



Q2 Report
JULY 2021



Recall Recap

In Q2 2021 there were:

1,446 food-related alerts

69 Class I Recalls
36 Class II Recalls
12 Class III Recalls

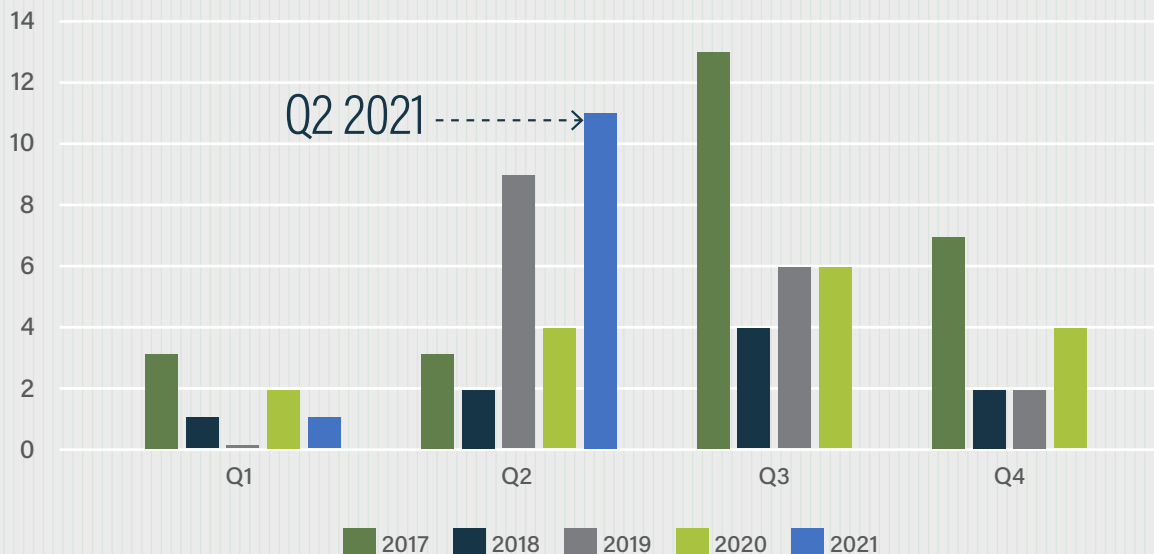
10% of alerts were due to safety, labeling, quality, or inspection violations

Data Spotlight – Marine Biotoxins Flourish in Warmer Weather

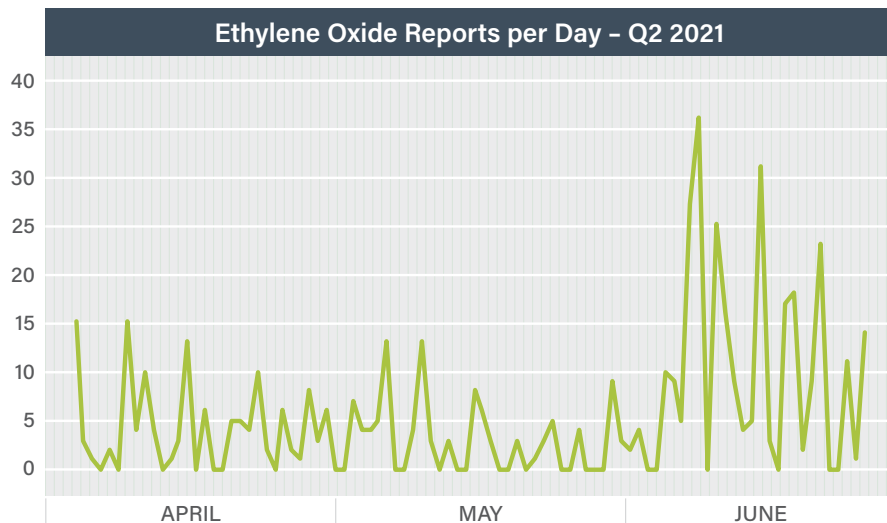
At the peak of the summer months in North America, foodborne illness via bacteria, viruses, and parasites in raw and undercooked seafood becomes a major concern. Marine biotoxins flourish during the warmer months, resulting in algae blooms; some of the most common forms include domoic acid, okadaic acid, and Paralytic Shellfish Poison (commonly known as PSP). When shellfish interact with toxin-producing algae, the toxins remain in their systems. This can lead to illness and even death in humans if consumed. Between April and November — and typically peaking in the summer months — naturally occurring bacteria in warmer waters collect in shellfish and become a risk to anyone consuming them; the problem is exacerbated by the fact that most contaminated shellfish do not necessarily smell, look, or taste any different from those that are safe to eat.

Food recalls and related events typically peak at the end of Q2 each year during these summer months as a result of warmer waters and the continued popular consumption of raw shellfish. While people may become sick at any point in the year and these risks should always be a concern, FoodTrack consistently sees these numbers peak at this point in the year.

Marine Biotoxin-Related Events by Quarter

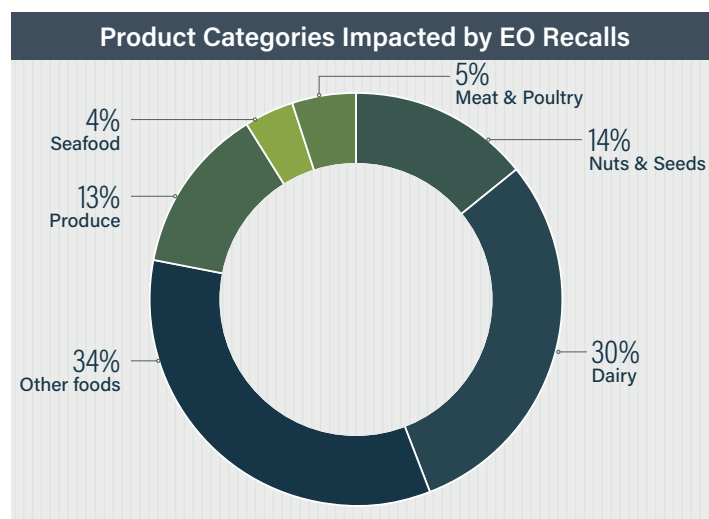


Ethylene Oxide Alerts Keep Coming...



We've been busy! Recalls as a result of excessive Ethylene Oxide levels continue to expand, caused by a wider range of ingredients and in turn impacting a wider range of final products. In the month of June, we reported an average of about 10 EO recalls per day, with multiple days spiking with over 25 individual reports.

Gelling and thickening gums are the newest ingredients impacted; as a common ingredient in ice cream and sorbet products, we have seen a dramatic increase in Dairy recalls. Granola bars, muesli, breads, and prepared meals were the most frequently recalled products in the Other Foods category, which had 232 recalls this quarter due to Ethylene Oxide. The Produce and Nuts & Seeds groups continued to account for a steady stream of Alerts as seed products, herbs, and spices were recalled.



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