INFOSAN

International Food Safety Authorities Network

Drawing Strength from a Network of Networks
Background

• The rapid globalization of food production and trade has increased the potential for international incidents involving contaminated food

• Dealing with these events requires rapid exchange of food safety information at both the national and international level

• By sharing experiences between countries food safety issues can be managed more effectively and efficiently

• It is therefore important to have a mechanism in place to facilitate collaboration between countries

To provide such a mechanism, INFOSAN was launched in 2004 and has been growing ever since
What is INFOSAN and its Purpose?

- A voluntary network of food safety authorities (government agencies) from around the world (178 countries) managed jointly by WHO and FAO.
- Aims to prevent international spread of contaminated food and foodborne disease and strengthen food safety systems globally, by:
  - promoting the rapid exchange of information during food safety events
  - sharing information on important food safety issues of global interest
  - promoting partnership and collaboration between countries
  - helping countries strengthen their capacity to manage food safety risks
May 2000 – World Health Assembly of WHO adopts a resolution calling for improved communication among WHO and Member States on matters of food safety.

May 2002 – Member States express serious concerns at the WHA regarding health emergencies posed by natural, accidental and intentional contamination of food; WHO is requested to provide tools and support to Member States to increase their capacity to respond to such emergencies.

March 2004 – WHO and its Regional Offices take the first steps in establishing INFOSAN; WHO Representatives request the official designation of one or more INFOSAN Focal Points and one INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point.


January 2003 – WHO publishes a report on terrorist threats to food including guidance for establishing and strengthening prevention and response systems; the report points to the establishment of an international food safety emergency network as one of the basic preparedness measures that needs to be taken.


October 2004 – The Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS) of WHO, in cooperation with the FAO, officially inaugurate INFOSAN as a collaborative program, at the FAO/WHO Second Global Forum for Food Safety Regulators.
November 2007 – Official launch of the INFOSAN Secure Website

May 2010 – WHA Resolution 63.3 calls for the further development of INFOSAN by encouraging the participation of all Member States through timely sharing of data, information and knowledge and urging the Director General of WHO to further develop INFOSAN to facilitate communications and sharing of best practices, to strengthen INFOSAN’s emergency function and to ensure sustainable support.

December 2010 – First Global Meeting of Network members in Abu Dhabi, UAE

April 2006 – Inaugural meeting of the INFOSAN Advisory Group

June 2007 – International Health Regulations (2005) implemented with a broad scope which includes food events

November 2007 – The ‘Beijing declaration on Food Safety’ is adopted, urging all countries to actively participate in INFOSAN by sharing information on emerging food safety issues and experiences about best practices

June 2010 – INFOSAN becomes a joint FAO/WHO program

2012 – New INFOSAN Community Website launched
INFOSAN Membership

- **Emergency Contact Points** ➔ From the national authority responsible for coordination of national food safety emergency response

- **Focal Points** ➔ Other national authorities with a stake in food safety (i.e. human health, veterinary health, agriculture, trade, fisheries, etc.)

- **Other members** ➔ Advisory Group Members, WHO Regional Food Safety Advisors; FAO Regional Food Safety Officers; Regional Food Safety Authorities (i.e. ECDC, OIRSA, etc.)
INFOSAN Emergency Contact Points

- **Act** as liaison between the national government and INFOSAN secretariat
- **Collaborate** with the National IHR Focal Point
- **Notify** INFOSAN of food safety emergencies giving information on distribution, public health significance and societal impact
- **Review** INFOSAN Emergency Alerts to be sent through the network
- **Respond** to INFOSAN Emergency messages
- **Coordinate** with INFOSAN for international response actions
- **Provide** INFOSAN with details of follow up activity
INFOSAN Structure

178 Countries!
Routine Activities

• INFOSAN Information Notes are developed by the INFOSAN Secretariat to provide key information about emergent or topical food safety issues

• Food safety guidelines, questionnaires, surveys, newsletters and factsheets are shared with INFOSAN members for further dissemination within their organizations

• INFOSAN members aid routine in-country sharing of information to strengthen the national food control system

• INFOSAN Members are engaged by the Secretariat for gathering information on emerging issues
Emergency Activities

• INFOSAN identifies, verifies and shares information on food safety-related events which involve contaminated foods in international commerce, and foodborne illness outbreaks, not limited to one country – ⚠️ INFOSAN Alerts are sent to INFOSAN Members during food safety emergencies

• INFOSAN Secretariat provides technical assistance to national governments in managing food safety and food production-related events or emergencies

• INFOSAN Secretariat coordinates information exchange between countries and will facilitate technical assistance in the field, if requested
Outbreak of *S. Oranienburg* in Russia linked to internationally distributed powdered infant formula from Belgium – January 2012

- Russian media report picked up by WHO-EURO and relayed to INFOSAN Secretariat
- INFOSAN Secretariat contacted INFOSAN contact points in Belgium
- Belgian Authorities subsequently launched an investigation into the Belgian producer
- Communicated to INFOSAN Secretariat that product was sent to additional countries
- INFOSAN notified national authorities in these countries

**PRESS RELEASE of the FASFC**

**RUSSIA : likely contamination of milkpowder with Salmonella**

23/01/2012

As a result of an information received from The International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) by the European Rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF), Belgium has been informed about a likely contamination of milkpowder with Salmonella Oranienburg in the North of Russia.

According to the spokesman of a local agency for food safety, the milkpowder that caused the contamination of children should originate from Belgium.

The FASFC immediately started an inquiry to the Belgian producer.

As a result of that inquiry it appears that only one batch of 19 tons was concerned.
From this batch 16 tons were sent to Russia in January, 2011. The remaining 3 tons were mixed with other batches and sent to certain third countries.

The concerned countries have already been informed by Belgium via the RASFF-system.

No product at all from this batch has been delivered in Europe, and thus not in Belgium.

As a result of the controls performed by the FASFC in the producing plant, all measures were taken in order to avoid another incident.
Outbreak of *S. Oranienburg* in Russia linked to internationally distributed powdered infant formula from Belgium – January 2012
International Distribution of GOS and Products Containing GOS from South Korea (+ S. Oranienburg in USA and Netherlands with same PFGE)
Several important regional networks...
...But INFOSAN is the only global network
Strengthening the Food Safety Community of Practice

Latest information from INFOSAN Secretariat

**INFOSAN Document**
New INFOSAN Flyer
May 21, 2012

**INFOSAN Alert**
Outbreak of S. Bareilly and S. Nchanga Infections in the USA Associated with an Internationally distributed Tuna Product from India
April 30, 2012

**INFOSAN Document**
PFGE Pattern - S. Bareilly
April 30, 2012

**INFOSAN Document**
Frozen raw Nakaohi scrape tuna product packaging
April 30, 2012

Latest Discussion Forum Posts

**INFOSAN flyer**
Barbara Butow
May 21, 2012

**INFOSAN Community Website Questions & Feedback**
INFOSAN Secretariat
February 15, 2012

**INFOSAN Data Management System**
Carmen Joseph Savelli
March 28, 2012

**HAV/semi dried tomatoes outbreak in the UK**
Barbara Butow
March 7, 2012
INFOSAN Community Website

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Carmen Joseph Savelli

Name: Mr Carmen Joseph Savelli
INFOSAN Secretariat
WHO Staff
Country of activity:
Institution: World Health Organization
Position: Program Officer
Areas of Scientific Expertise:
Food Safety Epidemiology Outbreak Investigation Public Health

Contact details

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Mobile Telephone: +41 (0) 79 477 17 45
Website: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/infosan/en/

Groups

Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses
INFOSAN Advisory Group
INFOSAN Community Website Feedback
INFOSAN in Asia
INFOSAN Management Team

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## My groups

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<td>Carmen Joseph Savelli</td>
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Welcome to Risk Management of 4-Methylimidazol (4-MI) in Caramel Coloring

According to a news release on 26 June 2012 from the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) in the USA, laboratory testing has indicated high levels of 4-methylimidazole (4-MI) in Coca-Cola products distributed to several countries, raising concerns about consumer health as a result of consumption of these products. More details can be found here: www.cspinet.org/new/201206261.html.

The Korea Food and Drug Administration has suggested the exchange of information between INFOSAN member countries in Asia on the following topics with respect to 4-MI in caramel colorings:

1. Current policies on monitoring and risk management of 4-MI in your respective country
2. Reactions from news media and the public to this issue

Please post your responses to these topics using the discussion function below.

If you have any questions about using this group, please contact the INFOSAN Secretariat (infosan@who.int).

Additional Information from KFDA about 4-MI in caramel coloring

Started by: Hyo-Min Lee
On: July 18, 2012

0 replies and 31 views
Last post: July 12, 2012
By: Hyo-Min Lee
"Only if we act together, can we respond effectively to international food safety problems and ensure safer food for everyone"

Dr Margaret Chan – Director General, WHO