



NSF INTERNATIONAL

FOOD SAFETY BITES

May 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

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 Labelling
- 9) Food Safety
- 10) Origin

1) Brexit

A) UK food prices soar to near six-year high amid Brexit fears

Food prices in the UK reached their highest rate of inflation in nearly six years in March, according to the British Retail Consortium (BRC), which blamed bad weather and higher commodity prices for pushing up costs for retailers.

Food price inflation accelerated last month to 2.5%, up from 1.6% in February, the highest rate since November 2013, it said.

Read more [here](#)

2) Diet and health

a) Beyond fat and sugar: Diets low in whole grains, fruit and nuts associated with 1 in 5 deaths

A suboptimal diet lacking in whole grains, fruit, nuts and seeds, vegetables and omega-3 fatty acids is responsible for more deaths than any other risk factors globally, according to findings published in The Lancet.

The Global Burden of Disease [report](#), which tracked consumption trends of 15 dietary factors in 195 countries between 1990 to 2017, concluded that one in five deaths are associated with poor diet.

Read more [here](#)

3) Food Fraud

a) EU records significant jump in cross-border food fraud cases in 2018

The number of cases reported to the EU Food Fraud Network rose significantly last year. Requests from one European country to cooperate with others on food fraud cases rose to 234 in 2018, compared to 178 in 2017 and 157 in 2016, according to its annual report.

It said that as a result of public health risks caused by various high profile food fraud cases, most recently the fipronil egg scandal in 2017, *“competent authorities are losing credibility, companies are losing money and consumers are losing trust in food. It creates a major paradox: EU food is safer than ever, yet consumer’s trust is low”*.

Read more [here](#)

b) Mozzarella fraud laid bare by test

Two-thirds of supermarket pizzas, restaurant pizzas and other restaurant dishes labelled as containing buffalo mozzarella have been shown to contain mozzarella made wholly or partially from cows’ milk, after a test was developed to distinguish between the two.

Using a mass spectrometry test on the products, scientists at the Quadram Institute in Norwich found a significant number of pizzas and restaurant meals thought to contain buffalo mozzarella had been mislabelled. In some cases, the mozzarella was 100% derived from cow.

Read more [here](#)

c) Blockchain service for beef products launched

A blockchain-based traceability service is being launched by auditing specialist NSF International, which aims to improve operational efficiency and cut costs for farmers while improving consumers’ trust in the supply chain.

A trial on beef cattle involving an unnamed UK retailer is underway, with results expected by mid-year. NSF expects to launch the service in September.

Read more [here](#)

4) Catering Business

a) Portion size has a 'powerful effect' on eating patterns among kids, study shows

Young kids (aged 3 to 5) were found to be highly susceptible to overeating when given larger portion sizes, challenging the "self-regulation" theory, in which children are claimed to have a natural ability to respond to internal cues of hunger and fullness and adjust eating patterns accordingly, a study by researchers at Penn State suggested.

Read more [here](#)

5) Ethical and Sustainability

a) Nestlé unveils blockchain initiative with Carrefour to improve transparency

Nestlé is embracing the farm to fork movement and will for the first time share product information with consumers via a blockchain platform.

It has teamed up with supermarket giant Carrefour to give shoppers in France access to blockchain data for its Mousline instant mashed potato.

Read more [here](#)

b) The EU General Food Law reform: One step closer to more transparency in the food chain

European regulators have agreed key changes to the food safety authorisation process in a bid to increase transparency and boost consumer trust.

Earlier this month, the European Parliament approved by an undisputable majority (603 votes in favour, 17 against and 27 abstentions) the agreement regarding the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain.

The agreement that should “strengthen citizens' trust that the risk analysis is underpinned by the objective of ensuring a high level of protection of human health and consumers' interests” introduces new provisions to enhance the transparency in the food chain.

Read more [here](#)

6) Nutrition

a) Current methods to develop nutrition guidelines ‘not fit for purpose’ argue researchers

Nutrition guidelines must ask the right questions and include a degree of complexity to improve their relevance and quality, according to a research team writing in the BMJ.

The group arrive at their conclusions in which they describe current methods for developing clinical practice guidelines as “*not suitable for nutrition*” and answering relevant nutrition questions should drive nutrition guidance rather than evidence availability.

Read more [here](#)

b) NutriScore under fire: Debate rages over nutritional labelling in Germany

The debate over front-of-pack nutritional labelling is intensifying in Germany after the country's consumer watchdog slammed an industry-backed labelling scheme and the Hamburg Regional Court ordered Iglo to remove NutriScore from its products.

Read more [here](#)

c) ‘It is time for a new position’: Denmark’s Ethics Council calls for updated GMO law

The Danish Council of Ethics recommends that legislation regarding the approval of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) be changed to help achieve sustainability objectives.

In an opinion published today (29 April), Denmark's Ethics Council called for a new debate on genetically modified plants. 15 out of 16 members support the recommendation.

Read more [here](#)

7) Salt and Sugar

a) PHE sugar scheme will cut obesity rates...if all goes to plan, finds study

Public Health England's sugar reduction strategy is expected to cut obesity rates and save the NHS £265m over the next 10 years, if industry and consumers behave as intended.

Researchers at Oxford University have estimated the effects of Public Health England (PHE)'s sugar reduction strategy on child and adult obesity, related diseases, and healthcare costs, in England. PHE's scheme challenges food manufacturers to reduce the sugar content of certain high-sugar products, such as cereals and confectionery, by 20% by 2020.

Read more [here](#)

8) Advertising and Labelling

a) Supermarket review after fruit juice backlash

Marks & Spencer (M&S) is to review how to make the contents of its products clearer for vegans and vegetarians after it was revealed that some of its fruit juices contained beef-derived collagen. The supermarket told *Food Manufacture* that it was "looking into" how to make the ingredients of two new Super Water Protein juices clearer for customers, following a consumer backlash sparked by a tweet by blogger Vegan4Eva.

In the tweet, Vegan4Eva posted two pictures of the product, and asked M&S, "why on earth is there beef collagen in these fruit juices?!".

Read more [here](#)

b) Trading Standards warning over 'five-a-day' claims

Food manufacturers have been warned that they could fall foul of Trading Standards rules after a study revealed three-quarters of products with five-a-day claims fell short of the recommended 80g portion size.

On-pack nutrition and health claims were subject to strict requirements to make sure they were accurate and clear – and both Trading Standards and the Advertising Standards Authority could and should take "robust action" if manufacturers were not complying, the Department of Health and Care (DHC) suggested.

Read more [here](#)

c) Consumers interpret nutrition and health claims differently to regulators, says study

UK, German, Spanish and Dutch consumers appear unable to differentiate between a nutrition claim and a health claim in a study that calls for improvements in communicating the benefits of healthier food choices.

Read more [here](#)

9) Food Safety

a) EU sets legal limit for trans fats to fight heart disease

From 2021, manufacturers in Europe will be required to curb the amount of industrially-produced trans fats in processed food to 2 g per 100 g of fat.

The regulation comes after MEPs voted overwhelmingly in support of enforcing a 2% legal limit in 2016. By this time, a number of Member States had already taken regulation into their own hands. Denmark, for example, restricted the content of industrially-produced trans fats in 2003, and has seen heart disease rates fall. Other countries to have adopted similar regulation include Austria, Latvia and Switzerland.

Read more [here](#)

b) Hygiene and safety offences double since new guidelines

The number of food firms fined for safety and hygiene offences have more than doubled since new guidelines were introduced, according to insurance consultancy NFU Mutual.

The Sentencing Council reported 130 fines in 2016 – the year the Health and Safety Offences, Corporate Manslaughter and Food Safety and Hygiene Offences guideline for England and Wales came into force. This was up from 60 in 2013.

Read more [here](#)

c) Are you ready for a recall? Communication strategy the ‘acid test’ for reputation

Nobody wants a food recall. But if you are faced with one, preparedness and internal cooperation will make or break your communications response.

Rapidly evolving digital technology has impacted every area of communications strategy – and crisis communications is no different. Social media and the 24/7 global news cycle means that an immediate response to issues like food recalls is required.

Read more [here](#)

10) Origin

a) Iceland v Iceland: The bitter trademark dispute erupts

Can Iceland (the country) force Iceland (the supermarket) to give up its trademark?

Under European trademark law it is possible to obtain wide-ranging protection for a single word such as “Apple”, “Google” or “Gucci” – which gives the owner the exclusive right to use the mark in commercial contexts in the EU. Single words like these can, over time, develop a great deal of brand power, so much so that consumers are willing to pay a premium to purchase the branded goods. Most of the time brands in the marketplace do not generate controversy.

Read more [here](#)

Food Alerts/Recalls – to 30th April

5 April 2019

[Greggs recalls Frozen Mini Sausage Rolls \(16 Pack\) because they may contain small pieces of plastic](#)

Greggs is recalling its frozen Mini Sausage Rolls (16 Pack) because they may contain small pieces of plastic. The presence of plastic could present a choking hazard, makes this product unsafe to eat and presents a safety risk.

9 April 2019

[Morrisons recalls TA-DAH! Cake because of incorrect labelling](#)

Morrisons recalls TA-DAH! Cake because of incorrect labelling. The packaging incorrectly states the toy wand is not suitable for children aged less than 2 years when this should be 3 years.

20 April 2019

[Asda recalls Cranberry and Nut Cereal Bars because of the possible presence of salmonella](#)

Asda has taken the precautionary step of recalling its Cranberry and Nut Cereal Bars because the product might contain salmonella.

25 April 2019

[Tesco recalls Apricot Almond and Yogurt Bars because of the possible presence of salmonella](#)

Tesco has taken the precautionary step of recalling its Apricot Almond and Yogurt Bars (pack of 4) because the product might contain salmonella.

25 April 2019

[Updated: Asda recalls two of its own-brand Cereal Bars because of the possible presence of salmonella](#)

Asda has taken the precautionary step of recalling its Peanut and Almond Cereal Bars in addition to its Cranberry and Nut Cereal Bars (packs of 4) because the products might contain salmonella.

Allergy – to 30th March

1 April 2019

[Updated: Genesis Crafty recalls Cheese Scones \(4 pack\) due to incorrect allergy labelling](#)

Genesis Crafty is recalling its Cheese Scones (4 pack), because of a packaging error where it may include incorrect base label information and could lead the consumer to believe the product is a Toffee & Hazelnut scone.

3 April 2019

[Unilever recalls Ben & Jerry's Chunky Monkey Non-Dairy Ice Cream due to undeclared nuts and soya](#)

Unilever is recalling Ben & Jerry's Chunky Monkey Non-Dairy Ice Cream because it contains almonds and walnuts (nuts) and soya which are not mentioned on the label.

4 April 2019

[Kallo Foods recalls Whole Earth 3 Nut Butter as allergenic ingredients are not declared in English](#)

Kallo Foods Ltd is recalling Whole Earth 3 Nut Butter because it contains peanuts, pecan nuts and walnuts and may contain traces of other nuts which are not written in English on the back label.

5 April 2019

[USN recalls 19-ANABOL TESTO because of undeclared oats \(gluten\)](#)

USN is recalling 19-ANABOL TESTO because it contains Avena Sativa (oats) which contains gluten which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to oats or gluten.

9 April 2019

[Alamgeer Foods recalls Alamgeer Bassar Curry Powder because of incorrect allergen labelling](#)

Alamgeer Foods Ltd is recalling Alamgeer Bassar Curry Powder because it contains mustard which is not emphasized as an ingredient on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to mustard.

9 April 2019

[Morrisons recalls Free From Choc Chip Cookies because of undeclared milk](#)

Morrisons recalls Free From Choc Chip Cookies because they contain milk which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to milk or milk constituents.

11 April 2019

[Sidoli recalls Gluten Free Syrup Sponge Pudding because of undeclared milk](#)

Sidoli recalls Gluten Free Syrup Sponge Pudding because it contains milk which is not mentioned on the label.

12 April 2019

[Essential Trading recalls Essential Wholefoods Curry Powder Madras Hot because of undeclared mustard](#)

Essential Trading is recalling Essential Wholefoods Curry Powder Madras Hot because it contains mustard which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to mustard.

12 April 2019

[Lidl recalls HealthyCo Proteinella Smooth Hazelnut and Cocoa Spread because allergenic ingredients are not declared in English](#)

Lidl is recalling HealthyCo Proteinella Smooth Hazelnut and Cocoa Spread because it contains hazelnuts, almonds and milk which are not written in English on the label.

18 April 2019

[Asda recalls Dauphinoise Potatoes because of undeclared wheat \(gluten\)](#)

Asda is recalling Dauphinoise Potatoes because some packs may include cauliflower cheese, which contain wheat (gluten) that is not mentioned on the label.

19 April 2019

[United Biscuits recalls go ahead! Nutty Crunch Hazelnut bars because of undeclared peanuts](#)

United Biscuits is recalling go ahead! Nutty Crunch Hazelnut (6 bars) because some packs may contain peanuts, which are not mentioned as an ingredient on the label.

EU RASFF (Rapid alert system for food and Feed) – highlights to 30th April

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
29/04/2019	Uzbekistan	high content of cyanide (30.8 mg/kg - ppm) in apricot kernels from Uzbekistan	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
25/04/2019	South Africa	poor temperature control (-4 and -3.2 °C) of frozen breaded fish products from South Africa	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
25/04/2019	Brazil	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen chicken half breasts from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
24/04/2019	Brazil	Salmonella (in 1 out of 5 samples)	United	border rejection -

		/25g) in frozen salted half chicken breasts from Brazil	Kingdom	consignment detained
18/04/2019	Nigeria	aflatoxins (B1 = 437 µg/kg - ppb) in shelled groundnuts from Nigeria	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
18/04/2019	India	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.0 µg/kg - ppb) in red dried whole chillies from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
18/04/2019	India	unauthorised substance ethion (0.34 mg/kg - ppm) in chillies from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
17/04/2019	India	aflatoxins in nutmeg from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
16/04/2019	United Kingdom	mustard undeclared on curry powder from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
16/04/2019	Brazil	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen salted chicken half breast fillets from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
16/04/2019	Brazil	Salmonella (presence (in 1 out of 5 samples) /25g) in poultry meat preparation from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
12/04/2019	France	insufficient labelling (labelling is not in English) of chocolate mousse with chocolate balls from France	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
12/04/2019	On-line sale	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
12/04/2019	United Kingdom	suspicion of Salmonella in class B eggs from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	information for follow-up food poisoning
11/04/2019	United Kingdom	gluten (oats) undeclared on food supplement from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
11/04/2019	United Kingdom	food supplement products containing not authorised selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMS) from the United Kingdom	Malta	consumer complaint - public warning - press release
11/04/2019	United Kingdom	unsuitable organoleptic characteristics of strawberry granola from the United Kingdom	Slovenia	consumer complaint - recall from consumers
10/04/2019	United Kingdom	milk ingredient undeclared on cookies from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	information for attention company's own check
10/04/2019	Iran	poor traceability records and absence of health certificate(s) for pistachios from Iran	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
08/04/2019	Dominican Republic	unauthorised substance carbofuran (0.01 mg/kg - ppm) in aubergines from the Dominican Republic	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
05/04/2019	United Kingdom	plastic fragments in frozen mini sausage rolls from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert company's own check

03/04/2019	India	unauthorised substances methamidophos (0.03 mg/kg - ppm), acephate (0.05 mg/kg - ppm) and carbendazim (0.48 mg/kg - ppm) in peppers from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/04/2019	China	absence of health certificate(s) and of certified analytical report for peanuts from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/04/2019	Brazil	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen salted chicken half breasts from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
02/04/2019	Belgium	technical potassium chloride from Israel, via Belgium sold as feed-grade	United Kingdom	information for follow-up company's own check
02/04/2019	United Kingdom	Salmonella enterica ser. Typhimurium in coral food from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	information for follow-up company's own check
01/04/2019	Sweden	metal pieces in oat drink from Germany, via Sweden	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
01/04/2019	China	unauthorised substance tolfenpyrad (0.77 mg/kg - ppm) in green tea from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
01/04/2019	Dominican Republic	dimethoate (0.32 mg/kg - ppm) and unauthorised substance omethoate (0.11 mg/kg - ppm) in aubergines from the Dominican Republic	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained