

INFOSAN

http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/fs_management/INFOSAN_User_Guide_Final.pdf

The copious amount of surveillance information received daily is reviewed to determine the priority with which each reported situation must be addressed. The INFOSAN Emergency network is activated only for food safety emergencies of international significance, i.e., are serious and involve international trade. The algorithm for deciding whether or not additional action is needed is described in Table 3.

Table 3: Information Patterns Used to Classify INFOSAN Emergencies	
Information Pattern	Further Action Required
<i>Distribution</i>	
Export is indicated or clearly stated	Yes (if public health impact criteria is met)
No information on export but the type of product is likely to be internationally distributed	Yes (if public health impact criteria is met)
Local distribution only	Generally No, unless societal impact criteria is met. WHO may provide support to the country.
“No export” clearly stated	Generally No, unless societal impact criteria is met. WHO may provide support to the country.
<i>Public Health Impact</i>	
Information suggests a serious acute illness, serious harm or death caused by the contaminated food item	Yes (if distribution criteria is met)
No information on public health impact of the contaminated food item but the type of contamination is known to be associated with serious illness or death	Yes (if distribution criteria is met)
No information on public health impact of the contaminated food item and the type of contamination is insufficiently specified or the association with serious illness is uncertain	Maybe - dependent upon distribution and societal Impact
The type of contamination is known not to be associated with serious illness or death	Generally No
<i>Societal Impact</i>	
Surveillance information indicates that inappropriate or wide spread product embargos or mass panic, which could destabilize the country or the economy, could occur due to the presence of contaminated food items in the international marketplace	Yes