

31<sup>st</sup> March 2008

Reference: IPA 38

## **Aflatoxins in Turkish Fig Paste**

Dear Stakeholder,

Since the start of this year the Agency has been notified of an increasing number of Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications relating to batches of figs and fig based products from Turkey containing levels of aflatoxins higher than the regulatory limit under Commission Regulation (EC) 1881/2006.

We are aware that some UK companies have imported figs or fig paste with health certificates which after testing in accordance with Commission Regulation 401/2006; confirm aflatoxin levels below the maximum limit under 1881/2006. However, on occasions, further testing by manufacturers has found that the figs have exceeded maximum levels for aflatoxin B1, total or both B1 and total.

Turkish dried fruit representatives have confirmed the increase in aflatoxin contamination is due to the adverse weather conditions in Turkey last year.

In order to protect consumer safety, it is recommended that companies consider testing any Turkish fig consignment received for use under their own testing regime. In order to obtain reliable results, representative of the whole consignment, any testing should satisfy the requirements for aflatoxin sampling under Commission Regulation (EC) 401/2006.

Please find attached a copy of Commission Regulation (EC) 401/2006 for your use.

Paula Waldron

Head of Food Incidents Unit