



## Food Safety Bites – July 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](mailto: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
- 11) CO2 shortage

## 1) Brexit

### a) Brexit could hurt dairy in UK and Europe, EDA and Dairy UK say

With less than a year to go until Brexit, Dairy UK and the European Dairy Association (EDA) have jointly developed a 'Future UK-EU Dairy Framework' setting out the outcomes the dairy sector hopes to be achieved in the current negotiations between the UK and the EU.

The framework also includes potential solutions to some of the issues that may arise from the various Brexit scenarios.

There are 700,000 dairy farms across the European Union, 12,000 milk and processing sites, and more than 300,000 people working in the sector.

Read more [here](#)

## 2) Diet and health

### a) 'Deep disquiet in the food and drink sector': Industry unhappy at regulation to halve UK childhood obesity

The food and drink industry expresses concern over UK proposals for increased regulation aimed at reducing obesity rates, while health campaigners call for speedier action.

UK Health and Social Care Secretary Jeremy Hunt has detailed new measures that the government hopes will enable it to halve the number of obese children in the country by 2030.

Read more [here](#)

### b) Insect-enriched bread could answer consumer demand for high proteins, but could also make them sick

A new study from Italy finds edible insect powder can be successfully incorporated into leavened baked goods to improve their nutritional trait, but there is a downside.

Researchers from Marche Polytechnic University in Ancona have found that [adding 10% cricket powder to bread substantially enhances its nutritional traits](#) – especially the protein content and essential amino acids – and does not have too much of a negative effect on the dough's technological and organoleptic parameters.

However, the scientists noted the presence of bacterial spores — a dormant state of some types of bacteria — that could potentially spoil the bread or even make people sick.

The scientists did overcome this hurdle, though, through the use of preventive treatments like blanching or microwave drying the insect powder before adding it to the bread.

Read more [here](#)

### c) Plant-based trend sees premiumisation of meat consumption

Plant-based sales are set to continue their upward trajectory but the meat and dairy sectors are not out for the count. The way we consume animal products is evolving and premiumising, French research suggests.

Read more [here](#)

### 3) Food Fraud

#### a) Denmark finds counterfeit olive oil sold in country

Denmark has discovered adulterated olive oil from an operation that was first uncovered by Greek police last year.

Acting on a consumer's advice, Fødevarestyrelsen (Danish Veterinary and Food Administration) found that fake oil from Greek company Karpos was sold the country.

The DVFA's Food Inspection Flying Squad received a notification from police in April after the consumer contacted authorities

Read more [here](#)

#### b) French spice control finds issues with half of samples

A control by French authorities in the spices industry has found issues with half of samples.

La Direction générale de la concurrence, de la consommation et de la répression des fraudes (DGCCRF) said findings shows the spice market is strongly impacted by fraudulent practices that undermine quality of products as well as their image.

Controls showed the spice with the most anomalies was saffron (81%).

It was followed by peppers, curry and curcumas and other spices and mixtures.

Read more [here](#)

### 4) Catering Business

#### a) Germany recalls eggs from Netherlands due to fipronil

Tens of thousands of eggs from the Netherlands have been recalled in six German states due to contamination with fipronil.

Eggs from an organic laying hen farm in the Netherlands were sampled in the German city of Vechta and found to contain 0.014; 0.019 and 0.007 mg / kg fipronil.

Read more [here](#)

### 5) Ethical and Sustainability

#### a) Campaigners raise awareness with mobile plastic-free aisle

Campaigners have brought a mobile plastic-free aisle stocked with food and drink products to a global ocean summit in the Hague to raise the profile of alternatives to plastic packaging.

The mobile aisle is a joint initiative between environmentalists A Plastic Planet and Dutch supermarket chain Ecolplaza, which recently launched the world's first plastic-free supermarket aisle.

The retailer at the forefront of reducing plastic packaging and aims to have converted at least 75% of its own brand products to plastic-free packaging by the end of the year. The group has already rolled out 1,370 plastic-free items to its 74 stores across the Netherlands.

Read more [here](#)

## **b) Moving towards a plastic-free planet is 'an evolution, not a revolution'**

A myriad of solutions are needed to make plastic food packaging more sustainable, said top brass at Ekoplaza, Ikea and Futamura last week. "In some cases we need to completely break free, in some we need to use different materials and in others we need to recycle," according to one.

*"We need a lot of different solutions for the plastic soup problem,"* said Erik Does, CEO of Dutch organic wholesaler and retailer Ekoplaza at the Sustainable Food Summit in Amsterdam last week. *"In some cases we need to completely break free, in some we need to use different materials and in others we need to recycle."*

Read more [here](#)

## **c) Nestlé suspended by RSPO for 'failing to submit' palm oil sustainability reports**

Nestlé risks no longer being able to claim the use of certified sustainable palm oil following suspension of its Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) membership.

The food and drink giant was suspended yesterday (June 27) after RSPO said it had failed to report its efforts in promoting the sustainable use of palm oil for two consecutive years.

Read more [here](#)

## **d) Plant-based trend sees premiumisation of meat consumption**

Plant-based sales are set to continue their upward trajectory but the meat and dairy sectors are not out for the count. The way we consume animal products is evolving and premiumising, French research suggests.

Read more [here](#)

## **e) Zero incidents by 2025? How the cocoa industry intends to eradicate child labor from the supply chain**

A raft of promises and reports were published on this year's World Day Against Child Labor, highlighting the extent of forced labor in the cocoa industry with calls for greater transparency to help solve the problem.

Read more [here](#)

## **6) Nutrition**

### **a) Pressure mounting for mandatory traffic light labels in UK**

Calls for the introduction of mandatory front-of-pack traffic light labelling to be introduced in the UK continue to gain momentum as consumer group Which? issues a fresh report highlighting sugar in breakfast cereals.

Read more [here](#)

## **7) Salt and Sugar**

### **a) MPs back sugar tax hike as obesity plan unfolds**

Political appetite to increase 'sugar tax' on soft drinks and extend the levy to other products is growing, a Populus survey seen exclusively by Food Manufacture has revealed.

The news came as the Government announced on 24 June chapter 2 of its Obesity Plan, which targets energy drink, confectionery and snacks manufacturers.

More than a third of MPs (36%) surveyed said they would support increasing the Soft Drinks Industry Levy – up from 24% in 2016. More than half (54%) favoured extending it to other product categories. Responses also indicated interest in taxing fast foods.

Read more [here](#)

## 8) Advertising and Marketing

### **a) 'Consumers do not trust food labels and they have good reason': EU consumer organisation calls for tougher labelling regulation**

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) has called for the European Union to toughen up rules governing food labelling in order to stamp out what it described as the “misleading tricks” used by food makers to “sugar-coat” the quality of their products.

The BEUC, which represents consumer organisations from ten countries, suggested that the problem stems from a lack of EU rules defining terms like ‘artisanal’ or ‘whole grain’.

Read more [here](#)

### **b) Clearing up confusion: Long-awaited law to know your sourdough from your whole wheat**

The European Commission has approved a draft Royal Decree to bring Spain's legislation for bread into line with today's market demands and trends.

Read more [here](#)

## 9) Food Safety

### **a) Six affected in foodborne botulism outbreak in Denmark**

Denmark is investigating an outbreak of foodborne botulism with six confirmed cases.

Fødevarestyrelsen (Danish Food and Veterinary Administration) has taken food samples with results expected shortly in an attempt to determine the source.

There are six confirmed and one possible case out of 11 people that attended a private party in Sønderborg on Friday last week. All were admitted to hospital for observation.

Read more [here](#)

### **b) Sweden investigating two Salmonella outbreaks with source unknown**

Sweden is investigating two Salmonella outbreaks that have infected almost 50 people. Authorities said they suspect both are foodborne but do not yet know the source.

Since the beginning of May, 13 cases of an unusual Salmonella type (S. Typhimurium MLVA 2-17-N-N-211) have been identified by Folkhälsomyndigheten's (Public Health Agency's) microbial monitoring program. The outbreak strain has been found in seven counties in people reported to be infected in Sweden. Previous S. Typhimurium outbreaks have been linked to meat and eggs.

In the second outbreak, around 30 cases of S. Bovismorbificans were reported to Folkhälsomyndigheten. Infected people are 18 to 80 years old and are geographically spread across the country. Livsmedelsverket (National Food Agency) said both MLVA 2-17-N-N-211 and S. Bovismorbificans are rare in Sweden.

Read more [here](#)

## 10) Origin

### a) Funding announced for Welsh red meat sector

The Welsh red meat sector is to benefit from £2.15m in funding to help it prepare for the UK leaving the EU.

Allocated through the Welsh Government's £50m EU Transition Fund, the £2.15m is designed to support farmers in identifying improvements to their businesses to help them become more competitive and in a better position to trade profitably following Brexit.

Read more [here](#)

## 11) CO2 shortage

### a) CO2 shortage to hit UK food sector

The UK food industry is facing crisis with reports of European-wide shortage of carbon dioxide.

As reported by *Gasworld*, this is the "worst supply situation to hit the European carbon dioxide business in decades", with suppliers struggling to source ammonia, used in food-grade carbon dioxide.

Read more [here](#)

### b) CO2 shortages: 'crunch' time for meat sector as Tulip site freezes production

The next week is "crunch time" for the British meat industry as CO2 supply shortages edge closer to critically low levels, with processors forced into falling back on contingency plans.

The [shortage has been described as the "worst supply situation to hit the European carbon dioxide business in decades"](#).

Pork processor Tulip has revealed that it has sought derogation from Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) to allow pig meat from QMS-assured, Scottish pigs processed in alternative Tulip facilities in England to continue to carry the Specially Selected Pork logo. The plant has warned that it cannot take any more pigs from today (26 June).

Read more [here](#)

## Food Alerts/Recalls – to 30<sup>th</sup> June

2 June 2018

[Red Star Brands recalls Fulfil White Chocolate Bars because they may contain small pieces of clear plastic.](#)

Red Star Brands is recalling one batch of Fulfil White Chocolate & Cookie Dough Vitamin & Protein Bars because they may contain small pieces of clear plastic, which makes this product unsafe to eat.

2 June 2018

[Addo Food Group recalls pastry products because they may contain small pieces of metal wire.](#)

Addo Food Group is recalling batches of chilled pastry products, including sausage rolls, pasties, pastry pies and slices because of potential contamination with small pieces of metal wire.

27 June 2018

[Aldi, Asda, Tesco and Waitrose recall their own brand Soy / Soya Sauce because they may contain small glass fragments](#)

Aldi, Asda, Tesco and Waitrose are recalling their own brand Soy / Soya Sauce because they may contain small glass fragments which could present a safety risk. These products are imported into the UK by World Wise Foods.

## Allergy – to 30<sup>th</sup> June

7 June 2018

[Lidl Ireland recalls Duc de Coeur Macarons as allergens are not declared in English](#)

Lidl Ireland is recalling Duc de Coeur Macarons because they contain almond, wheat, milk, eggs, pistachio and barley and may contain lupin, other nuts, peanuts and sesame, which are not written in English in the ingredients list.

14 June 2018

[Moon Sweets Couture UK Ltd recalls Fizz Wizz Fruit Chews due to undeclared sulphites](#)

Moon Sweets Couture UK Ltd is recalling various flavours of Fizz Wizz Fruit Chews because they contain sulphites which are not mentioned on the label.

18 June 2018

[Mondelez International recalls Ritz Chipster due to undeclared wheat](#)

Mondelez International is recalling Ritz Chipster because the product contains wheat which is not declared on the packaging. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to wheat (gluten).

18 June 2018

[Sainsbury's recalls its Fruit and Honey Seed Mix due to undeclared nuts](#)

Sainsbury's is recalling its Fruit and Honey Seed Mix because a small number of packets may contain almonds and cashew nuts which are not mentioned on the label.

26 June 2018

[Marks & Spencer recalls M&S Louisiana BBQ Chicken Flatties because of undeclared milk](#)

Marks & Spencer is recalling M&S Louisiana BBQ Chicken Flatties because the product contains milk which is not mentioned on the label.

29 June 2018

[Mullaghmore Bakery recalls various scone products because they contain egg which is not declared on the labels](#)

Mullaghmore Bakery is recalling various scone products because they contain egg which is not mentioned on the labels. This means the products are a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to egg.

## EU RASFF (Rapid alert system for food and Feed) – highlights to 30<sup>th</sup> 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
29/06/2018	India	absence of health certificate(s) for spice mix from India	UK	border rejection - consignment detained

28/06/2018	Mexico	poor temperature control (14.5 °C) of chilled snapper from Mexico	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
28/06/2018	Malaysia	glass fragments (0.5-1.5 mm) in soy sauce from Malaysia	UK	alert company's own check
27/06/2018	Sri Lanka	aflatoxins (B1 = 22; Tot. = 23 µg/kg - ppb) in crushed chillies from Sri Lanka	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
27/06/2018	UK	undeclared milk ingredient in chilled vacuum-packed barbecue chicken flatties from the United Kingdom	UK	alert company's own check
26/06/2018	UK	unauthorised substance D-glucosamine in food supplement from the United Kingdom	Sweden	return to consignor - no distribution from notifying country
26/06/2018	Malaysia	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) in food supplement from Malaysia	UK	information for attention monitoring of media
25/06/2018	Turkey	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) in food supplement from Turkey	UK	alert monitoring of media
22/06/2018	United States	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) in food supplement from the United States	UK	information for attention monitoring of media
21/06/2018	China	foreign body (fine white powder) in frozen smoked haddock from China	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
20/06/2018	United States	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) in food supplement from the United States	UK	information for attention monitoring of media
20/06/2018	Unknown	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) in food supplement from unknown origin	UK	information for attention monitoring of media
20/06/2018	Russia	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) in food supplement from Russia	UK	information for attention monitoring of media
19/06/2018	United States	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) in food supplement from the United States	UK	information for attention monitoring of media
19/06/2018	UK	unauthorised operator for frozen lamb slices from the United Kingdom	UK	information for follow-up official control on the market
18/06/2018	Seychelles	poor temperature control (+13.3 °C) of chilled swordfish and tuna loins from the Seychelles	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
13/06/2018	Bangladesh	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of and E 407 - carrageenan unauthorised in jelly cones from Bangladesh	UK	alert official control on the market
13/06/2018	Guinea	unauthorised colour Sudan 4 (630 µg/kg - ppb) in palm oil from Guinea	UK	border rejection - consignment detained



12/06/2018	United States	aflatoxins (B1 = 37.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts for wildlife from the United States	UK	information for attention - consignment released
08/06/2018	Gambia	aflatoxins (B1 = 30.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from the Gambia	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
08/06/2018	Gambia	aflatoxins (B1 = 36.5; Tot. = 59 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from the Gambia	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
07/06/2018	Netherlands	benzo(a)pyrene (6.2 µg/kg - ppb) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (sum PAH4 32.1 µg/kg - ppb) in organic coconut oil from the Netherlands	UK	alert official control on the market
06/06/2018	Bangladesh	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of and E 407 - carrageenan unauthorised in jelly cones from Bangladesh	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
06/06/2018	Vietnam	thawed frozen raw red mullet from Vietnam	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
05/06/2018	South Africa	aflatoxins (B1 = 59.9 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from South Africa	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
05/06/2018	Russia	poor temperature control (-3.2 °C) of frozen longfin thornyhead from Russia	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
05/06/2018	Russia	poor temperature control of frozen black cod (Anoplopoma fimbria) from Russia	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
05/06/2018	Russia	poor temperature control of frozen pacific cod fillets (Gadus macrocephalus) from Russia	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
04/06/2018	Gambia	aflatoxins (B1 = 90.5 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts for feed from the Gambia	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
01/06/2018	India	aflatoxins (B1 = 77.7 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
01/06/2018	Sri Lanka	poor temperature control of chilled cooked crab meat from Sri Lanka	UK	border rejection - consignment detained
01/06/2018	Syria	unauthorised colour rhodamine B (21 mg/kg - ppm) in pickled turnips from Syria	UK	border rejection - consignment detained