

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES

Contamination of eggs with the pesticide, Fibrinol, in the EU

Issue:

The EU is investigating concerns that eggs in the Netherlands have been contaminated with the pesticide, Fibrinol. These eggs have been exported to other countries, primarily in the EU.

Eggs contaminated with pesticide Fipronil found in Europe in shipments from Netherlands - CBS News
Contaminated eggs: Netherlands failed to sound alarm, says Belgium | World news | The Guardian

Key points:

- The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is monitoring the situation closely and at this time there is no indication any affected egg products have been exported to Australia.
- Because of Australia's biosecurity requirements, only spray dried egg products are permitted – such as whole egg powder or egg white powder and some products where egg is an ingredient.
- The EU has informed the department that they are investigating this matter as a priority and will notify countries where non-compliant egg products have been exported.
- Australia has a maximum residue limit of 0.02mg/kg for fipronil in eggs.

Background:

- Imported egg products are classified as surveillance foods under the Imported Food Control Act and subject to inspection at the rate of 5% of consignments. At inspection, the egg products are subject to a visual inspection and label assessment for compliance with Australian labelling requirements.
- The department is reviewing whether testing of egg products from the EU for fipronil residues is required.
- There are regular imports of these egg products from Europe, with the two countries exporting these products being Denmark and Italy.
- The EU prohibits the use of fibrinol in poultry farms. Levels detected by European government authorities have ranged from 0.096mg/kg to 1.2mg/kg. The EU MRL in eggs is 0.005mg/kg (limit of detection) and the maximum level in chicken eggs at which no acute health risk exists is 0.72mg/kg.

Contact for further information

Please contact the Imported Food Section at the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources via email foodimp@agriculture.gov.au or phone, 1800 900 090.

Import Industry Advice Notice

17-Aug-2017 | 76/17

[Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Season 2017-18](#)

18-Aug-2017 | 77/17

[The DAWR website will be unavailable from 10pm Friday 18th August to 3am Saturday 19th August 2017 \(AEST\)](#)

Biosecurity Advice Notice

15- Aug-2017 | 15/17

[Commencement of a review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh breadfruit from Fiji, Samoa and Tonga](#)

Imported Food section update - 14 August 2017

This notice is to advise that changes stated in [IFN 13-17](#) - Tests applied to surveillance food are now effective (from 10 August 2017).

Tests applied to surveillance food

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food/inspection-compliance/tests-applied-to-surveillance-category-foods>

Antimicrobial tests - Food Standards Code Standard 1.4.2

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food/inspection-compliance/tests-applied-to-surveillance-category-foods/seafood-antimicrobial-tests>

Dairy allergen tests applied to coconut milk drinks: Food Standards Code Standard 1.2.3

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food/inspection-compliance/tests-applied-to-surveillance-category-foods/dairy-allergen-tests>

Food testing - Information for food importers

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food/inspection-compliance/information-importers>

Imported food inspection scheme (IFIS) laboratory nomination form has been updated.

The updated form can be accessed via the following link.

<http://agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food/inspection-compliance/information-importers/laboratory-nomination-form>

FOOD STANDARDS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Food Standards NEWS | Issue 150 | August 2017



View the full article [here](#).

The latest [Notification Circular \(21-17\)](#) was published on 16 August 2017.

The Circular summarises work currently being undertaken or finalised by FSANZ including:

- P1046 - L-amino acid acetate in Food for Special Medical Purposes (Urgent Proposal)

FSANZ - Media issues for the week

Here are the media issues for the week (07 - 13 August 2017)

Food Labelling

An Australian dairy company has created a stir amongst customers after it launched a range of milk featuring a “free-range” label. The Food Standards Code does not include standards around the use of the term “free-range” for dairy, and local data suggests that only one per cent of Aussie dairy farms use systems where cows are housed inside rather than allowing them to roam outside. [Read more.](#)

Food safety

Factory farming in Asia is creating global health risks, a new report released from a network of financial investigators has said. Asian food companies have rapidly expanded their meat production in response to growing populations and the tastes of the rising middle class, but it has come to the detriment of food safety. [Read more.](#)

Diet and nutrition

A US study has found that young adults who consume too many energy drinks are more likely to abuse stimulants by the age of 25. The research, conducted by the University of Markland, tracked consumption of the drinks in 1099 young people aged 21 to 25 over four years [Read more.](#)

The biggest reason people fail at diets is because they launch into drastic changes too quickly that can only really last around ten days before people feel deprived, a dietician has said. A better method is to make small modifications slowly, which is more likely to generate longer lasting change. [Read more.](#)

US researchers have found [another reason to eat more almonds](#), with a recent study that found participants who ate almonds every day compared to those who ate a muffin had improved levels and functionality of the “good” cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL). HDL helps remove other forms of cholesterol from the bloodstream and arteries that have been linked to a greater risk of heart disease.

GM

Following the story last week on a US company which has sold more than five tonnes of genetically modified salmon in Canada since May last year, [this story](#) looks into local labelling laws which do not require GM food to feature special labelling meaning consumers would not know if they have eaten GM salmon or not.

Quirky

If you were ever worried about astronauts not having enough ice cream up there in space, stop right now. This week a rocket packed with the frozen delicacy was launched to the international space station (and for those wondering, there was chocolate, vanilla and birthday cake flavours available). [Read more.](#)

BUSINESS CONSULTATION NOTIFICATION

Maximum Residue Limits

You are invited to comment on the proposal to vary certain maximum residue limits for agricultural and veterinary chemicals that may occur in food.



AUSTRALIAN PESTICIDES AND VETERINARY MEDICINES AUTHORITY

Media Release | 15 August 2017

New report tackling the fight on antimicrobial resistance in Australian animals

Media Release | 17 August 2017

APVMA CEO commissions an independent review of operational performance

APVMA Regulatory Update Issue #256 | 17 August 2017

- Clarification on good manufacturing practice (GMP) for veterinary chemicals
- Antibiotic resistance in animals—new report now available
- Register now to secure your place—Canberra industry sessions
- Chemical manufacturer charged over contaminated herbicides
- Reminder—open for public consultation



HEALTH STAR RATING



Health Star Rating eNewsletter August 2017

Research shows Health Stars success in New Zealand

Five year review - public submissions process extended

True or False? Food manufacturers and retailers pay to display Health Stars on their products

New Health Star Rating Pinterest Account)

+ Featured content