars, 6 Pack because some bars have been packed in incorrect packaging.

19 February 2019

[Sainsbury's recalls Mango Sorbet by Sainsbury's due to undeclared milk](#)

Sainsbury's is recalling Mango Sorbet by Sainsbury's because it contains traces of milk which is not mentioned on the label.

20 February 2019

[Lidl recalls Sondey Orange Jaffa Cakes and Sondey Jaffa Minis due to undeclared milk](#)

Lidl is recalling Sondey Orange Jaffa Cakes and Sondey Jaffa Minis, (Orange Assortment) because they contain milk which is not mentioned on the label.

21 February 2019

[Sounas recalls Tandoori Masala Naan and Naan Breads Tandoori Masala due to undeclared celery](#)

Sounas is recalling Tandoori Masala Naan and Naan Breads Tandoori Masala because they may contain celery which is not mentioned on the label. This means the products are a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to celery.

21 February 2019

[Everest Ices recalls four Ice Cream and Kulfi products due to undeclared almonds](#)

Everest Ices is recalling Everest Ices Pistachio Ice Cream, Everest Ices Gold Pistachio Kulfi, Everest Ices Kulfi Sticks and Everest Ices Pistachio Kulfi Cones because they contain almonds which are not mentioned on the label.

26 February 2019

[Co-op recalls five soup products because of undeclared mustard](#)

Co-op is recalling five soup products because they contain mustard which is not mentioned on the label. This means the products are a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to mustard.

26 February 2019

[Asda recalls Sweet Potato & Red Chilli Soup because of undeclared mustard](#)

Asda is recalling Sweet Potato & Red Chilli Soup because it contains mustard which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to mustard.

26 February 2019

[Waitrose recalls Waitrose Cooks' Ingredients Dark Chocolate Chips and Cooks' Ingredients Dark Chocolate Chunks because of undeclared milk](#)

Waitrose is recalling Waitrose Cooks' Ingredients Dark Chocolate Chips and Cooks' Ingredients Dark Chocolate Chunks because they may contain milk which is not mentioned on the label.

27 February 2019

[Boots recalls Boots Shapers Teriyaki Houmous Chips because of undeclared mustard](#)

Boots is recalling Boots Shapers Teriyaki Houmous Chips because they contain mustard which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to mustard.

27 February 2019

[Food Innovations UK recalls Create a Cake Home Bake Dark Chocolate Chips due to undeclared milk](#)

Food Innovations UK is recalling Create a Cake Home Bake Dark Chocolate Chips because it contains milk which is not mentioned on the label.

## EU RASFF (Rapid alert system for food and Feed) – highlights to 31<sup>st</sup> February

All RASFF can be found at: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/portal/?event=notificationsList&StartRow=1>

Date	Country of origin	Subject	Country of notification	Classification
26/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
26/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
25/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
25/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
25/02/2019	Germany	possible presence of glass in sea salt and black pepper's mills from Germany	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
25/02/2019	Brazil	Salmonella (present /25g) in black pepper from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
25/02/2019	Thailand	unsuitable transport conditions for frozen cooked chicken from Thailand	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
22/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
22/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered	United	information for attention

		online for sale	Kingdom	monitoring of media
22/02/2019	United Kingdom	Parasitic infestation with Anisakis of chilled saithe (Pollachius virens) from the United Kingdom	Italy	information for follow-up - official control on the market - recall from consumers
22/02/2019	Turkey	Salmonella (presence /25g) in organic hazelnuts from Turkey	United Kingdom	information for attention company's own check
21/02/2019	Germany	milk ingredient undeclared on jaffa cakes from Germany	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
21/02/2019	United Kingdom	unauthorised ingredient (hawthorn berry) in food supplements from the United Kingdom	Sweden	official control on the market
21/02/2019	Uganda	unauthorised substance carbendazim (0.82 mg/kg - ppm) in red chili peppers (Capsicum chinense) from Uganda	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
19/02/2019	Germany	peanut undeclared on caramel and peanut bars incorrectly packaged as chocolate and caramel bars from Germany	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
19/02/2019	Argentina	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.6; Tot. = 5 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
18/02/2019	United Kingdom	milk ingredient undeclared on garlic bread slices from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
18/02/2019	India	unauthorised substances methamidophos (0.59 mg/kg - ppm), acephate (0.39 mg/kg - ppm) and tricyclazole (0.04 mg/kg - ppm) in chilli peppers from India	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
18/02/2019	Poland	thiabendazole (2.4 mg/kg - ppm) and ethephon (4 mg/kg - ppm) in sweet peppers from Poland	United Kingdom	information for attention official control on the market
18/02/2019	United Kingdom	foodborne outbreak suspected to be caused by too low acidity (due to absence of vinegar) of avocado oil mayonnaise from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert food poisoning
12/02/2019	United Kingdom	unauthorised food additive E 926 - chlorine dioxide in chlorine dioxide solution from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
11/02/2019	China	too high content of E 385 - calcium disodium ethylene diamine tetra acetate (CDEDTA) in soy drink powder from China	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
08/02/2019	India	chlorothalonil (0.04 mg/kg - ppm) and unauthorised substance dichlorvos (0.13 mg/kg - ppm) in chilli peppers from	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained

		India		
07/02/2019	China	Bacillus cereus (960000 CFU/g) in chili bean curd from China	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
06/02/2019	Ecuador	bulging packaging and damaged packaging of skipjack tuna chunks (Katsuwonus pelamis) in brine from Ecuador infested with insects and with larvae of insects	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
05/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
05/02/2019	United Kingdom	unauthorised substance magnesium orotate (high intake: 500 mg/day) in food supplement from the United Kingdom	Ireland	withdrawal from the market
05/02/2019	China	migration of formaldehyde (25 mg/kg - ppm) from melamine kitchenware from China	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
04/02/2019	United Kingdom	unauthorised novel food ingredient cannabidiol (CBD) in sublingual oil spray from the United Kingdom	Spain	withdrawal from the market
04/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
04/02/2019	Pakistan	unauthorised substance methamidophos (0.07 mg/kg - ppm) in chilli peppers from Pakistan	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained
01/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
01/02/2019	Online sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
01/02/2019	Turkey	aflatoxins (Tot. = 102 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted and salted pistachios from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection consignment detained