

## Food Safety Bites – June 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

### 1) Brexit

#### a) Skills gaps and labour major concern for manufactures – BDO

Skill gaps and labour are a major concern ahead of Brexit for UK food and drink manufactures, according to research by accountancy and business advisory firm BDO LLP.

The firm said industry is heavily reliant on EU labour with one in three workers coming from the region.

Read more [here](#)

## 2) Diet and health

### a) EU funded project to help adolescents choose healthy diet and active lifestyles

An international research consortium is to investigate how society can help adolescents choose healthy diet and an active lifestyle.

The five-year project of the European Commission Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme is led by Folkehelseinstituttet (FHI/Norwegian Institute of Public Health) CO-CREATE, which will run until 2023, includes 14 partners from six European countries plus South Africa, Australia and the US.

Read more [here](#)

## 3) Food Fraud

### a) Chinese consumer concern is opportunity for EU food producers

Chinese consumers have deep-rooted concerns about food safety and fraud in the domestic supply chain, according to research led by Newcastle University.

Researchers from the university in the UK said perceived safety and quality of food imported from Europe into China provides commercial opportunities for producers.

Read more [here](#)

## 4) Catering Business

### a) EU policy proposal cracks down on single use plastics

The European Commission has proposed rules to cut use of single use plastics including a ban on cutlery, straws and drink stirrers and reduced use of food containers and drinks cups.

The proposal focuses on the 10 single-use plastic items most found on European beaches. It includes different policy measures from bans and reductions, to labelling and extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes.

Read more [here](#)

## 5) Ethical and Sustainability

### a) First-of-its-kind blockchain technology to trace Halal food launched in Dubai

New blockchain technology – HalalChain – has been launched to enable consumers trace and track halal products, in an attempt to overcome difficulties posed by scores of accreditation schemes and regulatory uncertainty.

Industry experts from Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Australia, Nigeria and Malaysia have come together, spending six months on the research process, developed by HLC Technologies FZCO.

In an interview with FoodNavigator-Asia, Dr Sulaiman Liu, co-founder of HalalChain shared that the technology uses smart IoT devices, RFID, Sensor, LoRa, smart cameras with AI etc for data gathering.

Once a manufacturer subscribes to their service, the company will first do an onsite inspection, which is followed by a tailor made blockchain solution, including steps and methods for real-time data collection.

Read more [here](#)

## 6) Nutrition

### a) Nestlé top for tackling nutrition issues - but all global firms need to improve

Nestlé is top for addressing the double burden of obesity and malnutrition, and while many firms have stepped up efforts, a "disappointing" number have too many unhealthy products in their portfolios, according to the Access to Nutrition Index (ATNI)

The Index ranks the world's 22 biggest food and beverage companies for their nutrition-related policies, formulation and delivery of affordable and appropriate products, and positive influence on consumer choice and behaviour.

This year, the Index, which [can be downloaded here](#), placed Nestlé number one with a score of 6.8. The Swiss food giant increased its 2016 score, the year the Index was last published, by 0.7 points. Unilever came second with 6.7 versus 6.4 in 2016 and French dairy company Danone third with 6.3 compared to 4.9 in 2016.

Read more [here](#)

## 7) Salt and Sugar

### a) British food firms fail on government's 5% sugar reduction target

UK food and drink manufacturers have fallen short of Public Health England's 5% voluntary target for sugar reduction, achieving just 2% at the end of the first year.

In 2016, Public Health England, the body that advises the British government on public health policy for all of the UK (and not just England), challenged the food industry to voluntarily cut sugar in 10 categories by 20% by 2020. It also wanted to see a 5% reduction by the end of the first year.

This reformulation programme, which forms part of the UK government's childhood obesity action plan, covers the categories breakfast cereals; yoghurts; biscuits; cakes; morning goods; puddings; ice creams, lollies and sorbets; confectionery (chocolate and sweets) and sweet spreads, which is sub-categorised into chocolate spread, peanut butter, dessert toppings/sauces and fruit spreads.

It suggested businesses had three ways to take action: lowering the amount of sugar per 100 g (reformulation), reducing portion size and shifting consumers' purchasing patterns towards low- or no added sugar products.

Read more [here](#)

### b) UK sets sugar reduction targets for juice and milk-based drinks

Juice and milk-based drinks are currently exempt from the UK's sugar tax: but Public Health England has set out targets for sugar reduction in these categories – and says that progress will be taken into account when it reviews the milk-based drinks exemption in 2020.

Milkshakes, sweetened coffees, hot chocolates, juices and smoothies are all expected to adhere to new guidelines in PHE's sugar reduction programme, which is part of the government's childhood obesity plan. This includes pre-packaged drinks and those sold in restaurants, cafes and fast food outlets.

Read more [here](#)

## 8) Advertising and Marketing

### a) 'Stop lecturing and start inspiring': UK fund targets veg marketing

A fundraising initiative, Veg Power, has been launched in the UK with the aim of increasing vegetable consumption through marketing that makes vegetables "inspiring", "fun" and "contemporary".

Veg Power is spear-headed by Peas Please, a collaboration between think tank the Food Foundation, Nourish Scotland, Food Cardiff and WWF. It has secured a broad cross section of support, including the backing of celebrity chefs Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fernley-Whittingstall as well as advertising executive and founder of Bartle Bogle Hegarty Sir John Hegarty.

Read more [here](#)

### b) Renewed call to limit junk food ads to help reduce obesity rates

There is a "clear and consistent" correlation between marketing of products high in fat, salt or sugar (HFSS) and their consumption among 11-19 year olds, according to a Cancer Research UK study.

It also showed young people felt under pressure to eat or drink these products.

Cancer Research UK said a 9pm watershed on TV adverts would be the most effective way to reduce HFSS eating. 'On-demand' services, online and radio should be included in any update.

Broadcast marketing restrictions remain the way forward for UK policy to have a positive impact of children's dietary choices and weight outcomes, it added.

Read more [here](#)

## 9) Food Safety

### a) France looks set to ban titanium dioxide

As France looks poised to ban titanium dioxide by the end of 2018, the government has praised "pioneering" manufacturers for voluntarily removing the colouring from food products.

French policymakers have already prepared an amendment to the draft law as part of the General States of the Food Industry that allows it, "if necessary", to ban titanium dioxide and its use in food by the end of 2018.

The additive has no nutritional value and "its only virtue is aesthetic", the government said.

Last week Poirson met with the head of Verquin Confiseur, a French confectionery manufacturer based in Tourcoing that in January last year voluntarily committed to removing the additive from its portfolio.

Read more [here](#)

## **b) UK food standards watchdog denies 'privatising regulation'**

The chair of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has defended her organisation's new regulatory system.

Heather Hancock said it was "*nonsense*" that the agency was asking companies to regulate themselves or "*privatising regulation*" of the food sector.

Businesses have to comply with food laws now and they will do in the future, she told FoodNavigator. "*No responsible business wants to regulate itself,*" she said.

However, this has been the criticism levied at the new programme of food safety regulation in the UK.

The 'Regulating Our Future' (ROF) regime is the FSA's attempt to "*modernise*" the way food businesses are regulated. "*We are changing the existing approach to regulating the food industry because we believe it is outdated and becoming increasingly unsustainable,*" the agency said last year.

Read more [here](#)

## **10) Origin**

### **a) Italian firms spend millions on 'useless' law but government vows to keep origin labelling**

Italy's increasingly exasperated manufacturers have spent millions conforming to a labelling law that breaches EU law – but the Ministry and country's new coalition government have vowed to defend it.

In April, [FoodNavigator revealed that](#) the European Commission has repeatedly warned Italy its labelling laws, which require manufacturers to print the names and address where food and drink products are manufactured, is against EU law.

Read more [here](#)

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

2 May 2018

[Dunnes Stores recall Simply Better Yogurts as a precautionary measure due to the possible presence of rubber pieces](#)

Dunnes Stores is recalling a number of its Simply Better yogurts as a precautionary measure due to the possible presence of rubber pieces, which could make the products unsafe.

11 May 2018

[Fabricake Sugarcraft Limited recalls Rolkem's Special Rose Gold and Super Gold due to high levels of metal](#)

Fabricake Sugarcraft Limited is recalling Rolkem Special Rose Gold and Rolkem Super Gold which are food colours used to decorate food items (such as cakes) due to high concentration of copper.

17 May 2018

[Tees Ltd recalls Sweetworld Yummy Jelly Cones because of a choking hazard](#)

Tees Ltd is recalling Sweetworld Yummy Jelly Cones because the products contain carrageenan which is not permitted as an ingredient in jelly confectionery products as it presents a choking hazard.

23 May 2018

[True Value Candys Ltd recalls Super Jelly Cone and Super Pudding Cone because of a choking hazard](#)

True Value Candys Ltd is recalling Super Jelly Cone and Super Pudding Cone because the products contain carrageenan which is not permitted as an ingredient in jelly mini-cup products as it presents a choking hazard.

24 May 2018

[Apna distribution recalls 'hey I'm all yours' Jelly Sweets because of a choking hazard](#)

Apna distribution is recalling 'hey I'm all yours' Jelly Sweets because the products are likely to present a choking hazard. This is because the product can be projected from a cup or capsule in one piece by exerting pressure at the tip.

26 May 2018

[AG Barr is recalling 750ml glass bottles due to a manufacturing fault which may cause bottle caps to pop off unexpectedly](#)

AG Barr has taken the decision to recall 750ml glass bottles on a precautionary basis because there have been a small number of reports that the bottle caps pop off unexpectedly.

## **Allergy – to 30<sup>th</sup> May**

9 May 2018

[Mary Berry's Salad Dressing recalled due to undeclared egg](#)

Mary Berry's is recalling Mary Berry's Salad Dressing because it contains egg which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to egg.

9 May 2018

[Remeo Gelato recalls Stracciatella Di Bergamo Gelato because of undeclared nuts](#)

Remeo Gelato is recalling a batch of its Stracciatella Di Bergamo Gelato due to a packing error. The product may contain Pistachio ice-cream in error which contains pistachio that is not mentioned on the label.

11 May 2018

[Yorkshire Game 17 recalls Wild Venison Burgers because of incorrect allergen labelling](#)

Yorkshire Game 17 Ltd is recalling Wild Venison Burgers because they contain soya, sulphur dioxide and/or sulphites, and wheat (gluten), which are not emphasised correctly on the label.

16 May 2018

[Lidl Ireland recalls Filled Potato Croquettes as milk is not declared in English](#)

Lidl Ireland is recalling two varieties of Harvest Basket Filled Potato Croquettes because they contain milk, which is not written in English in the ingredients list. The products were sold in Lidl stores in Northern Ireland.

17 May 2018

[Supernutrients recalls Organic Chlorella Powder due to undeclared sulphites](#)

Supernutrients are recalling a batch of Organic Chlorella Powder because the product contains sulphites which are not mentioned on the label.

17 May 2018

[Naturya recalls Organic Chlorella Powder due to undeclared sulphites](#)

Naturya are recalling a batch of Organic Chlorella Powder because the product contains sulphites which are not mentioned on the label.

## EU RASFF (Rapid alert system for food and Feed) – highlights to 30<sup>th</sup> May

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
30/05/2018	Chile	aflatoxins (B1 = 58.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts for feed from the United States	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
30/05/2018	Zambia	Salmonella (in 1 out of 5 samples /25g) in frozen salted chicken half breasts from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
25/05/2018	Zambia	aflatoxins (B1 = 20.0 µg/kg - ppb) in whole dried chillies from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
25/05/2018	Turkey	unauthorised use of colour E 122 - azorubine (5 mg/kg - ppm) in sliced pickled turnips from Lebanon	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
24/05/2018	Dominican Republic	poor temperature control (-2.4, -1.4, -4.2, -3.8, -2.4, -3.1 °C) of frozen shrimps (Litopenaeus vannamei) from Ecuador	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
24/05/2018	Philippines	unauthorised food additive sodium chlorite (3.3 %) in food supplement from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
24/05/2018	Chile	Listeria monocytogenes (present /25g) in chilled cured ham from Hungary	United Kingdom	information for attention company's own check
24/05/2018	Chile	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen salted chicken half breasts from Thailand	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
23/05/2018	United States	aflatoxins (B1 = 34.8 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels for birdfeed from Nicaragua	United Kingdom	information for attention official control on the market
23/05/2018	Canada	poor temperature control - rupture of the cold chain - of hake fish fingers from South Africa	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
23/05/2018	Unknown	aflatoxins (Tot. = 4.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Argentina	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained

23/05/2018	Germany	Salmonella (in 1 out of 5 samples) in frozen salted chicken half breasts from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
22/05/2018	Germany	Salmonella in soya for feed - multiple feed products from China, via the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	information for follow-up company's own check
22/05/2018	United Kingdom	poor temperature control of tilapia fillets from Colombia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
22/05/2018	Netherlands	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.1 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
18/05/2018	United Kingdom	E 407 - carrageenan unauthorised in jellys from Bangladesh	United Kingdom	information for attention official control on the market
18/05/2018	United States	prohibited substance nitrofurans (metabolite) furazolidone (AOZ) (76.0 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen shrimps (Penaeus vannamei) from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
18/05/2018	Chile	aflatoxins (B1 = 171 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from the Gambia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
18/05/2018	Turkey	aflatoxins (B1 = 482 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts for birdfeed from the Gambia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
17/05/2018	China	aflatoxins (B1 = 77.1 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels for feed from the Gambia, via the Netherlands	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
17/05/2018	South Korea	aflatoxins (B1 = 451 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from the Gambia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
16/05/2018	Pakistan	too high content of zinc (54500 mg/kg - ppm) and of copper (289000 mg/kg - ppm) in food colour from South Africa	United Kingdom	information for attention official control on the market
16/05/2018	Philippines	Salmonella enterica ser. Agona in cucumbers from Spain	United Kingdom	information for attention company's own check
16/05/2018	Chile	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen salted chicken half	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment



		breasts from Brazil		detained
14/05/2018	United Kingdom	aflatoxins (B1 = 12.3; Tot. = 18.7 µg/kg - ppb) in fig paste from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
11/05/2018	Poland	cadmium (1.8 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen octopus from Vietnam	United Kingdom	alert - consignment released
11/05/2018	United Kingdom	unauthorised food additive sodium chlorite in food supplement from Australia	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
11/05/2018		poor temperature control (-5 °C) of frozen yellowtail loins ( <i>Seriola</i> spp) from Japan, via Thailand	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
11/05/2018		Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen half breast chicken from Brazil, via the Netherlands	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
09/05/2018		high content of cyanide (46.5 mg/kg - ppm) in apricot kernels from Afghanistan	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
09/05/2018		undeclared egg in chilled chicken garlic kiev from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
07/05/2018		aflatoxins in groundnut kernels from the Gambia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
07/05/2018		aflatoxins (91.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels for feed from the Gambia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/05/2018		dried mealworms from China infested with moulds	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/05/2018		absence of health certificate(s) for chili powder from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/05/2018		aflatoxins (B1 = 38.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from the Gambia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/05/2018		aflatoxins (B1 = 341 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts for bird feed from the Gambia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/05/2018		aflatoxins (B1 = 40.7 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from the Gambia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
01/05/2018		unauthorised food additive sodium chlorite (25 %) in	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media

		sodium chlorite solution from Germany, via Cyprus		
01/05/2018		aflatoxins (B1 = 16.4; Tot. = 18.3 / B1 = 20.9; Tot. = 23.3 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachio nuts from the United States	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
01/05/2018		Salmonella (present in 1 out of 5 samples /25g) in frozen marinated chicken breasts from Chile	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
01/05/2018		Salmonella (present in 1 out of 5 samples /25g) in frozen salted chicken breasts from Chile	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained