



RASFF

RASFF SOPs version 1.3

Short history

- **2006: project for an implementing Regulation + guidelines – implementing Regulation postponed due to a court case**
- **2007-2008: RASFF guidelines version 0.X: put together by a restricted working group of NCP and ECCP**
- **2009: RASFF guidelines version 1: ISC in Commission – request to adopt implementing Regulation first**
- **2009-2011: RASFF Regulation discussed and adopted early 2011**
- **2011-2013: RASFF guidelines reviewed and renamed to SOPs, consultation intra-SANCO (versions 1.1 and 1.2)**
- **2014: RASFF SOPs version 1.3 for stakeholder consultation**

Current structure of the SOPs

Introduction and scope

1. **Best practices for NCPs**
2. **Scope of RASFF - criteria to determine whether notification to the RASFF is optional or mandatory**
3. **Preparation of an original notification**
4. **Preparation of a follow-up notification**
5. **Submission of a notification to the ECCP**
6. **ECCP verification of the RASFF notification and distribution of RASFF notifications submitted by the NCPs**
7. **Distribution of RASFF notifications received from the ECCP**
8. **Assessing a notification received from the ECCP**
9. **Archiving and consulting RASFF notifications and related information**
10. **Confidentiality rules for RASFF**

SOP 1: Best practices for NCPs

simple structure involving all food and feed control authorities

ensure effective communication between the contact points and the authorities competent for control

"working instructions" (WI):

- **WI 1.1: designation of the NCP and updating contact details;**
- **WI 1.2: on-duty arrangements for NCPs**

RASFF SOP 2: Scope of RASFF - criteria to determine when a notification to the RASFF is required

*The scope of RASFF covers **direct or indirect risks to human health** in relation to food, food contact material or feed as well as **serious risks to human health, animal health or the environment in relation to a specific feed.***

RASFF must not be confused with the mechanisms for administrative assistance and cooperation as established in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 (Article 34-40), although in some cases both mechanisms are relevant and to be activated.

RASFF simplified decision diagram



Assessment: is the issue within the scope of RASFF?

The assessment whether or not there is a risk involved in non-compliant food/feed, and whether the risk is such as to require the notification to the RASFF is the responsibility of the members of the network. A list of cases where MS have considered that the risk was not such as to require a notification to the RASFF is provided.

Notification to RASFF is REQUIRED:

Cases where a risk requires or possibly requires rapid action in another member country (alert notifications)

This is the case where rapid action is needed to counter a serious risk.

- **list of cases where MS have considered that the risk was such as to require rapid action**
- **cases where MS have considered that the risk was such as to possibly require rapid action (in some cases following an ad hoc risk evaluation)**
 - As regards food
 - As regards feed

Cases where food or feed were rejected at the border

direct or indirect risk to human health

serious risk to human or animal health or to the environment

Information notifications (for follow-up, for attention)

cases involving a risk which does not require a rapid action in another member country

Information notification for follow-up: related to a product that is or may be placed on the market in another member country

Information notification for attention: related to a product that is not placed on the market in another member country

SOP 3: Preparation of an original notification

collection of information

use of notification templates

language used

handling of documents

role of the NCP

- **Propose classification**
- **Propose countries flagged**
- **Validate the notification**

SOP 4: PREPARATION OF A FOLLOW-UP NOTIFICATION

When?

- **useful for other members of the network**
- **when an NCP has been requested by the ECCP or by another contact point**
- **in case action was implemented or measures were taken on the product**

How?

- **Same requirements as for issuing an original notification**
- **Detailed follow-up can be bilaterally exchanged**

SOP 5: Transmission of a notification to the ECCP

steps to be taken from when a RASFF notification is prepared to when the notification is transmitted to the ECCP

- **time-limits within which an original notification should be submitted:**

alert notification within 48 hours from the moment a serious risk was reported to the competent authority;

information notifications and border rejections without undue delay.

- **time limits within which follow-up notifications should be submitted:**

immediately whenever the network member has any additional information (Art. 6(1))

immediately when action is taken following a RASFF notification (Art. 6(3))

without undue delay upon request of another network member (Art.6(2))

SOP 5: Transmission of a notification to the ECCP (cont.)

Ensuring upstream submission

- **Via iRASFF**
- **Via email**
- **Via TRACES**

Propose classification

Propose countries flagged

Validate the notification

SOP 6: ECCP verification and distribution of RASFF notifications submitted by the NCPs

Verification and feedback on:

- **Scope**
- **Legal basis**
- **Legibility and completeness**
- **Risk evaluation**
- **Other issues of compliance with the SOPs**

Questions or requests for additional information

Translation of the notification

SOP 6: ECCP verification and distribution of RASFF notifications submitted by the NCPs

Preparation and distribution of the notification

Withdrawal of a RASFF notification

- **Circa-based procedure**
- **iRASFF-based procedure**
- **TRACES-based procedure**

Distribution of RASFF notifications to third countries

- **via RASFF Window or email**

Closing an alert notification

Weekly review of RASFF notifications



RASFF SOP 7:

Distribution of RASFF Notifications received from the ECCP

Reception of the notifications

Filtering notifications

Distributing notifications

RASFF SOP 8: Assessing a notification received from the ECCP

Elements of an NCP's assessment of the RASFF notifications

- **Hazards and risk**
Sampling, analysis, risk evaluation or assessment
- **Product characteristics**
Type, origin, distribution
- **Measures taken**

Follow-up actions

- **Informing the relevant competent authorities**
- **Reporting on the action taken**

RASFF SOP 9: archiving and consulting RASFF notifications and related information

Guidelines for efficient archiving

Information which should be maintained on file

Databases

Access to the archive

RASFF SOP 10: Confidentiality rules for RASFF

Transparency of RASFF information

- **Information to the public**
- **Information to operators**

Confidentiality of RASFF information

- **RASFF Portal**
- **Case-by-case**
- **Information covered by professional secrecy**