



## Food Safety Bites – October 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)

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## 1) Brexit

### A) 'If the worst-case scenario happens the UK will make 'No deal' and will have to trade on WTO terms'

If the worst-case scenario happens in Brexit negotiations the UK will make 'No deal' and will have to trade on WTO (World Trade Organization) terms, the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations, says Baker Botts.

Speaking at this year's ECMA Congress (European Carton Makers Association), in Riga, Latvia (September 20-21), David Gabathuler, consultant, Baker Botts said some companies are contingency planning whereas others are waiting to see what happens. But it would not be ideal to end up with WTO trading.

Read more [here](#)

### b) We take a science-based approach to GM regulation': UK to consider relaxing gene editing ban post Brexit

The UK has confirmed it will 'consider' relaxing the European Union's controversial decision to include gene editing techniques within its regulatory framework that restricts the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the food chain after Brexit.

In an open letter to the Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, 33 agri-tech scientists called on the government to provide clarity on the future of gene edited crops in the UK, [after the European Court of Justice extended restrictions placed on GMOs to include gene editing techniques in July](#).

Read more [here](#)

## 2) Diet and health

### a) French MPs attack processed & 'ultra-processed' food, demanding tougher laws

A French parliamentary report, voted yesterday, calls for a raft of measures to make processed and 'ultra-processed' food healthier, from maximum limits on salt, sugar and fat to caps on the number of additives used per product.

Due to be published in full in the coming days, the report calls for strict measures to "*improve the quality of industrial food*" and public health, from limiting the number of additives used in processed foods to banning junk food marketing to children and prohibiting health claims on unhealthy foods.

Read more [here](#)

### b) Keto Veganism still growing despite dissatisfaction with food options

90% of US vegetarians are considering veganism, even though half of US vegans are dissatisfied with their food choices. With less structured diets trending among young consumers, food brands need to innovate and expand their offerings, according to a study from Ingredient Communications.

In the US, 6% of consumers identify as vegan, according to the study. But the movement to eat fewer animal by-products is growing, with 90% of vegetarians considering the full switch to plant-based and 42% of meat eaters intending to either eat less meat or cut it out of their diets altogether.

Read more [here](#)

### 3) Food Fraud

#### a) Fake food, origin labelling & cheap US soy: A round-up of EU news and views

Food products were the worst offenders for fake and counterfeit goods in Europe last year, according to figures released yesterday by the Commission.

Last year, EU customs authorities seized over 31 million fake goods with a street value of €580 million, and food accounted for almost one quarter (24%) of these. Eighty percent of the fake food and drink products came from China followed by 8% from Hong Kong and 7% from Syria.

Read more [here](#)

### 4) Catering Business

#### a) 'Brussels faces pressure for tighter definition of unfair trading practices

The European Commission is facing calls for a tougher approach to Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) as it looks at proposals for a directive to promote more equitable relationships in the food supply chain.

The UTP proposal – which is expected to enter into force in 2020 – aims to introduce a minimum standard of protection. It provides a list of prohibited UTPs that are classified into two groups: firstly, practices that are simple unfair and, secondly, practices that may be acceptable if clear prior agreement is reached.

Read more [here](#)

#### b) Desserts maker fined £50k after factory fall

An Essex-based desserts maker has been fined £50,000 after the managing director's mother seriously injured her pelvis falling through fragile ceiling tiles. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had not implemented control measures for employees working near fragile ceiling tiles.

Read more [here](#)

### 5) Ethical and Sustainability

#### a) 'A vision for zero plastic packaging waste': Danone, Nestlé and others set out industry challenge to rethink plastic

Danone, Nestlé, Suntory and other bottled water and soft drinks companies have set out their vision for a future where no plastic packaging is sent to landfill or ends up as litter. How can this be achieved?

The bottled water brands say they want to see a future where all packaging is made entirely from recycled or renewable materials (or both); are designed to be fully reusable or recyclable; and all packaging is recovered or recycled.

Read more [here](#)

#### b) Iceland plastic-free pledge: 'For us the Circular Economy didn't go far enough'

Iceland hit the headlines earlier this year vowing to make all its own-brand products plastic-free by 2023.

Speaking at the ECMA (European Carton makers Association) Congress in Riga, Latvia, (September 20-21) Ian Schofield, own label and packaging manager, Iceland Foods, told how [the idea was born](#) and what challenges it has faced over the last nine months.

*"In January this year we decided we had to do something. We never declared a war on plastics as most media reported, we said we had to 'turn the tap down' on plastics because nothing was happening,"* said Schofield.

Read more [here](#)

### **c) Red Tractor to strengthen inspection regime**

Quality assurance scheme Red Tractor has announced plans to enhance its inspection programme.

In an effort to maintain the trust of consumers and promote UK farming and food standards, it is introducing unannounced inspections for members that “*require more scrutiny*”.

Read more [here](#)

### **d) Stakeholders launch International Fair Trade Charter: 'Our goal is to render Fair Trade labels unnecessary'**

Over 300 organisations have launched an International Fair Trade Charter that sets down the fundamental values of Fair Trade.

Initiated by Fairtrade International and the World Fair Trade Organisation, the Charter’s central tenet is that the benefits of global trade must be shared more equally across farmers, workers, companies and consumers.

Read more [here](#)

### **e) The quest for the most sustainable beverage packaging**

Drinks should only be put on the market in the most sustainable option available – packaging that can be recycled and reused, but also has the lowest environmental impact overall, according to a vision set out by a University of Cambridge report. But what ideas could we see emerge as the optimum choice?

Read more [here](#)

### **f) UK pledges to halve food waste by 2030**

The UK’s largest retailers, food producers, manufacturers and food service companies have committed to halve food waste – which costs the UK £20bn (€22.5bn) annually – by 2030.

Ninety organisations have signed to the Food Waste Reduction Roadmap, jointly developed by research and training charity IGD and environmental NGO WRAP.

Read more [here](#)

### **g) Will Walkers Crisps make their packaging sustainable before 2025?**

Walkers Crisps hit the headlines this week when a social media campaign to make its packaging sustainable went viral.

Campaigners have been sharing photos of themselves posting empty crisp (chip) packets to the company to highlight the issue but Royal Mail has now asked them to stop.

Read more [here](#)

## **6) Nutrition**

### **a) ‘Science not magic’ and the need to demystify nutritional information**

The food industry should work to demystify nutritional guidance and the ingredients list in response to a proliferation of often contradictory, sometimes inaccurate, information in the digital space.

Consumers are increasingly concerned about healthy diets. The link between what you eat and how your body performs is now front of mind for many. This can be seen in emerging trends that continue to gain steam, whether it is growing demand for high protein foods to support muscle building or functional foods linked to various other health benefits.

Read more [here](#)

## 7) Salt and Sugar

### a) Coca-Cola assesses sugar tax impact

The UK and South Africa both introduced taxes on sugar sweetened beverages earlier this year. How has this affected Coca-Cola?

Read more [here](#)

## 8) Advertising and Marketing

### a) Commission to consider tougher rules on dual quality after landslide EU vote

EU politicians have overwhelmingly voted in favour of tougher measures to crack down on the practice of dual quality foods. “We condemn crooked corporate practices,” said one MEP.

Compiled by Czech politician Olga Sehnalová, a member of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, the report calls for swift cross-border cooperation. This means consumer protection and food authorities, consumer associations and the EU Commission sharing data on potentially non-compliant products.

MEPs also want a common testing approach to gather “*reliable and comparable evidence*” and help ascertain how serious and widespread the practice is. These test results must be published in a publicly-available database and analysed “*no later than by the end of 2018*”.

Read more [here](#)

### b) Nestlé, Unilever & suppliers push EU for potassium chloride label change

Manufacturers should be able to label potassium chloride, used to reduce sodium levels in food, with more consumer-friendly names such as potassium salt, argues a joint position paper.

According to the paper, which cites the results of a survey of over 2,400 consumers in five EU member states, the term potassium chloride is ‘chemical-sounding’.

Read more [here](#)

## 9) Food Safety

### a) ‘An unnecessary and unacceptable risk’: Food policy experts warn on hormone-treated beef after Brexit

Writing in a new report, *Hormone-treated beef: Should Britain accept it after Brexit?*, Professor Erik Millstone, of the University of Sussex, and Professor Tim Lang of City University London, suggested shoppers could be forced to consume “*hazardous*” hormone-treated beef if a “*weakened*” UK makes concessions on food standards in order to secure a trade deal with countries outside the EU such as the US.

Read more [here](#)

### **b) Acrylamide: Consumer awareness low but those in the know are worried**

Most consumers are unaware of acrylamide but 70% of those who have heard of it are concerned about the potential health effects of consumption, a new survey reveals.

Read more [here](#)

### **c) Allergy case sparks labelling regulation questions**

The coroner in the inquest involving the death of a 15-year-old girl is to write to Environment Secretary Michael Gove regarding gaps in food labelling regulations.

This follows a five-day inquest at West London Coroner's Court regarding Natasha Ednan-Laperouse who died following a flight between London and Nice on 17 July 2016 after she ate an artichoke, olive and tapenade baguette bought from a Pret a Manger at Heathrow Airport.

Read more [here](#)

### **d) Commission mulls cut in maximum levels for nitrites and nitrates in meat**

The European Commission is considering lowering the maximum authorised levels for nitrites and nitrates in processed meat for health reasons, it has revealed.

Read more [here](#)

### **e) Food Standards Agency gets tough on assurance schemes**

The lack of collaboration between the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and UK food assurance schemes represents a 'failure of the system', an FSA board member has claimed.

Speaking at the FSA's board meeting yesterday (19 September), former Finsbury Food Group chief executive David Brooks expressed his disappointment that assurance schemes had not consulted with the organisation more.

Read more [here](#)

## **Food Alerts/Recalls – to 31<sup>st</sup> August**

3 September 2018

[Tesco recalls its Organic Almonds due to the presence of salmonella](#)

Tesco is recalling one batch of its Organic Almonds 200g because salmonella has been found in the product.

14 September 2018

[Dearne Valley Foods recalls McWurst Scotch Egg products because of the possible presence of Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Dearne Valley Foods is recalling batches of McWurst Scotch Egg products because Listeria monocytogenes has been found in two separate batches. These products are sold in Booths and Booker.

17 September 2018

[Dr Zak's recalls Barn Farmed Liquid Egg White because salmonella has been found in the product](#)

Dr Zak's is recalling Barn Farmed Liquid Egg White because salmonella has been found in the product.

21 September 2018

[Dr Zak's recalls a further batch of Barn Farmed Liquid Egg White because salmonella has been found in the product](#)

Dr Zak's is recalling an additional batch of Barn Farmed Liquid Egg White because further testing has identified salmonella in another batch of the product (Lot number 18163BN2A).

28 September 2018

[Lidl Ireland recalls its 'Baby Leaf Spinach' due to contamination with Listeria Monocytogenes](#)

Lidl Ireland is recalling its 'Baby Leaf Spinach' from its stores in Northern Ireland because it contains Listeria Monocytogenes.

28 September 2018

[Dunnes Stores recalls its 'Fresh, Ready to wash, Spinach Leaves' and 'Fresh, Ready to Wash, Mixed Leaves, due to contamination with Listeria Monocytogenes](#)

Dunnes Stores is recalling its 'Fresh, Ready to wash, Spinach Leaves' and 'Fresh, Ready to Wash, Mixed Leaves' from its Northern Ireland stores because they contain Listeria Monocytogenes.

### **Allergy – to 31<sup>st</sup> August**

7 September 2018

[Fazila Foods Limited recalls two types of kebab rolls because of undeclared allergens](#)

Fazila Foods Limited is recalling packs of 5 Large Lamb Kebab Rolls and packs of 5 Large Chicken Kebab Rolls because they contain milk and sulphites, which are not mentioned on the label.

25 September 2018

[Sainsbury's recalls in store bakery all butter croissant due to undeclared almonds](#)

Sainsbury's is recalling in store bakery all butter croissants because they contain almond filling which is not declared on the packaging. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to nuts.

28 September 2018

[Creme d'Or recalls assorted chocolates because they contain undeclared natural pistachio flavouring](#)

Creme d'Or is recalling Happy Jackson 'Congratulations!'

28 September 2018

[N J Marketing Ltd recalls Lemon Bonbons because of undeclared allergens](#)

N J Marketing Ltd is recalling Lemon Bonbons because they contain soya & milk which is not mentioned on the label.

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

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
26/09/2018	France	undeclared almond in all butter croissants from France	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
26/09/2018	India	spoilage and poor temperature control (-7 °C) of frozen shrimps (Penaeus vannamei) from India	United Kingdom	border rejection border control - consignment detained
25/09/2018	Online	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered	United	information for attention

		online for sale	Kingdom	monitoring of media
25/09/2018	Online	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
25/09/2018	Online	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
25/09/2018	Online	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
25/09/2018	UK	incorrect labelling on frozen head and tail fin cut swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> ) from the United Kingdom	France	information for follow-up - official control on the market
21/09/2018	Online	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
21/09/2018	Online	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
21/09/2018	India	aflatoxins (B1 = 75.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from India	United Kingdom	border rejection border control - consignment detained
18/09/2018	Spain	Foodborne outbreak suspected to be caused by <i>Salmonella</i> (present /25g), high count of <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> (9500 MPN/g) and high aerobic plate count (6700 CFU/g) in liquid egg white from France with raw material from Spain	United Kingdom	alert consumer complaint
17/09/2018	Online	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
17/09/2018	UK	unauthorised substance 1,3-dimethylamylamine (DMAA) in food supplement from unknown origin, via the United Kingdom	Denmark	official control on the market - official detention
14/09/2018	Online	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
14/09/2018	India	absence of health certificate(s) and of certified analytical report for Indian spices mix, nutmeg and dried whole red chillies from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
12/09/2018	Maldives	poor temperature control (from 5.7 to 10.2 °C) of chilled yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ) from the Maldives	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
12/09/2018	India	absence of health certificate(s) and of certified analytical report for black sesame seeds from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
07/09/2018	Ireland	multivitamin food supplement from Ireland infested with yeasts	United Kingdom	information for follow-up company's own check
07/09/2018	Morocco	canned sardines from Morocco with improper packaging (leaking)	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
06/09/2018	Online	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered	United	information for attention



		online for sale	Kingdom	monitoring of media
03/09/2018	United Kingdom	shigatoxin-producing Escherichia coli (stx1+ /25g) in frozen roe deer meat from the United Kingdom, via France	Italy	alert - official control on the market - detained by operator
03/09/2018	United Kingdom	unauthorised food additive sodium chlorite (22.4 %) in sodium chlorite solution from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
03/09/2018	Italy	Salmonella (presence) in organic almonds from Italy	United Kingdom	alert company's own check