

IFS Trend Risk Report November 2023



Dear readers,

The November edition of the IFS Trend Risk Report includes 29 food fraud cases from around the world. Contraband products top the list for reasons of fraud, where, for example, traceability documentation is missing and therefore the link to the producer cannot be established.

The guest article by AFC Risk & Crisis Consult entitled " Genetic Harvest: Navigating the Fields of Global Perspectives on GMOs " deals with a proposal to deregulate new genetic technologies and points out advantages as well as disadvantages of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

"Recalls around the world" can be found on page 5. Please feel free to share links with us if there are new ones.

Our pesticide analysis shows deviations of products available all year long in the European market, respectively avocados, papayas and the seasonal Kohlrabi.

The RASFF analysis is on page 7, where we analysed the latest notifications for you, separated by IFS product scope and a list of the Top-10 of countries with the most notifications.

In our Noteworthy Publication section, you will find this month not a document as such but the direct link to the World Trade Organization's Annual Agriculture Symposium "Illicit Trade in Food and Food Fraud.

In the last section, you can get many interesting news and scientific publications in the field of food safety and packaging.

We hope you enjoy reading our report. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us.

CONTENT









1. Update on food fraud cases
2. Guest contribution
3. Recalls around the world from country/region specific databases
4. Evaluation of pesticide analyses
5. RASFF Data evaluation
6. European market observatory
7. Noteworthy publications
8. Media articles on food safety

1. Update on food fraud cases

In the following table, you find the food fraud cases **detected** in November 2023. Please be aware that cases are not limited to the month and may have occurred over a longer period.

IFS Product Scope	Ingredient	Reason	Country or Region	Detected in	Source
	Various foods	Contraband	Pakistan	Nov 2023	Link
	Various foods	Contraband	China	Nov 2023	Link
	Various foods	Mislabelling	Italy	Nov 2023	Link
	Various foods	Mislabelling	Latvia	Nov 2023	Link
	Various foods	Falsified Hala certification	India	Nov 2023	Link
	Cured meat	No traceability documentation	Italy	Nov 2023	Link
	Buffalo meat	No traceability documentation	Thailand	Nov 2023	Link
	Beef	Grey market	Pakistan	Nov 2023	Link
	Meats	Adulteration	Brazil	Nov 2023	Link
	Seafood	Documentation issues	Italy	Nov 2023	Link
	Clams	Illegal fishing	Italy	Nov 2023	Link
	Hairy crabs	Smuggling	China	Nov 2023	Link
	Frozen fish	Mislabelling	Kuwait	Nov 2023	Link
	Caviar	Mislabelling	Lower Danube countries	Nov 2023	Link
	Fish and prawns	Grey market	Singapore	Nov 2023	Link

IFS TREND RISK REPORT November 2023

IFS Product Scope	Ingredient	Reason	Country or Region	Detected in	Source
	Eggs	Grey market	Brazil	Nov 2023	Link
	Tomatoes	Adulteration	Italy	Nov 2023	Link
	Fruit & vegetables	Contraband	France	Nov 2023	Link
	Fruit & vegetables	Contraband	Singapore	Nov 2023	Link
	Rice	Grey market	India	Nov 2023	Link
	Sugar	Contraband	India	Nov 2023	Link
	Rice	Grey market	India	Nov 2023	Link
	Dairy products	Mislabelling	Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	Nov 2023	Link
	Spirits	Adulteration	India	Nov 2023	Link
	Spirits	Contraband	Dominican Republic	Nov 2023	Link
	Spirits	Counterfeit	Kenya	Nov 2023	Link
	Olive oil	Unfit for human consumption	Brazil	Nov 2023	Link
	Mayonnaise	Contraband	Bolivia	Nov 2023	Link
	Coffee	Contraband	Ivory Coast	Nov 2023	Link

Issue of the month:

Genetic Harvest: Navigating the Fields of Global Perspectives on GMOs

In November, [EU agriculture ministers](#) discussed a proposal to deregulate new genetic technologies by applying the same rules as for conventionally cultivated plants. The use of genetically modified crops is a matter of [international significance](#), causing diverse approaches and perspectives worldwide. While some countries promote the cultivation and distribution of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), others are sceptical about genetic engineering. These legal differences lead to [non-tariff barriers](#), impairing free trade around the world. Within the EU, discussions on modern agriculture involving new genetic technologies are accompanied by concerns about food safety and competitiveness.

Modern genetic engineering is widely endorsed for the numerous benefits it offers. The genetic modification of crops has the potential to purposefully and reliably adapt crops to [increase yields, input effectiveness or resilience against weather extremes](#) such as droughts or higher temperatures and pests. Additionally, growing them in unfavourable environments becomes possible. These opportunities have the potential to significantly contribute to current challenges in the food sector, including the growing demand of food, while coping with the consequences of climate change. In the United States, cultivation of genetically modified (GM) soybeans, maize and cotton is already [the status-quo](#). In the EU, Spain [is one of the few member states](#), which allows growing of GM maize.

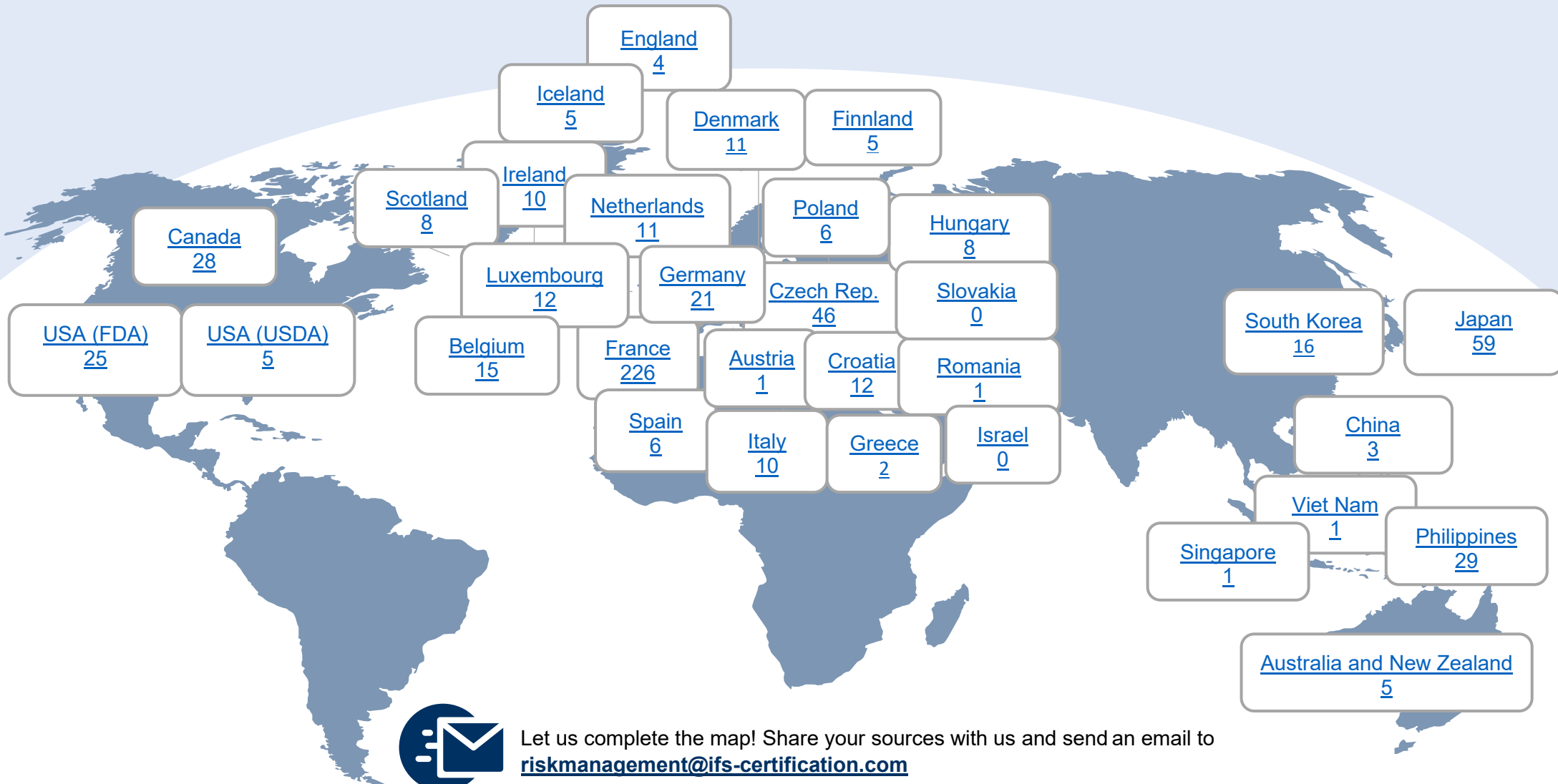
However, some [stakeholder](#) oppose the legal approval of genetic modification of crops because of the potential [immorality](#) of altering genes in a non-natural way. Additionally, new genetic technologies might lead to [market control](#) by a small group of companies holding patents on GMOs, threatening the diversity of breeds and crops, the rights of small farmers and the food autonomy of nations. Furthermore, in contrast to the opportunities stated by proponents, it is often feared that it may exacerbate current agricultural challenges instead of alleviating them. For example, the adoption of GM crops could promote [monocultures](#), reducing biodiversity in agriculture globally. Furthermore, the “natural” environment could be adversely affected by [interactions](#) with GM crops, impacting biodiversity negatively. Moreover, due to the novelty of the technology, there might be negative [long-term](#) impacts on ecology and human health.

The food industry should carefully monitor new developments in the legal process, as they could shape the future direction of genetic modification in the EU, impacting domestic agricultural production and trade worldwide. Even if the cultivation of GMOs becomes easier, individual companies may choose to rely on GMO-free products, if they identify consumer-value.



AFC Risk & Crisis Consult GmbH
E-Mail: info@afc-rcc.de
www.afc.net

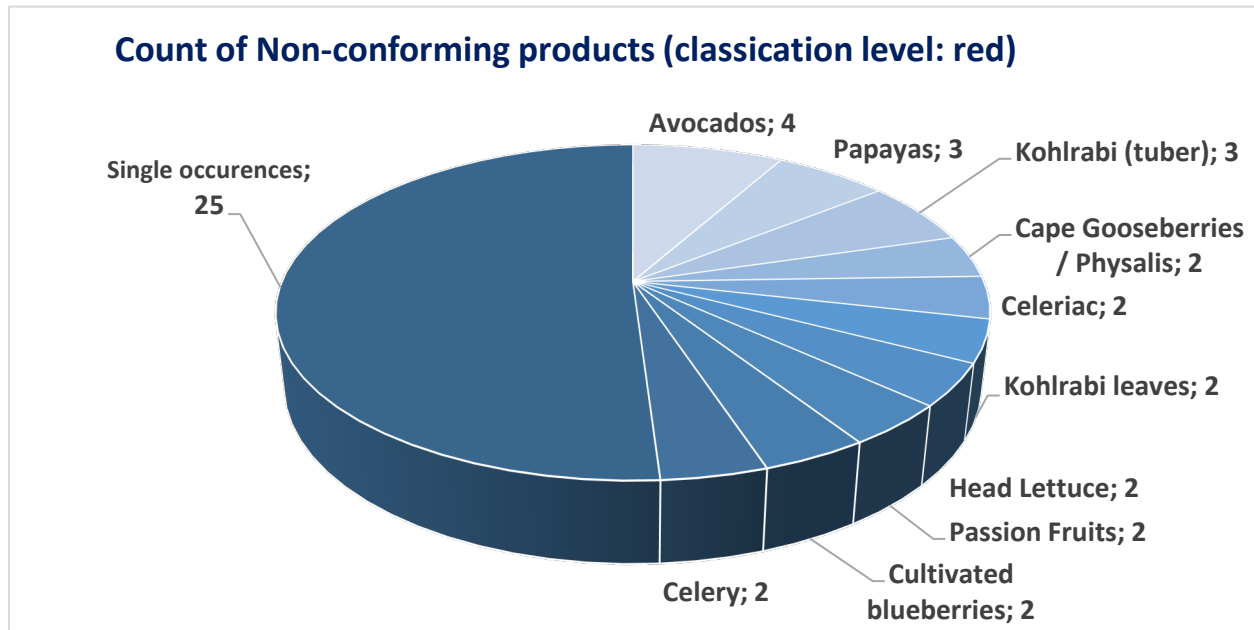
3. Recalls around the world from country/region specific databases (click on the country/region name to visit the source)



Let us complete the map! Share your sources with us and send an email to riskmanagement@ifs-certification.com

4. Evaluation of pesticide analyses

The following analysis was conducted using data from fruitmonitoring.com, which is a joint residue monitoring system for pesticides in fruit and vegetables operated by a group of trading companies in Germany. The data from fruitmonitoring.com is not publicly available. As a service to IFS stakeholders, we provide you with a monthly overview of compliance with maximum residue levels (MRLs) of goods traded in Germany. In the illustration, we show you all samples that have been classified as red because of "Exceeding maximum residue levels".



In November 2023, a total number of 3804 **samples** (Date: 11.12.2023) were monitored.

Product/Country/Parameter	Total number analysed in November 2023	Count of deviation November 2023	Historic count (previous 2 years)
Avocados	84	4	65
Morocco	9	2	3
Boscalid	-	2	0
Mexico	10	2	2
BAC (sum)	-	2	1
Papayas	8	3	9
Ghana	1	1	1
Fosetyl-AI (sum)	-	1	0
Brazil	5	2	8
Diafenthuron	-	1	0
Fenpropathrin	-	1	2
Kohlrabi (tuber)	42	3	4
Spain	14	2	1
Chlorate	-	2	0
Italy	17	1	0
Chlorate	-	1	0

In the table above, you can see the countries and parameters of the first 3 products which had MRLs >100% for November 2023 and next to it the "historic count" to show how many times the product/country/substance combination were non-conforming (classification level: red) in the last 2 years prior to the current month.

5. RASFF Data evaluation

In the following section you can see an analysis of the RASFF data from November 2023. The notifications from the food category are analysed here, which, this month, amount to 378 and thus count 16 notifications less than in October 2023.

The first diagram shows the breakdown by IFS Product scope. Please do not forget that an IFS Product scope can contain several RASFF categories.

The IFS Product scopes with the most notifications are as follows: Fruit and vegetables (131;115); Dry goods, other ingredients and supplements (77;81), Red and white meat, poultry and meat products (61;60); In the brackets above, the October 2023 figures are given in second place.

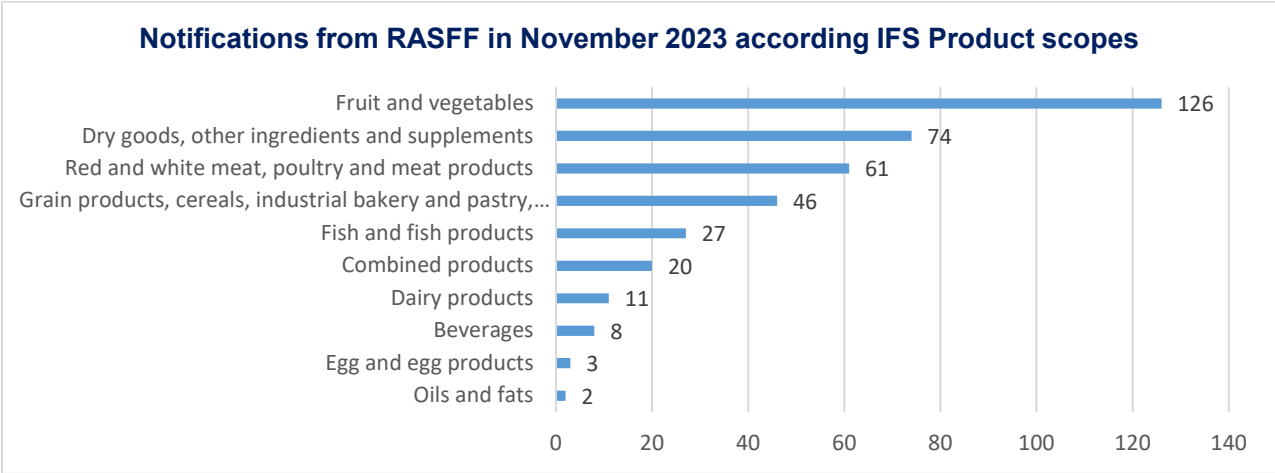
The IFS Product scope fruit and vegetables includes notifications from the RASFF category: fruit and vegetables (72), nuts and nut products and seeds (52) and soups, broths, sauces and condiments (7).

In Fruits and vegetables, unauthorized substances account for 23 notifications and aflatoxin in dried figs from Türkiye was mentioned 8 times. No large cluster could be seen for the remaining areas.

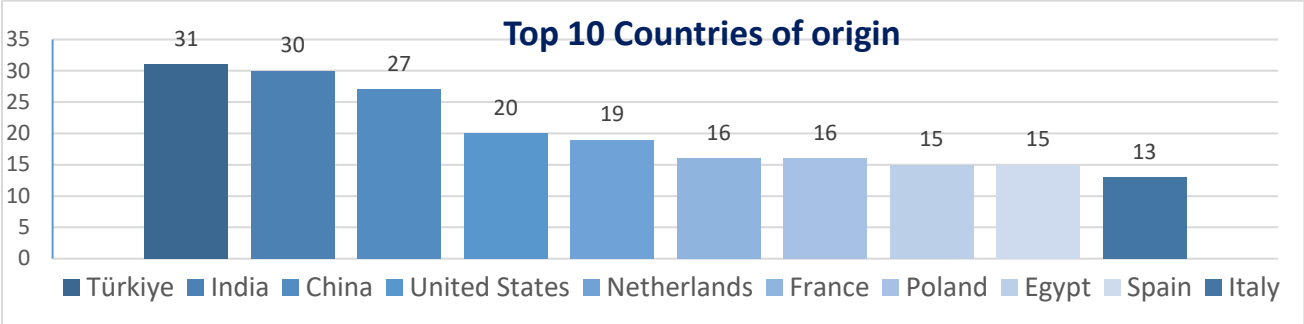
In nuts and nut products and seeds, mycotoxins (21) are the main cause of the notifications. Again, poppy seeds with morphine content excesses are mentioned, this month 4 times. Pathogens, namely salmonella, are named as the last cluster, accounting for 6 notifications.

The IFS Product scope dry goods, other ingredients and supplements includes notifications from the RASFF category: dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods (28), herbs and spices (41), cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea (8) and notifications were given for food additives and flavourings. In dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods, issues with novel food account for 28 alerts. The remaining notifications show no bigger cluster.

The IFS scope red and white meat, poultry and meat products includes notifications from poultry meat and poultry meat products (44) and meat and meat products (other than poultry) (17). In poultry meat, there are two main clusters, namely salmonella, which is mentioned 22 times as the reason for rejection and chlorate, which is mentioned 18 times. In meat and meat products (other than poultry) pathogenes are mentioned 7 times.



In the following chart, we have listed the Top 10 countries of origin. These represent 205 of the 378 notifications and are thus responsible for ≈54,2% of all notifications.



6. European Market Observatory

The European Commission assembles information related to food products on a regular basis. Here you can find the current official market observation dashboards.

 <u>Beef dashboard</u>	 <u>Cereals dashboard</u>
 <u>Pork dashboard</u>	 <u>Oilseeds and protein crops dashboard</u>
 <u>Eggs dashboard</u>	 <u>Sugar dashboard</u>
 <u>Poultry dashboard</u>	 <u>Olive oil dashboard</u>
 <u>Sheep and goat meat</u>	 <u>Wine dashboard</u>
 <u>Milk dashboard</u>	 <u>Fruit and vegetables dashboard</u>
 <u>Fish and seafood dashboard</u>	

7. Noteworthy publications











Our noteworthy publication this month is actually the recording of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Annual Agriculture Symposium “Illicit Trade in Food and Food Fraud”

The Symposium brought trade negotiators together with experts on illicit trade in food and food fraud, international organizations, businesses, civil society and academics in an attempt to better understand the landscape of illegal trade and to explore incentives behind food fraud, discussing how best to control them, and the role that the WTO could play.



[Click here for the WTO website](#)

8. Media articles on food safety

	Topic and Link	Source
	Germany records rise in outbreaks in 2022	FoodSafetyNews
	Epidemiological aspects of botulism in Italy	Epicentro
	Three clusters of Salmonella Enteritidis ST11 infections linked to chicken meat and chicken meat products	EFSA
	Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella: Cantaloupes (November 2023)	FDA
	The study supports the view that shellfish outbreaks are under-reported	FoodSafetyNews
	Inactivation Kinetics of Foodborne Pathogens in Carrot Juice by High-Pressure Processing	MDPI
	Survival of Foodborne Pathogens in Low and Nonalcoholic Craft Beer	ScienceDirect
	Spanish and Italian investigators uncover olive oil fraud	FoodSafetyNews
 FCM	European Parliament adopts amended Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation	Food Packaging Forum
 FCM	344 volatile organic compounds in paperboard, new study	Food Packaging Forum

IMPRINT

IFS Management GmbH
Am Weidendamm 1 A
DE 10117 Berlin

Phone: +49 30 72 61 053-74

Fax: +49 30 72 61 053-79

E-Mail: riskmanagement@ifs-certification.com

Follow IFS on Social Media



www.ifs-certification.com

IFS Management GmbH has made every effort to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided on the Trend Risk Monitor and Trend Risk Report. However, the information is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind. IFS Management GmbH assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, content, completeness, legality or reliability of the information contained on the Trend Risk Monitor and Trend Risk Report.

The content communicated here is intended to inform you. Despite all due care, you should critically review the contents if you intend to make your actions dependent on them. The contents should also be viewed separately from all IFS standards and programmes. During an IFS audit and/or assessment, only the statements of the normative documents such as standards and doctrine apply.

The use of external links is at your own risk. We cannot guarantee that external websites are free from computer viruses or similar.

We are not liable for any loss or damage of any kind (direct, indirect, consequential or other damages) arising from the use of the IFS Trend Risk Monitor and IFS Trend Risk Report. These services contain links to other third party websites. The content of these third-party websites is not under our control and we will not be responsible for them. Links to such third party websites should not be construed as an endorsement by IFS Management GmbH of the third party website or of products advertised, offered or sold on the third party website. We cannot take responsibility for the collection or use of personal information from third party websites.

The IFS Trend Risk Report is an exclusive service of IFS Management GmbH for all IFS database users. Please refrain from passing on this document to third parties and from publishing it elsewhere.