



# NSF INTERNATIONAL

## FOOD SAFETY BITES

January 2019



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) Bank of England: food prices risk 10% rise in no-deal Brexit

The price of food is at risk of rising between 5–10% if there is a disorderly Brexit, warned Bank of England governor Mark Carney.

*“For individual food products that will vary, but what people will do is that, if the price of something goes up, they’ll switch products,”* Carney added. This, in turn, would drive UK consumers to purchase more homegrown produce and turn away from potentially more expensive imported goods.

Carney also warned that the UK was not ready to trade under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules if there was to be a no-deal Brexit.

Read more [here](#)

### **b) New immigration rules threaten food labour**

New immigration controls proposed by the Government to encourage the flow of skilled workers into the country threaten to hike up hiring prices and cut access to labour, according to members of the food and drink industry.

The white paper, *The UK's future skills-based immigration system*, proposed only giving long-term access to workers from outside the UK joining British businesses on a salary of £30,000 or more – as recommended by the Migration Advisory Committee.

A new route for low-skilled workers would also be developed, allowing migrants into the country on a 12-month visa to access the labour market. People arriving on this route would not be able to bring family members with them, would not accrue rights to settle in the UK, and would have a 12-month 'cooling off' period once their visa expired.

Read more [here](#)

### **C) No-deal Brexit fears build**

Businesses' Brexit fears have snowballed, amid a House of Commons statement yesterday that 3,500 service personnel were on standby to support Government departments in the event of a 'no-deal' scenario.

Five business groups published a statement today warning of "massive costs" and disruption across all industries in the event of the UK falling out of the EU on March 29 2019 without a deal.

Read more [here](#)

### **D) No-deal Brexit to 'decimate' UK food and agriculture**

A poorly-managed Brexit threatens to "decimate the United Kingdom's veterinary, food and agricultural sectors", warned the boss of a leading veterinary services provider.

Jason Aldiss, managing director of Leeds-based veterinary services company Eville & Jones, urged MPs to back Theresa May's Brexit deal to avoid a chaotic future for the country.

In particular, Brexit holds uncertainty for the veterinary profession, together with the food and agricultural sectors it serves, claimed Aldiss.

Read more [here](#)

## **2) Diet and health**

### **a) Is the nutrient quality of diets declining?**

British Nutrition Foundation director general Judy Buttriss questions the nutrient quality of the nation's diet.

Media headlines in October reported that fortification of flour with folic acid is to go ahead. The UK would be joining many other countries where the prevalence of neural tube defects (NTDs) such as spina bifida has fallen after the introduction of such measures.

However, this announcement was premature – the decision had not yet been taken – but a consultation in 2019 has since been confirmed.

Read more [here](#)

#### **b) New evidence suggests any kind of light can spoil dairy products**

Light protection services and certification company Noluma has released new research that tackles the effects of light exposure on milk and other dairy products. Vitamin A, vitamin D and riboflavin levels in milk all begin to deplete after just two hours.

The report finds milk can taste or smell worse after 15 minutes of light exposure from typical retail dairy cases, milk begins to lose Vitamin A after two hours, less than half of the Vitamin A (49%) remained in nonfat milk after 16 hours, and a significant decline in nutrients in fortified, reduced-fat UHT milk was observed after 14 days: 45% Riboflavin loss, 60% Vitamin A loss and 80% Vitamin D loss.

Read more [here](#)

#### **c) Not enough evidence for energy drink ban: committee**

A ban on the sale of energy drinks to children could be justified on “societal concerns”, but not on statistical evidence alone, according to a Parliamentary Committee report.

However, the report said the Government should commission independent research to establish whether energy drinks had more harmful effects than other soft drinks containing caffeine.

The report also recommended there should be more prominent advisory notices on energy drinks packaging. It suggested the Government should use the opportunity of leaving the EU to introduce additional labelling requirements.

Read more [here](#)

### **3) Food Fraud – no entries this month**

#### **4) Catering Business**

##### **a) Industry responds to Government’s waste strategy**

The Government’s new Resources and Waste Strategy, which will see food manufacturers forced to pay recycling costs for their packaging, has had a mixed reception from the food and drink industry. A spokesman for the Food and Drink Federation (FDF) said the measures suggested in the strategy would place considerable financial burden on manufacturers, particularly small and medium-sized businesses.

Read more [here](#)

##### **b) Why plant power is a defining 2018 food trend**

Consumers’ increasing demand for plant-based foods is challenging manufacturers to develop high-protein, tasty alternatives to meat, with varying results.

The emergence of plants as an alternative protein source will go down as one of 2018's defining food trends. From the Impossible Burger to Tesco's Wicked Kitchen range of ready meals, plant-based foods are muscling in on meat's traditional role at the centre of the plate.

Driven by a mixture of lifestyle and environmental factors, the global plant protein market is growing fast. Already worth \$6bn (£4.6bn), it is forecast to deliver compound annual growth of over 7% in the period 2018 to 2023.

Read more [here](#)

## 5) Ethical and Sustainability

### a) Coca-Cola makes plastic recycling commitments

The Coca-Cola Company has made investment pledges with two companies working towards making polyethylene terephthalate (PET) waste easier to recycle, as part of its commitment make at least 50% of all its bottles from recycled materials by 2030.

Read more [here](#)

### b) EU single-use plastic proposal on track to entering into force

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have backed the Commission's single-use plastic proposal.

Once today's provisional political agreement is formalised, the Commission's proposal will be published in the EU Official Journal and the member states will have to transpose it after two years.

The EU says its plastic strategy and directive on single-use plastics is the most ambitious legal instrument in the world addressing the issue of marine litter.

Read more [here](#)

### c) UK recycling faces 'mixed plastics' challenge

Food and drink manufacturers are being encouraged to optimise their polyethylene terephthalate (PET) streams and eliminate their use of 'mixed plastics' to enable better recycling recovery rates. With public attention focused on potentially much higher levels of investment in the collection and recycling of plastics packaging, industry experts are recommending improved PET usage, including food-grade PET, and the removal of mixed plastics – much of which has been exported up to now.

Read more [here](#)

### d) Walkers launches crisp packet recycling scheme

Snack-maker Walkers has launched a nationwide recycling scheme for crisp packets, which it claims is the first of its kind in the UK.

The manufacturer has partnered with recycling firm TerraCycle to allow consumers to send in their used crisp packets to be recycled, with all brands being accepted by the scheme.

To encourage the collection and return of crisp packets for recycling, Walkers is offering 'charity points' based on the number collected, which can be converted into donations for a charity of the consumer's choosing.

Read more [here](#)

## 6) Nutrition

### a) To be or not to be? Battle lines dawn over nutritional labelling in Europe

Nutritional labelling is an emotive subject in Europe, drawing strong responses from all sides of the debate. As the European Commission prepares to release its report on the topic next year, can – and indeed should – consensus be reached for a single pan-European front-of-pack labelling system?

Nutritional labelling schemes are often presented as an important tool in the fight against obesity and other NCDs. It is hoped that front of pack (FOP) signposting will empower consumers to make informed choices about their diets – and that these choices will be healthier ones.

However, debate appears to be intensifying over the validity of various labels, which approaches are 'best' and whether a single scheme should be introduced throughout the common market.

Read more [here](#)

### b) UK Government in consultation with nutrition industry in event of no-deal Brexit

The UK Government have opened up consultations with the nutrition industry regarding proposed changes to regulations in the event of a no deal scenario after March 2019.

The [consultation](#) and online survey, prepared by the Government's department of health and social care, covers legislation relating to nutrition and health claims and the addition of vitamins, minerals, and other food substances.

Read more [here](#)

## 7) Salt and Sugar

### a) 'Mixed progress' on salt reduction targets: PHE

The food industry has achieved "mixed progress" in meeting the latest Government salt reduction targets, according to Public Health England's (PHE's) first assessment since the introduction of voluntary targets in 2006.

Just over half (52%) of all average salt reduction targets set for retailers and manufacturers in 2014 had been met three years later, with retailers (73%) making more progress than manufacturers (37%), PHE said.

Read more [here](#)

### b) Sugar taxes: The global picture

Sugar taxes continue to hit the headlines, but the introduction of new legislation is never straightforward. We take a look at 20 countries around the globe where sugar taxes have been in the news.

Read more [here](#)

## 8) Advertising and Labelling

### a) Dairy UK and PTF launch codes of practice for cheese and cream standards

Dairy UK and the Provision Trade Federation (PTF) have launched two new industry Codes of Practice on compositional standards for cheeses and creams.

The codes carry forward standards from UK regulations that will be revoked on December 13, 2018. The new codes will provide a reference guide for industry once the current regulations have lapsed, and Dairy UK said they will ensure the quality of cheeses and creams produced in the UK remains high.

Read more [here](#)

### b) Gove repeats commitment to allergen label change

Environment secretary Michael Gove has reiterated his commitment to changing allergen labelling laws, following a meeting with allergy groups and food businesses.

Gove said the review of allergen labelling rules was “progressing well” with a potential change at the start of 2019.

He did remind businesses that they didn't have to wait for any change in legislation to start improving their allergen labelling.

Read more [here](#)

### c) Italy enforces fresh bread labelling law

Italy is to enforce a new labelling law today (December 19) to distinguish fresh bread from products that have been ‘preserved for prolonged durability’.

According to the new law, breads that undergo freezing or contain chemical additives and preservatives to prolong shelf life can no longer be labelled as ‘fresh’ but must now carry the label ‘conserved’ or ‘prolonged durability’.

The new law deems breads can only be termed ‘fresh’ if the entire ‘continuous’ production – except for the leavening process – does not take more than 72 hours from start to sale to the consumer.

Read more [here](#)

### d) Resolving confusion on ‘use-by’ and ‘best-before’

Leatherhead Food Research regulatory analyst Adelheid Völkl discusses the confusion caused by best-before and use-by labels and how to boost consumer understanding.

Many consumers are confused by the date indications currently in use. Legally, use-by dates are a matter of food safety, while best-before dates represent a quality guideline.

In truth, what most consumers want is reassurance that the forgotten yogurt at the back of the fridge can be enjoyed without repercussions.

Read more [here](#)

## 9) Food Safety

### a) Deadly norovirus found in one-in-20 lettuces

More than one-in-20 lettuces sold in the UK are contaminated with the potentially deadly bug norovirus, a major study funded by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has found.

Of the 568 samples of lettuce examined, 30 (5.3%) were shown to be norovirus-positive, according to *Prevalence of Norovirus in produce sold at retail in the United Kingdom* study. Norovirus is more commonly known as the winter vomiting bug.

The study also found that 2.3% of fresh raspberry, and 3.6% of frozen raspberry samples were norovirus-positive.

Read more [here](#)

## 10) Origin – no entries this month

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

10 December 2018

[Premium Halal Meat Poultry recalls several chicken products as they have been produced without approval](#)

Premium Halal Meat Poultry is recalling several 'Direct Poultry Products Ltd' chicken products because Premium Halal Meat Poultry Limited does not have approval.

11 December 2018

[Natural Instinct recalls Wild Venison \(Natural Cat Food\) as some of the ingredients were not inspected in line with EU requirements](#)

Natural Instinct is recalling its Wild Venison (Natural Cat Food) because some of the ingredients were not inspected in line with EU requirements.

14 December 2018

[HEMA recalls hazelnut milk chocolate letters because they may contain pieces of plastic](#)

HEMA is recalling hazelnut milk chocolate letters as these may contain small pieces of plastic. The presence of plastic makes this product unsafe to eat and presents a safety risk.

17 December 2018

[Daylesford Organic recalls Organic Cottage Pies because of incorrect date labelling](#)

19 December 2018

[Lactalis UK recalls Seriously Melting Pot because the glass pot may break when heated](#)

Lactalis McLelland Ltd is recalling two varieties of Seriously Melting Pot because the glass pot may break when heated. This is a potential safety risk.

Daylesford Organic is recalling Organic Cottage Pies with use-by dates of 14 January 2019 and 21 January 2019 because of incorrect date labelling.

19 December 2018

[Pieminister recalls Gluten Free Moo Pie because it may contain small pieces of plastic](#)

Pieminister is recalling its Gluten Free Moo Pie as it may contain small pieces of plastic. The presence of plastic makes this product unsafe to eat and presents a safety risk.

20 December 2018

[Waitrose recalls its Chunky Battered Haddock Fish Fingers because they contain large fish bones](#)

Waitrose is recalling its 6 Chunky Battered Haddock Fish Fingers as they contain large fish bones. The presence of these large bones could potentially make this product unsafe to eat and presents a safety risk.

21 December 2018

[Avondale Pet Foods Ltd recalls Just Natural Chicken & Tripe because salmonella has been found in the product](#)

Avondale Pet Foods Ltd recalls Just Natural Chicken & Tripe because salmonella has been found in the product. This product has been sold in Scotland and England only.

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

7 December 2018

[Sainsbury's recalls Taste the Difference 10 Thai Turkey Meatballs due to undeclared milk](#)

Sainsbury's is recalling Taste the Difference 10 Thai Turkey Meatballs because they contain milk which is not mentioned on the label.

13 December 2018

[E H Booths recalls two salad products because of undeclared allergens](#)

E H Booth & Co. Limited is recalling two salad products because they contain mustard or soya and wheat (gluten) which is not mentioned on the label.

13<sup>th</sup> December 2018

[P & B \(Foods\) recalls Heera Ground Almonds because they contain undeclared peanuts](#)

P & B (Foods) Limited are recalling Heera Ground Almonds because they contain peanuts which are not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to peanuts.

13 December 2018

[Poundstretcher recalls Hazelnut Cream Truffles Crisp Wafer Ball because of undeclared allergens](#)

Poundstretcher is recalling Hazelnut Cream Truffles Crisp Wafer Ball because the product contains whey (milk), and may contain peanuts, which are not mentioned on the label.

14 December 2018

[P & B \(Foods\) extends recall of Heera Ground Almonds because they may contain undeclared peanuts](#)

P & B (Foods) Limited have extended the recall of Heera Ground Almonds because the 100g and 1kg packs may contain peanuts which are not mentioned on the label.

24 December 2018

[Waitrose recalls Morello Cherry and Almond Tart due to undeclared pistachio \(nuts\)](#)

Waitrose is recalling Morello Cherry and Almond Tart because it may contain pistachio (nuts) which are not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to pistachio (nuts).

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

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
31/12/2018	Turkey	ochratoxin A (11.7 µg/kg - ppb) in seedless raisins from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
28/12/2018	United Kingdom	poor traceability records (tampering with passport) for horse meat from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	information for follow-up official control on the market
28/12/2018	United Kingdom	Listeria monocytogenes (presence /25g) in chilled black angus steak tartare meat from the United Kingdom	Netherlands	alert - company's own check - return to consignor
27/12/2018	United Kingdom	sulphite (99 mg/kg - ppm) undeclared in frozen cooked crab from the United Kingdom	Spain	alert - official control on the market - informing authorities
27/12/2018	India	Salmonella (in 1 out of 5 samples /25g) in hulled sesame seeds from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
24/12/2018	USA	incorrect labelling (label does not emphasise allergens soy, celery and sulphite) on food supplement from the United States	United Kingdom	information for follow-up official control on the market
20/12/2018	USA	unauthorised food additive sodium chlorite in sodium chlorite solution from the United States	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
20/12/2018	United Kingdom	large fish bone fragments in frozen chunky battered haddock fish fingers from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
20/12/2018	United Kingdom	Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins (1137 µg/kg - ppb) in live whole scallops (Pecten maximus) from the United Kingdom	Ireland	information for attention - company's own check - withdrawal from the market
20/12/2018	France	risk of breakage (glass pot may break when heated) of cheese in glass melting pot from France	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
19/12/2018	Brazil	Salmonella (1 out of 5 samples /25g) in frozen salted chicken half breasts from Brazil	United Kingdom	alert - consignment released
17/12/2018	United Kingdom	unauthorised placing on the market (medicinal herbs) of herbal tea from the United Kingdom	Sweden	withdrawal from the market - product traded online
14/12/2018	Poland	unauthorised operator for and absence of health mark on various frozen meat products from Poland	United Kingdom	information for follow-up official control on the market

14/12/2018	United Kingdom	undeclared peanut (3.1 mg/kg - ppm) in almond powder packaged in the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
14/12/2018	United Kingdom	raw petfood for cats from the United Kingdom unfit for animal nutrition (no inspection post mortem, therefore no category 3 material)	United Kingdom	information for follow-up official control on the market
12/12/2018	India	Salmonella (presence in 1 out of 5 samples /25g) in hulled sesame seeds from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
11/12/2018	Turkey	ochratoxin A (18.4 µg/kg - ppb) in sultanas from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
06/12/2018	United Kingdom	organic herbal tea from the United Kingdom infested with moulds	United Kingdom	information for follow-up official control on the market
06/12/2018	On-line	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
05/12/2018	On-line	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
05/12/2018	Mozambique	poor temperature control - rupture of the cold chain - (8.5, 7.2, 7.5 °C) of chilled yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and swordfish from Mozambique	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
05/12/2018	Brazil	Salmonella (presence in 1 out of 5 samples /25g) in frozen boneless salted chicken half breasts without inner fillet from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/12/2018	Trinidad and Tobago	unauthorised use of colour E 102 - tartrazine (presence) and of colour E 110 - Sunset Yellow FCF (presence) in cheese snack from Trinidad and Tobago	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/12/2018	Germany	unauthorised food additive sodium chlorite (25%) in chlorite solution from Germany	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
04/12/2018	Argentina	aflatoxins (B1 = 14.7; Tot. = 16.9 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled groundnuts from Argentina	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/12/2018	United Kingdom	deoxynivalenol (DON) (948; 1078.7; 948 µg/kg - ppb) in gluten free oats from the United Kingdom	Hungary	official control in non-member country - withdrawal from the market
03/12/2018	United Kingdom	deoxynivalenol (DON) (1461 µg/kg - ppb) in gluten free oatflakes from the United Kingdom	Hungary	official control on the market - withdrawal from the market

