



# NSF INTERNATIONAL

## FOOD SAFETY BITES

July 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) Trade body airs persistent Brexit concerns with MPs

Tim Rycroft, chief operating officer of the Food and Drink Federation, was part of a group offering oral evidence to the Exiting The European Union Select Committee on 12 June. We caught up with him after the hearing to identify the most pressing concerns for the food industry, and why they need addressing.

Read more [here](#)

### 2) Diet and health

#### a) UK Government to press ahead with folic acid flour fortification

The UK government are proposing plans to fortify flour with folic acid in moves to stem the number of birth defects linked to the dietary deficiency of the vitamin.

Ministers revealed their intentions as the Government launched a [12-week public consultation](#) looking into the types of products that should be included.

*“We all want to give our children the best start in life and a birth defect diagnosis is devastating for parents,”* said public health minister Seema Kennedy

*“The simple measure of adding folic acid to flour would help spare hundreds of families from such a life-changing event.”*

Read more [here](#)

### 3) Food Fraud

#### **a) French burger fraud is ‘chapter 2’ of the horsemeat scandal, campaigners warn**

Beef burgers that failed to meet legal standards were sold to charities tackling food poverty in France. This latest scandal is horsemeat “chapter 2”, consumer watchdog FoodWatch insists. Four French associations, Banques Alimentaires (French food banks), the French Red Cross, Restaurants du Cœur and Secours Populaire Français, have become the victims of a large-scale food fraud.

Using funds from the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), the food charities purchased and redistributed frozen burgers that, it transpired, did not meet the minimum legal standards governing these products.

Read more [here](#)

### 4) Catering Business

#### **a) Meat analogues: A ‘big opportunity’ for improved quality**

Growing demand for meat-free products that suit consumers who are adopting vegan, vegetarian or flexitarian diets has resulted in a proliferation of meat analogues hitting the market. However, the taste, texture and nutritional profile of these products is mixed - and can sometimes leave much to be desired.

The meat substitute market is expected to reach a global venue of \$7.5bn by 2025, with a compound annual growth rate forecast at 7.7%, according to Allied Market Research. European markets dominated demand for meat substitutes in 2017, accounting for nearly 40% of global revenue.

Read more [here](#)

### 5) Ethical and Sustainability

#### **a) ‘Plastic-free trials at supermarkets don’t address the enormity of plastic pollution’: academic**

Attempts by food retailers to encourage customers away from using plastic packaging won’t tackle the enormity of the plastic pollution problem, warns an academic, who believes “strong intervention is needed to move the food system to another place.”

Plastic pollution campaigners have generally welcomed the move by UK supermarket Waitrose to introduce a host of trials to test if customers are prepared to abandon plastic packaging. The initiatives include a “refillable zone” -- where 28 package-free products including pasta, rice, grains, couscous, lentils, cereals, dried fruit and seeds will be available through dispensers; ‘frozen

pick and mix' -- where frozen mango, strawberries, blueberries, cherries, pineapple and raspberries are packaged free and will be available as pick and mix; and the UK's first borrow-a-box scheme.

Read more [here](#)

#### **b) Nestlé talks challenges in sustainable soy: Complex supply chains and legal deforestation**

The major barriers in sourcing 100% deforestation-free soy include long supply chains and the legal conversion of natural vegetation to cropland, Nestlé's soya sourcing lead Madeleine Eilert tells FoodNavigator.

Food giant Nestlé has committed to eliminating all deforestation from its global supply chain by the end of 2020. And in soy, the multinational is less than 15% off its mark. In 2018, the firm calculated that 75% was responsibly sourced, with 78% traceable to its source.

Read more [here](#)

#### **c) Paying a premium for sustainability: Do we want to, and can we afford it?**

With sustainably grown and sourced foodstuffs taking increasingly greater market share, can we all afford to dig deep for the planet?

Sustainability – whether it be reducing deforestation, promoting biodiversity, or combatting plastic waste – is high on the agenda for major food and drink brands.

However, 'going green' also comes at a cost. When this feeds down to the consumer, are they willing to dig deep for sustainably sourced products? And perhaps more importantly, can they afford to?

Read more [here](#)

## **6) Nutrition**

### **a) Consumer groups increase calls for mandatory labelling as Nestlé adopts Nutri-score**

Nutri-Score campaigners receive a boost after Nestlé adopts it but the labelling system is not immune from criticism.

Consumer groups reiterated calls for a mandatory Nutri-Score to be put on EU food business' products after Nestlé said that it was to support the labelling system in continental Europe.

*"We are glad to see that Nestlé has heeded the call of consumers and is adopting the Nutri-Score in some parts of Europe,"* said Emma Calvert, food policy officer at the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC).

Read more [here](#)

## **7) Salt and Sugar**

### **a) Sugar tax to 'set precedent' for whole industry**

The soft drinks sugar tax is a model that should be replicated across other food groups, Tam Fry, chairman of the National Obesity Forum has claimed.

Fry made the comments after Greggs chief executive Roger Whiteside warned Government that regulation to reduce the fat, salt and sugar content of foods targeting larger out-of-home (OOH) companies risked “*squeezing the balloon*” in favour of independent operators, which made up over half the market.

*“Mr Whiteside is quite right,”* Fry, who is also expert advisory team member to Action on Sugar, told Food Manufacture. *“A level playing field across industry is essential, but Government has historically always ducked its introduction. Its attempt to bring industry on board, the Responsibility Deal, failed because it wasn’t mandatory for industry to keep its reformulation pledges. The 2020 target for sugar reduction will probably fail for the same reason.”*

Read more [here](#)

## 8) Advertising and Labelling

### a) FDF publishes updated UK gluten guidance to tackle labelling confusion

Updated gluten labelling guidance has been published in the UK by the Food & Drink Federation, which aims to “achieve greater consistency in how the presence of cereals containing gluten and gluten-free claims are labelled on pre-packed foods”.

The best practice guidance provides advice to food business operators on how to label food products that include cereals containing gluten, and which gluten-free claims can be made.

Read more [here](#)

### b) UK’s ‘Natasha’s Law’ demands full ingredients lists on pre-packaged foods

New legislation named after allergy victim Natasha Ednan-Laperouse requires food businesses to include full ingredients labelling on pre-packaged foods.

Pre-packaged foods prepared on the premise where they are sold are not required to display allergen information on pack. In fact, as it stands, food businesses are only required to provide such information if requested.

However, new legislation announced today (25 July) will reform ingredients labelling laws in the UK. As of mid-2021, businesses will be legally required to include full ingredients labelling on foods made and pre-packaged on premises for direct sale.

Named ‘Natasha’s Law’, the ruling aims to protect the two million food allergy sufferers living across the UK.

Read more [here](#)

## 9) Food Safety

### a) EFSA declare chia seed powder variants safe for supplement use

Partially defatted chia seed powders are safe for use in food supplements, according a scientific opinion by The European Food and Safety Authority (EFSA).

The Authority's Panel on Nutrition, Novel foods and Food Allergens (NDA) [rules](#) that two chia powder types, obtained from whole seeds of *S. hispanica L.* are safe to consume by the general population.

Read more [here](#)

#### **b) Interpol-Europol pact seize illegal 'fat burner' pills as part of global fraud crackdown**

A global crack down on food fraud coordinated by Europol and Interpol across 10 EU Member States has bagged 23 seizures of 2,4-Dinitrophenol (DNP), a toxic chemical, mainly sold online as a fat burner.

The seizures are equivalent to over 50 000 capsules of DNP as the authorities also reveal over 75 online sales offerings of the chemical have been removed.

Read more [here](#)

### **10) Origin – no update this month**

#### **11) Other**

##### **a) Fine Lady Bakery fined £180,000**

An Oxfordshire bakery has been ordered to pay a record £180,000 fine after allowing waste material to illegally enter the local sewer network.

Banbury-based Fine Lady Bakery, which supplies bread and other bakery products to supermarkets around the country, pleaded guilty to seven offences at Reading Magistrates Court following a Thames Water investigation.

The probe found uncontrolled trade waste discharges from the bakery in both the foul and surface water sewer systems, the latter of which are designed to take rain water to watercourses, such as rivers and streams, meaning any contamination could cause significant harm to the environment.

Read more [here](#)

##### **b) New regulatory system will 'need to be paid for': FSA**

Food and drink manufacturers will have to bear the "cost of regulation" to ensure they comply with the Food Standards Agency's (FSA's) new sustainable funding model, its chair Heather Hancock has reiterated.

In her latest Regulating Our Future (ROF) update, published on Thursday (16 May) Hancock said that building a "*modern, efficient and effective*" regulatory system would "*still need to be paid for, whether by the public purse or by business*".

Read more [here](#)

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

1 June 2019

[Müller UK recalls Cadbury Dairy Milk Cheesecake and Cadbury Caramel Cheesecake Desserts because of the possible presence of Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Müller UK is recalling Cadbury Dairy Milk Cheesecake and Cadbury Dairy Milk Caramel Cheesecake dessert products as a precaution due to the possible presence of Listeria monocytogenes in the products.

7 June 2019

[Milarex recalls Oishi-mi Sushi Salmon Teriyaki and Oishi-mi Sushi Salmon Nori because of incorrect date labelling](#)

Milarex UK Limited is recalling Oishi-mi Sushi Salmon Teriyaki and Oishi-mi Sushi Salmon Nori with a 'Use by' date 21/06/19 due to incorrect date labelling. The products should have been labelled with a 'Use by' date of 10/06/19.

19 June 2019

[Lactalis McLelland recalls Galloway Coloured Medium Grated Cheddar because of possible contamination with Listeria monocytogenes](#)

Lactalis McLelland Ltd has taken the precautionary step of recalling Galloway Coloured Medium Grated Cheddar because the product might contain Listeria monocytogenes.

**Allergy – to 30<sup>th</sup> June**

6 June 2019

[Tesco recalls Tesco Turkish Inspired Tomato Seasoning because of undeclared milk](#)

Tesco is recalling Tesco Turkish Inspired Tomato Seasoning because milk is not declared on the label. The product has been incorrectly packed with Tesco Thai Inspired Chilli and Coconut Seasoning which contains milk.

13 June 2019

[Asda recalls Liver & Bacon with Mash Meal because of undeclared wheat and rye](#)

Asda is recalling Liver & Bacon with Mash Meal because it contains wheat (gluten) and rye (gluten), which are not mentioned on the label.

18 June 2019

[SPAR recalls Prawn Marie Rose Pasta Salad because of undeclared fish](#)

SPAR (UK) Ltd is recalling SPAR Prawn Marie Rose Pasta Salad because some packs may contain Tuna and Sweetcorn Pasta Salad.

21 June 2019

[Yorkshire Provender recalls Rustic Vegetable Broth because of incorrect labelling](#)

Yorkshire Provender is recalling its Rustic Vegetable Broth with Kale, Lentils & Quinoa because a packaging error has occurred. The pot contains a Pea Soup containing milk which is not mentioned on the label.

22 June 2019

[Shazans recalls 10 Bitesize Punjabi Samosas because of undeclared milk](#)

Shazans Foods is recalling Shazans 10 Bitesize Punjabi Samosas because of a packaging error. Some packets contain Paneer Tikka Samosas which contain milk which is not mentioned on the label.

## 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
21/06/2019		unauthorised colour Sudan 4 (154 µg/kg - ppb) in palm oil from unknown origin, via the United Kingdom	Netherlands	official control on the market - destruction
20/06/2019	USA	aflatoxins (B1 = 35.2 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels for birdfeed from the United States	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
14/06/2019	Malaysia	Salmonella (in 2 out of 5 samples /25g) and high count of Escherichia coli (up to 29000 CFU/g) in betel leaves from Malaysia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
13/06/2019	United Kingdom	unauthorised novel food ingredient Epimedium in food supplement and unauthorised placing on the market of organic neem powder from the United Kingdom	Sweden	consumer complaint - withdrawal from the market
13/06/2019	China	aflatoxins (B1 = 35.5 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell for bird feeding from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment under customs
12/06/2019	China	E 425 - konjac unauthorised in fruit jellies from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
12/06/2019	United Kingdom	milk ingredient undeclared on coconut milk powder from India, via the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
12/06/2019	Argentina	aflatoxins (B1 = 4 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled peanuts from Argentina	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
12/06/2019	Brazil	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen raw chicken half breasts from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
11/06/2019	Argentina	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.5; Tot. = 4.5 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnut kernels from Argentina	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
11/06/2019	United Kingdom	foodborne outbreak caused by Listeria monocytogenes (190 CFU/g) in pre-packed sandwiches in the United Kingdom, with raw material from Ireland	United Kingdom	alert food poisoning
07/06/2019	China	migration of primary aromatic amines (up to 4430 µg/kg - ppb) from nylon mashers from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
07/06/2019	China	migration of primary aromatic amines (48.4 µg/kg - ppb) from	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained

		nylon whisks from China		
06/06/2019	China	migration of primary aromatic amines (17 µg/kg - ppb) from nylon ladles from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
06/06/2019	Brazil	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen salted chicken half breasts from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
05/06/2019	Papua New Guinea	poor temperature control (+13.4, +16 °C) of chilled whole tuna from Papua New Guinea	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
05/06/2019	United Kingdom	plastic fragments in bread from the United Kingdom	Germany	consumer complaint - no distribution from notifying country
05/06/2019	Malaysia	high count of Escherichia coli (presence /25g) in betel leaves from Malaysia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
05/06/2019	Brazil	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen half chicken breast from Brazil, via the Netherlands	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
05/06/2019	China	frozen cooked chicken gyoza from China with defective packaging and packaging unsuitable for foodstuffs	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/06/2019	Malaysia	Salmonella (presence /25g) in betel leaves from Malaysia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/06/2019	Malaysia	high count of Escherichia coli (9 x 10*3 CFU/g) in betel leaves from Malaysia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/06/2019	Malaysia	high count of Escherichia coli (8.2 x 10*3 CFU/g) in betel leaves from Malaysia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/06/2019	Nigeria	attempt to illegally import dried honey beans from Nigeria	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
04/06/2019	United Kingdom	unauthorised substance sildenafil in food supplement from China, via the United Kingdom	Hungary	monitoring of media - withdrawal from the market
03/06/2019	United Kingdom	plastic particles in breakfast cereals from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	information for attention company's own check
03/06/2019	Nigeria	attempt to illegally import smoked catfish and other products (cow hide, chicken, milk powder, honey, dried beans & melon seeds) from Nigeria	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/06/2019	Nigeria	attempt to illegally import honey beans from Nigeria	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/06/2019	Malaysia	Salmonella (presence /25g) and high count of Escherichia coli (7.8x10*3 CFU/g) in betel Leaves from Malaysia	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/06/2019	Nigeria	attempt to illegally import melon seeds from Nigeria	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained