



Food Safety Bites – August 2018



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

In this month's edition:

- 1) Brexit**
- 2) Diet and health**
- 3) Food Fraud**
- 4) Catering Business**
- 5) Ethical and Sustainability**
- 6) Nutrition**
- 7) Salt and Sugar**
- 8) Advertising and Marketing**
- 9) Food Safety**
- 10) Origin**

1) Brexit

a) Transpose EU regulations before time runs out

EU regulations on food and drink should be transposed into UK law before the end of the Brexit transitional period, in order to avoid a regulatory vacuum, according to an expert in food law.

However, it would be impossible for the UK to cherry-pick the EU rules it passed into law before the end of the transitional period – provisionally set for 31 December 2020 – warned Bings.

And he urged policy-makers to leave politics at the door when deciding which regulations should be transposed from EU law.

Read more [here](#)

b) Government called on to address Brexit food safety fears

Concerns over the UK's ability to manage food safety risks once it leaves the EU have been raised by an influential House of Lords committee.

Lord Teverson, chairman of the EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee, has asked the Government to detail the steps it is taking to mitigate the risks Brexit poses on the food and drink supply chain.

In addition, the Lords committee has asked whether the UK would be ready to take on responsibility for food safety risk management decision-making in March 2019, in the event of no transition period being agreed.

Read more [here](#)

C) Arla foresees post-Brexit dairy problems for UK consumers

European dairy cooperative Arla Foods says Brexit could leave UK consumers with less choice and higher prices, turning everyday staples, like butter, yogurts, cheese and infant formula, into occasional luxuries, and making speciality cheeses 'very scarce.'

The 11,000-farmer-member cooperative, while based in Denmark, has production facilities in 11 countries, and is the UK's biggest dairy producer.

Read more [here](#)

2) Diet and health

a) Low fibre intake linked to depression, study finds

Low dietary fibre intake has been linked to the onset of depressive symptoms, research published in scientific journal Nutrition reveals.

The association between depression and dietary fibre intake is controversial, but a new study from Qingdao University researchers suggest that total vegetable and fruit fibre intake were inversely associated with depressive symptoms while a nonlinear association was found between total fibre intake and depressive symptoms.

Read more [here](#)

b) Child obesity trends hit record high

Public Health England (PHE) is continuing to focus on calorie and sugar reduction as levels of severe obesity in children aged 10–11 have reached the highest point since records began.

The data, which comes from the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) over the past 10 years, showed that stark health inequalities were continuing to widen. The report said: *“The prevalence of excess weight, obesity, overweight and severe obesity are higher in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived – this is happening at a faster rate in Year 6 than Reception.”*

Read more [here](#)

c) 'A serious health concern': Undeclared allergens are causing accidental allergic reactions

Undeclared allergens at 'concerning' concentrations in packaged food are causing accidental allergic reactions, according to a study. "There is a perception that food allergens are no longer an issue," says one expert. "This is not the case."

Testing foods for which consumers reported experiencing an allergic reaction, the scientists found 37% of the 51 products analysed had between one and four 'culprit allergens' that, according to the ingredient declaration, were not present.

Read more [here](#)

d) 'A better shopping experience' for allergy sufferers: Asda partners with Foodmaestro to personalise e-commerce

Asda, the UK arm of retail giant Wal-Mart, is introducing a personalised online nutritional search to its e-commerce offering to make it easier for consumers with allergies or special dietary requirements to buy groceries online.

Asda is collaborating with app developer Foodmaestro and product information provider Nielsen Brandbank to bring what it described as a *“UK market-first”* to its customers.

Read more [here](#)

e) Colombia pledges deforestation-free cocoa by 2025

The world's tenth largest cocoa producer has joined the Cocoa & Forests Initiative as it looks to combat a 46% increase in tree cover loss last year.

Companies such as Mars, Hershey and Barry Callebaut, along with the Ivorian and Ghanaian governments and NGO partners, agreed in November 2017 to combat deforestation in the top two cocoa growing nations under the [Cocoa & Forests Initiative](#). Colombia has now become the first Latin American country to join the public-private partnership.

Read more [here](#)

f) Mediterranean diet linked to bone health

Eating a Mediterranean diet can help reduce bone loss in people with osteoporosis, a new study reveals. While the health benefits of the so-called Mediterranean diet is widely acknowledged, currently there are few studies examining the relationship between Mediterranean diets and bone health.

Read more [here](#)

g) The demand for products with dual or multiple free-from labelling is growing

The rise of free from is throwing up unique challenges for manufacturers in that, often products that replace allergens can have an allergen classification themselves, like nuts to provide protein and fat content; or eggs or milk to bind ingredients in gluten free.

There are two lines driving the free-from trend: better understanding of the symptoms of food intolerance and allergies, along with better understanding by the consumer of what is in their food, and the 'health halo' effect, where people view free-from as being overall healthier than standard off the shelf food.

Read more [here](#)

3) Food Fraud

a) Blockchain only part of the answer

Blockchain will have its place in the food and drink supply chain, but won't be the answer to all of its problems, an expert in supply chain has claimed.

"I don't think it's hyped up more than it should be. I don't think it'll be the answer, but I think it'll be part of the answer to what will be a very complex issue. Blockchain will have its place."

Read more [here](#)

4) Catering Business

a) Bakers billed £10,000 after Bakers Basco basket misuse

Two Essex-based bakeries and their directors must pay £10,000 in court costs and damages for the misuse of equipment belonging to bread basket management firm Bakers Basco.

London Wholesale Bakery and its director Ricky Paul Ramsay, and Breadcraft and its director Paul Anthony Ramsay were ordered to return all equipment in their possession and restrained from misappropriating it in the future.

Read more [here](#)

b) Samuel Smith Brewery fined for withholding pensions information

Samuel Smith Brewery and its chairman have been ordered to pay nearly £28,000, after it failed to hand over information on its financial position to The Pensions Regulator (TPR).

The information was required by TPR to enable it to understand whether the brewer's final salary pension schemes were being adequately supported.

Read more [here](#)

c) What do consumers really think of meat alternatives?

According to Mintel analyst Patty Johnson, the data shows three key elements: Consumers buying plant-based proteins are keen readers of ingredient lists; they want recognisable, vegetable-based ingredients; and products that are in convenient formats that mimic meat have the most success.

"If [ingredient composition] is not a concern, it should be. Consumers are scrutinising the labels of meat alternatives, and we saw from our data that over 70% of consumers, when buying a meat alternative product they've never purchased before, they read that label," she said.

“Some of the products that we’ve seen meet success out there in the market place are ‘veggie identified’. They take vegetables as the number one ingredient, particularly in burgers, with beans, kale and spinach.

Read more [here](#)

5) Ethical and Sustainability

a) Nestlé back in RSPO, pledged to achieve 100% RSPO certified palm oil in five years’ time

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) had reinstated Nestlé S.A.’s membership and certificates on Monday (16 July).

In a statement, RSPO said that Nestlé was reinstated membership as it has submitted time-bound action plan to achieve 100% RSPO certified sustainable palm oil by 2023.

The food and drink giant was [suspended](#) three weeks ago on 27 June for failing to submit the Annual Communication on Progress (ACOP) report for two consecutive years.

It also failed to pay an overdue membership fee of €2,000, which is again, a breach of the RSPO Statutes.

Read more [here](#)

6) Nutrition

a) Conflicting nutrition advice confuses consumers

Conflicting media messages and guidance over food choices is making it difficult for UK consumers to find reliable information on healthy eating, a survey has found.

Four-in-10 (43%) UK adults had difficulty finding reliable information on healthy diets, with changing information, messages and advice from media (76%) and experts (61%) the biggest causes of confusion, according to the research by the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF).

Read more [here](#)

b) ‘A proliferation of nutrition labelling initiatives’ but no consensus on which work best

A “global proliferation” of nutrition labelling is underway but, according to the European Food Information Council (EUFIC), no consensus exists on which types of labels are most effective.

With rising health care costs, improving diets at a population level is necessary to combat the spread of non-communicable diseases such as obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Read more [here](#)

7) Salt and Sugar

a) Soft Drinks Industry Levy hitting customer behaviour

Diet Coke sales have outperformed revenues from Classic Coca-Cola as the impact of the Soft Drinks Industry Levy takes hold.

This lean towards Diet Coke began in February when IRI first reported the low-sugar variant outselling the original. This coincided with a [marketing push for the variant from Coca-Cola GB](#).

Following the announcement of the levy, many drinks manufacturers moved to remove sugar from their products.

Read more [here](#)

b) Portugal to set mandatory maximum salt levels in bread

Portugal will set mandatory maximum levels for salt in bread, with incrementally increasing targets over the next four years.

By 1 January 2019, 100 g of bread must contain no more than 1.3 g of salt, falling to 1.2 g salt by January 2020, 1.1 g by January 2021 and 1 g salt per 100 g of bread by January 2022.

According to government data, bread and toast are the biggest contributors to the Portuguese population's salt intake.

[The draft law](#) will cover all types of bread produced or marketed in Portugal, irrespective of the country in which they were made.

Read more [here](#)

8) Advertising and Marketing

a) Heinz TV ad banned for a second time

A TV ad for Heinz Beanz has been banned for a second time by watchdogs, after breaching rules for health claims in food advertising.

[The original ad](#) was ruled to directly imply that Heinz Beanz contained the same amount of protein and fibre and low-fat content as a protein shake.

Clearcast, a non-governmental organisation that pre-approves most British television advertising, supported the ad. It did not believe that the ad compared the two food products shown.

Read more [here](#)

b) Nestlé loses KitKat battle after EU court rejects bid to trademark four-fingered design

Court of Justice of the European Union gets last word in KitKat shape dispute after Nestlé failed to prove that the shape of the bar has become distinctive of their goods across the EU.

Read more [here](#)

9) Food Safety

a) French probe calls for stricter food safety controls in wake of Lactalis affair

French Members of Parliament tasked with investigating the failings that contributed to the Salmonella outbreak traced to Lactalis infant formula in 2017 have made a raft of suggestions that could see the country introduce stricter food safety checks.

Read more [here](#)

10) Origin

a) MEPs push for a dual quality on-pack logo

Manufacturers could add a logo to food and drink packaging that tells consumers the product's content and quality is the same in all EU countries, consumer protection politicians said yesterday.

They also said both producers and retailers should get involved in tackling the issue “*in their own interest*” without triggering enforcement procedures.

Read more [here](#)

Food Alerts/Recalls – to 30th July

5 July 2018

[Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd recalls various frozen vegetable products due to possible contamination with Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd has taken the precautionary step of voluntarily recalling various frozen vegetable products because they might contain Listeria monocytogenes.

6 July 2018

[UPDATED: Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd recalls various frozen vegetable products due to possible contamination with Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd has taken the precautionary step of voluntarily recalling various frozen vegetable products because they might contain Listeria monocytogenes.

7 July 2018

[Dunnes Stores recalls Basil Pesto because the product may contain salmonella](#)

Dunnes Stores has taken the precautionary step of recalling Dunnes Stores Basil Pesto because the product might contain salmonella.

7 July 2018

[UPDATED: Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd recalls various frozen vegetable products due to possible contamination with Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd has taken the precautionary step of voluntarily recalling various frozen vegetable products because they might contain Listeria monocytogenes. Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd has recalled an additional product, listed below.

10 July 2018

[Consumers advised about Rolkem cake decoration products](#)

Consumers should be aware that a Food Business Operator (FBO) based in South Africa, Rolkem 'Expressions in Colour' has been producing a range of products for use in cakes and confectionary for which they have failed to provide assurance

11 July 2018

[UPDATED: Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd recalls various frozen vegetable products due to possible contamination with Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd has taken the precautionary step of voluntarily recalling various frozen vegetable products because they might contain Listeria monocytogenes.

12 July 2018

[Schweppes 1783 600ml glass bottles of tonic water recalled due to a manufacturing fault which may cause bottle caps to pop off](#)

Schweppes has taken the decision to recall 1783 600ml glass bottles of tonic water on a precautionary basis because there have been a small number of reports that the bottle caps pop off unexpectedly.

17 July 2018

[Health Leads UK Ltd recalls Bitter Apricot Kernels because packs contain high levels of Hydrocyanic Acid \(Cyanide\)](#)

Health Leads UK Ltd is recalling packs of Bitter Apricot Kernels because they contain high levels of Hydrocyanic Acid (Cyanide).

20 July 2018

[Waitrose recalls Crisp & Creamy Deli Style Coleslaw Side Salad because of the presence of Listeria](#)

Waitrose is recalling Crisp & Creamy Deli Style Coleslaw Side Salad because Listeria has been found in the product.

20 July 2018

[UPDATED: Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd recalls various frozen vegetable products due to possible contamination with Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd has taken the precautionary step of voluntarily recalling various frozen vegetable products because they might contain Listeria monocytogenes.

20 July 2018

[Babease Limited recalls pouches of Broccoli, Parsnip & Lentils Baby Food due to the presence of spoilage organisms.](#)

Babease Limited is recalling three batches of 'Broccoli, Parsnip & Lentils with Onion, Tomato, Quinoa, Fennel, Rapeseed Oil & Herbs' baby food because of the presence of spoilage organisms at unknown levels which may make this product unsafe to eat.

23 July 2018

[PepsiCo recalls Tropicana Trop 50 Multivitamins Juice](#)

As a precautionary measure, PepsiCo is undertaking a recall of its Tropicana Trop 50 Multivitamins Juice, due to fermentation. This is causing spoilage of the implicated batch.

28 July 2018

[Tereos UK recalls Granulated Sugar due to the presence of small metal pieces](#)

Tereos UK is recalling granulated sugar due to the possible presence of small metal pieces in some packs sold by Iceland, Poundland, and Sainsbury's.

Allergy – to 30th July

23 July 2018

[Nutrisport Ltd recalls various Nutrisport and Atlas protein products because of undeclared milk](#)

Nutrisport Ltd is recalling various Nutrisport and Atlas protein products because the products contain milk which has not been declared on the label.

26 July 2018

[Quorn recalls a batch of its 2 Gluten Free Burgers packs because of undeclared gluten](#)

Quorn is recalling packs of 2 Gluten Free Burgers because they contain undeclared gluten which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to gluten.

26 July 2018

[Bradbury & Son \(Buxton\) recalls Lo-Col because milk is not emphasised on the labelling](#)

Bradbury & Son (Buxton) Ltd is recalling a batch of Lo-Col, cheese alternative, because the product contains milk which is not emphasised in bold type on the labelling.

27 July 2018

[Asco Foods Ltd recalls Dee Thai Crispy Rolls – Durian Flavour due to undeclared sesame](#)

Asco Foods Ltd is recalling Dee Thai Crispy Rolls - Durian Flavour because it contains sesame which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to sesame.

27 July 2018

[Sainsbury's recalls 'by Sainsbury's Coconut & Yogurt filled Breakfast Biscuits' and 'by Sainsbury's Cocoa filled Breakfast Biscuits' due to undeclared sesame](#)

Sainsbury's is recalling 'by Sainsbury's Coconut & Yogurt filled Breakfast Biscuits' and 'by Sainsbury's Cocoa filled Breakfast Biscuits' because they contain sesame which is not mentioned on the labels.

28 July 2018

[Co-op recalls its Hoisin Chicken Noodle Box due to undeclared milk](#)

Co-op is recalling its Hoisin Chicken Noodle Box because it contains milk which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to milk or milk constituents.

28 July 2018

[\(Updated\) Bradbury & Son \(Buxton\) recalls Lo-Col because milk is not emphasised on the labelling](#)

Bradbury & Son (Buxton) Ltd are recalling batches of Lo-Col, cheese alternative, because the product contains milk which is not emphasised on the labelling.

30 July 2018

[Lidl Ireland recalls McEnnedy Peanut Flavoured Supersize Flips as allergens are not declared in English](#)

Lidl Ireland is recalling McEnnedy Peanut flavoured Supersize Flips because the product contains peanuts and may contain traces of gluten or nuts which are not stated in English on the label.

EU RASFF (Rapid alert system for food and Feed) – highlights to 30th June

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
31/07/2018	Panama	Salmonella (presence /25g) in fishmeal from Panama	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
31/07/2018	China	aflatoxins (B1 = 25.3 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled groundnuts from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
31/07/2018	China	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.3; Tot. = 8.9 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
30/07/2018	Turkey	ochratoxin A (18.3 mg/kg - ppm) in sultanas from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
27/07/2018	Thailand	undeclared sesame in Thai crispy rolls from Thailand	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
27/07/2018	China	E 406 - agar unauthorised and suffocation risk as a	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained

		result of the consumption of jelly cones from China		
27/07/2018	On line	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
27/07/2018	United Kingdom	Listeria monocytogenes in vegan ice cream from the United Kingdom	Germany	alert - company's own check - recall from consumers
27/07/2018	Sri Lanka	poor temperature control of chilled swordfish fillets from Sri Lanka	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
27/07/2018	Philippines	pouched tuna from the Philippines with defective packaging (leaking pouches)	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
26/07/2018	On line	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
26/07/2018	Nicaragua	aflatoxins (B1 = 76 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Nicaragua	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
25/07/2018	India	absence of health certificate(s) (and of certified analytical report) for groundnut chikki from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
24/07/2018	United Kingdom	undeclared milk ingredient in food supplements from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
24/07/2018	On line	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
24/07/2018	Nigeria	attempt to illegally import ground watermelon seeds (egusi) from Nigeria	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
20/07/2018	China	unauthorised substance hexaconazole (0.43 mg/kg - ppm) in dried goji berries from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
18/07/2018	Mexico	poor temperature control - rupture of the cold chain - (+15 °C) of frozen scallops from Mexico, via the United States	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
18/07/2018	United Kingdom	small piece of nylon in mini bread rolls from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert company's own check

18/07/2018	United Kingdom	unauthorised use of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (6.1, 25,42, 154 mg/kg - ppm) in biscuits from the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka, via Germany		official control on the market withdrawal from recipient(s)
18/07/2018	Ireland	Listeria monocytogenes (20; 40; 130 CFU/g) in chilled vacuum-packed smoked salmon trimmings from Ireland	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
12/07/2018	Turkey	high content of cyanide (1110 mg/kg - ppm) in bitter apricot kernels from Turkey, via Poland	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
11/07/2018	Thailand	poor temperature control - rupture of the cold chain - (between -0.2 and 4 °C) of frozen baby octopus from Thailand	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
11/07/2018	United Kingdom	undeclared egg in bakery scones from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	information for attention consumer complaint
11/07/2018	United States	poor temperature control (between -2 and 10 degrees °C) of frozen seasoned flying fish roe with herring roe from the United States	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
11/07/2018	Various	consumer recall of frozen vegetables from United Kingdom in relation to a multi-country foodborne outbreak	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
11/07/2018	Netherlands	Listeria monocytogenes (presence /25g) in frozen cooked smoked bacon pieces from the Netherlands	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
11/07/2018	Nigeria	aflatoxins (B1 = 19.3; Tot. = 25 µg/kg - ppb) in ground ogbono from Nigeria	United Kingdom	information for attention - consignment released
09/07/2018	United	aflatoxins (B1 = 134.8; Tot.	United	border rejection -

	States	= 139.4 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios from the United States	Kingdom	consignment detained
09/07/2018	Ghana	attempt to illegally import groundnut cake from Ghana	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
09/07/2018	Ghana	attempt to illegally import cow hide, milk powder and groundnut cake from Ghana	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
09/07/2018	Poland	Salmonella enterica ser. Enteritidis (presence /25g) in frozen breaded chicken breast fillets from Germany, with raw material from Poland	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
05/07/2018	Laos	high count of Escherichia coli (2000; 12000; 16000 CFU/g) in praew leaves from Laos	United Kingdom	information for attention - consignment detained
04/07/2018	India	improper health certificate(s) for chilli powder for curries from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/07/2018	Turkey	aflatoxins (B1 = 20.1; Tot. = 23.7 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted hazelnuts from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/07/2018	Thailand	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen salted chicken breasts from Thailand	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/07/2018	United Kingdom	too high intake of curcumin (up to 285 mg/day) from food supplement from the United Kingdom	Denmark	official control on the market - recall from consumers