



## Food Safety Bites – September 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) 'Reduced availability and higher prices': Food sector slams no-deal Brexit preparation

UK food makers have slammed technical papers released by the Government outlining what they may face in the event of a 'no-deal' Brexit.

Setting out what he described as "*practical and proportionate*" advice should the UK crash out of the European Union without a deal next March, UK Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab said that the 25 documents outlined how the UK will work to mitigate the impact of a no-deal Brexit on businesses and institutions.

Read more [here](#)

### b) 'Concerning long-term decline': UK farmers warn on food shortages post-Brexit

The UK would run out of food today (7 August) if the nation was unable to import any food products from the start of the year, the National Farmers Union warned as it called for the Government to back British food production.

Revealing that the latest figures on the UK's self-sufficiency in food have stagnated, NFU President Minette Batters urged Government to put the nation's food security at the top of the political agenda.

Read more [here](#)

## 2) Diet and health

### a) High fibre food reduces impact of stress, study suggests

Eating high fibre foods may reduce the effects of stress, according to new research published in The Journal of Physiology.

Recent years have seen an increase in the amount of research examining the connection between gut bacteria and stress-related disorders such as anxiety, depression and irritable bowel syndrome. Exposure to stress can cause major changes in the functioning of the gut and brain, which can in turn trigger behavioural alterations.

Read more [here](#)

### b) Keto may be the next 'fad' diet but is it healthy?

The keto diet has been tipped as the next big fad by analysts – but evidence over its longer-term health implications is less clear cut.

The ketogenic diet is high-fat, moderate-protein and low-carbohydrate. Ketogenic diets make the body produce ketones, which are used as an alternative fuel when blood sugar levels are low. Ketones are produced in the liver from fat and keto is becoming an increasingly popular weight loss diet.

Read more [here](#)

### c) Mushrooms may exert prebiotic, diabetic risk-lowering effect, suggests study

An 85 gram (g) serving of white mushrooms may be enough to trigger a prebiotic, gut health-boosting action that could lower the risk of Type 2 diabetes, according to a Pennsylvania State University study.

Read more [here](#)

### 3) Food Fraud

#### a) Food fraud: Spain seizes 45 tons of illegally treated tuna

Spanish authorities have seized 45 tons of “illegally treated” tuna fish as part of a crackdown on fraudulent food coordinated by Europol and Interpol.

As part of Europol’s OPSON VII operation, the environmental protection service of the Spanish civil guard, SEPRONA, found frozen tuna only suitable for canning had been illegally treated with substances that “*enhance the colour*”. This tuna had then been diverted to the market to be sold as fresh fish.

Read more [here](#)

### 4) Catering Business

#### a) Costa packet: Coca-Cola boosts UK coffee potential

Coca-Cola has boosted its UK coffee presence with the \$5.1bn (£3.9bn) purchase of Costa Limited from parent company Whitbread plc.

The Coca-Cola Company announced the deal today (August 31), stating that it would give it a strong global coffee platform for growth, with Costa present in 31 countries. Prior to the acquisition, Coca-Cola’s coffee portfolio already included the market-leading Georgia brand in Japan, plus products in many other countries.

Read more [here](#)

#### b) Lamb sees global price spike, says MLA

Australian lamb prices have spiked through the 700¢ and 800¢/kg cwt mark in a matter of two months, due to growing demand for the meat, according to Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).

It said that lamb prices in major exporting and consuming countries rallied in 2018 on top of consistent year-on-year growth since 2013.

Australia and New Zealand drove supply and accounted for 70% of global lamb product traded, it said.

Read more [here](#)

#### c) Swine fever warning in Asia

The United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned that the rapid onset of African Swine Fever (ASF) in China could spread to other Asian countries.

ASF has been detected in areas more than 1,000 kilometres apart within the country, meaning it could spread further.

The FAO said there was no effective vaccine to protect swine from the disease, with outbreaks in its most virulent forms lethal in 100% of infected animals.

Read more [here](#)

### 5) Ethical and Sustainability

#### a) China essential for sustainable palm oil solutions as new alliance gets backing from multinational firms

Mars and Cargill are two of the big names backing a new alliance to drive collaboration and promote sustainability around palm oil in China – one of the world’s biggest importers of the product.

At present only 1% of the palm oil imported into the country is classified as sustainable by the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

Read more [here](#)

**b) ‘Fabricated hysteria’: Food firms making dubious ‘no palm oil’ claims under fire as GAR highlights sustainability gains**

Palm oil sustainability practices in Indonesia are slowly reaping rewards, while manufacturers which make unjustified ‘no palm oil’ label claims are merely cashing in on ‘fabricated hysteria’, claims a senior exec at Golden Agri-Resources (GAR).

*“There is increasing evidence that the efforts being made by the palm oil companies, particularly in Indonesia, is slowing rates of deforestation,”*

Read more [here](#)

**c) ‘We are working towards behaviour change’: How LeanPath is using data to fight food waste**

Combatting food waste has taken centre stage as the food sector works to build a sustainable future. We spoke to food waste start-up LeanPath about how its tech is raising awareness and changing attitudes to food waste.

Currently around 1.6bn tonnes of food is wasted each year, with an economic cost of more than €1trn worldwide. This equates to around one-third of the food produced each year ending up in landfill.

Read more [here](#)

**d) Nestlé & Unilever form new coalition committed to animal welfare standards**

Nestlé, Unilever, Ikea Food Services, and four other companies have joined together to form the Global Coalition for Animal Welfare (GCAW) to advance animal welfare standards throughout the global food supply chain.

Aramark, Compass Group, Elior Group, and Sodexo are the other four members of the new coalition, which aims to unite major companies and animal welfare experts to work towards improving standard for animals at scale to meet consumer demand for food products from animals reared in systems that promote good welfare.

Read more [here](#)

**e) Seafood consumers want ethical labels but sustainability trumped by price**

A significant new study from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) reveals mixed consumer attitudes to seafood sustainability, demonstrating demand for independent ethical labels but also a trend for price to motivate purchase.

For the second time, the MSC commissioned a comprehensive survey to gauge the attitudes of global seafood consumers.

Read more [here](#)

## 6) Nutrition

### a) Breakfast cereal producers hit back at misleading pack claims

Cereal manufacturers have hit back at claims that on pack images mislead children into consuming more than the recommended portion size.

A report published by the British Dental Journal, *UK children's breakfast cereals – an oral health perspective*, claimed that the imagery on packs such as Coco Pops and Frosties depicted bowls of cereal up to three times the size of the recommended portion.

If children were to imitate the imagery, they would be consuming more than 100% of their daily limit of sugar in one bowl, according to the report.

Read more [here](#)

## 7) Salt and Sugar

### a) UK sugar tax has 'minimal impact' on consumer behaviour: Nielsen

The first four months of the UK's sugar tax has failed to create any significant change in consumer behaviour; but it has encouraged widespread reformulation and the proliferation of lower sugar options, according to Nielsen.

According to the data analytics company, 62% of UK shoppers say they have not changed their consumption behaviour since the [Soft Drinks Industry Levy \(SDIL\)](#) came into effect in April. Meanwhile, one fifth of consumers surveyed say they now check the sugar content of their drinks more often.

Read more [here](#)

## 8) Advertising and Marketing

### a) UK ice cream probe: One in five vanilla ice creams has no vanilla, cream or fresh milk, says Which?

Half of the ice creams investigated by UK Consumer Association Which? failed to include fresh vanilla, cream or milk. Vanilla ice cream may be a favourite among UK consumers and sales have soared over the last few weeks as Britain has experienced a heatwave, but a new survey by Which? has revealed some surprising truths about vanilla ice on the shelves of UK supermarkets.

Read more [here](#)

### b) 'The weak link is enforcement': Study finds inflated health statements 'rarely clamped down on' Nutrition and health claims regulation is not adequately enforced, a new UK study concludes.

Researchers from Manchester Metropolitan University found that trading standards and environmental health officers are "*acting more like advisers than prosecutors*" when it comes to enforcing the existing regulations governing health and nutrition claims.

The study, published in *PLOS ONE*, looked at the role of regulation enforcers. It focused on claims like "*high in fibre*" or "*heart healthy*".

Read more [here](#)

## 9) Food Safety

### a) 'EU food chain most stringent in the world'

The European Union has the “most stringent and controlled” food chain in the world, the bloc’s health and food safety chief suggested after food safety regulators found more than 96% of food is within legal limits for pesticide residue.

Read more [here](#)

### b) Prop 65 comes into full effect in California, with “potentially harmful” chemical warnings

Today (August 30) marks the start of the full effect of Proposition 65 (Prop 65) in the State of California which requires companies to call out specific names of potentially harmful chemicals that have been included on the list and add a warning symbol on the product if they exceed acceptable levels.

There are around 800 chemicals listed.

Read more [here](#)

### c) UK sets out plans to ban sales of energy drinks to children

The UK government is proposing a ban on the sale of energy drinks to children: following on from moves made by major supermarkets to ban sales to U16s in their stores.

Launched today, a government consultation outlines a ban that would apply to drinks with more than 150mg of caffeine per litre, and prevent all retailers from selling the drinks to children. It is now seeking views on whether sales of energy drinks to children should be stopped.

Read more [here](#)

## 10) Origin

### a) Spain’s competition watchdog urges caution on geographic labels for dairy

Spain’s National Commission of Markets and Competition (CNMC) has warned regulators that a mandatory requirement to label the origin of milk in dairy products could “compartmentalise” the Spanish market and hinder competition.

The CNMC was asked to look at a proposed regulation to require companies to label the origin of milk by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and the Environment.

Read more [here](#)

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

3 August 2018

[Lidl Ireland recalls Freshona Chopped Tomatoes with Basil because the product may contain plastic pieces](#)

Lidl Ireland is recalling Freshona Chopped Tomatoes with Basil because the product may contain pieces of plastic, making it unsafe to eat. UK distribution is limited to NI only.

18 August 2018

[Ewing Seafoods recalls its Organic Smoked Salmon due to contamination with Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Ewing Seafoods is recalling its Organic Smoked Salmon because it contains Listeria monocytogenes

23 August 2018

[Ewing Seafoods recalls further batches of Smoked Salmon products due to contamination with Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Listeria monocytogenes has been found in two batches of Organic Smoked Salmon.

24 August 2018

[Diamond Food Sales recalls frozen Indian mackerel due to presence of Histamine](#)

Diamond Food Sales Ltd is recalling batches of frozen Indian mackerel due to the presence of Histamine.

31 August 2018

[Carmarthenshire Dairy Products recalls Boksburg Blue Cheese due to it being produced without approval](#)

Carmarthenshire Dairy Products Ltd is recalling Boksburg Blue Cheese which has been sold through a limited number of Tesco stores within Wales and England, as the product has been produced without approval.

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

8 August 2018

[Star Distribution \(UK\) Ltd recalls its Cake Zone Muffins 4 pack Chunky Cherry and Double Chocolate Flavour because of incorrect allergen labelling](#)

Star Distribution (UK) Ltd is recalling its Cake Zone Muffins 4 pack Chunky Cherry and Double Chocolate Flavour because they contain egg, milk and wheat (gluten), which are not emphasised correctly on the label.

10 August 2018

[E H Booths recalls sandwiches due to incorrect allergen labelling](#)

E H Booths is recalling its BLT, Chicken Salad, and Lancashire Cheese and Chutney Sandwiches because they contain rye and oats which are not mentioned on the label.

22 August 2018

[Clayton Park Bakery recalls various bakery products because they contain barley](#)

Clayton Park Bakery Ltd is recalling various bakery products because they contain undeclared barley which is not mentioned on the label.

23 August 2018

[James Hall & Co recalls take-away sandwich rolls because they contain barley](#)

James Hall & Co. Ltd is recalling two lines of take-away sandwich rolls because they contain undeclared barley which is not mentioned on the label.

23 August 2018

[Clayton Park Bakery recalls various bakery products because they contain barley](#)

Clayton Park Bakery Ltd is recalling various bakery products because they contain undeclared barley which is not mentioned on the label.

31 August 2018

[Crosse & Blackwell recalls its Green Vegetable & Kale Soup due to undeclared milk](#)

Crosse & Blackwell is recalling its Green Vegetable & Kale Soup because it contains milk which is not mentioned on the label.

31 August 2018

[Lidl Ireland recalls Harvest Basket Potato Croquettes as allergens are not written in English](#)

Lidl Ireland is recalling Harvest Basket Potato Croquettes from its stores in Northern Ireland because they contain wheat and egg which are not written in English on the label.

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

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
30/08/2018	India	absence of health certificate(s) and of certified analytical report for white sesame seeds from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
30/08/2018	India	absence of health certificate(s) for sesame seeds from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
29/08/2018	China	poor temperature control (-2.8 and -2 °C) of frozen crayfish tail meat ( <i>Procambarus</i> spp.) from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
27/08/2018	India	histamine (171 mg/kg - ppm) in frozen raw mackerel from India	United Kingdom	information for attention - consignment released
23/08/2018	China	illegal import (contains milk ingredient) of and incorrect labelling ("milk" not in bold typeface) on soy milk drink from China	United Kingdom	information for follow-up official control on the market
23/08/2018	Turkey	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.8 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnut kernels from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
22/08/2018	Nicaragua	aflatoxins (B1 = 88.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Nicaragua	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
20/08/2018	India	poor temperature control (8.9, 7.6, 7.5, 8.1, 8.2 °C) of chilled barracuda, mackerel, Indian goat fish, snapper, anchovies, bream, perch, whiting, crab, shrimps and squid from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
20/08/2018	Australia	incorrect use of packaging for frozen boneless lamb trimming from Australia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
17/08/2018	China	unauthorised genetically modified (positive for 35S promoter of the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus) organic brown rice noodles from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
17/08/2018	China	unauthorised genetically modified (positive for 35S promoter of the Cauliflower	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained

		Mosaic Virus) organic black rice noodles from China		
17/08/2018	Mauritius	spoilage of chilled red drum ( <i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i> ) from Mauritius	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
17/08/2018	United Kingdom	colour migration (2,4-Diethyl-9H-thioxanthen-9: 0.2993 and 4-Phenylbenzophenon: 0.1044 mg/kg - ppm) from printed paper cups from the United Kingdom	Switzerland	food contact material - withdrawal from the market
17/08/2018	Israel	glass fragments in granular sea salt from Israel	United Kingdom	alert consumer complaint
16/08/2018	United Kingdom	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (present /25g) in smoked organic Atlantic salmon from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
14/08/2018	Dominican Republic	unauthorised food additive sodium chlorite (22.4%) in sodium chlorite solution from the Dominican Republic	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
10/08/2018	India	absence of health certificate(s) and of certified analytical report for masala from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
09/08/2018	Spain	unauthorised food additive sodium chlorite (25%) in sodium chlorite solution from Spain	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
09/08/2018	Internet	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
09/08/2018	China	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.8; Tot. = 3.4 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
07/08/2018	Papua New Guinea	damaged packaging containing tuna chunks in brine from Papua New Guinea	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
06/08/2018	Internet	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
03/08/2018	United Kingdom	unauthorised ingredients (cat's claw and milk thistle) in food supplements from the United Kingdom	Sweden	information for follow-up - official control on the market
03/08/2018	Spain	suffocation risk as a result of the consumption of sour candy drink from Spain	United Kingdom	alert consumer complaint
02/08/2018	USA	aflatoxins (B1 = 18.2 µg/kg - ppb) in raw pistachios from the United States	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
01/08/2018	Malaysia	methomyl (0.6 mg/kg - ppm) in hyacinth beans from Malaysia	United Kingdom	information for attention official control on the market
01/08/2018	Germany	high level of alkalinity in lime flavour carbonated drink from Germany	United Kingdom	alert consumer complaint