



**RASFF WI 4.1:
 RULES FOR FLAGGING AND CLOSING OUT MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK AND
 COUNTRIES IN RELATION TO AN ORIGINAL RASFF NOTIFICATION
 LAST UPDATED: 2022-03-09**

1. RULES FOR FLAGGING

There are two possible flags: "for follow-up" and "for attention"¹. The flag "for follow-up" means that the member or country flagged is expected to provide follow-up to the notification i.e. that follow-up from that country is or may be required to complete the reporting on the notified case. The flag "for attention" means that the country is concerned by the notification but that follow-up is not required to complete the reporting on a notified case.

Table 1 gives examples of situations for flagging members and non-member countries in function of whether information is required. The need for back- or forward traceability information will depend on the distribution status of the notification (see table 2) and is always evaluated against the already known traceability information in the notification and reflects the need for added traceability information in order to complete the full traceability chain of the concrete lots or consignments concerned by the notification. The ECCP can make requests for traceability information, which should be treated with the highest priority. A forward traceability request is typically a request for "possible distribution". A backward traceability request is typically a request for "full details on the origin of the product". Traceability requests always result in a flag for follow-up for the requested member or country.

reason for flag	flag type*
back- or forward traceability	FFUP
specific question/request	FFUP
transit country, trader/broker	FFA

Table 1 flagging rules

* FFUP = for follow-up, FFA = for attention

distribution status	FFUP flag set
distribution restricted to notifying country	forward traceability: none backward traceability: upon request
no distribution to other member countries	forward traceability: upon request by recipient

¹ Please note that these flags have another meaning and purpose than the information notification types "information notification for follow-up" and "information notification for attention".

distribution status	FFUP flag set
	country backward traceability: upon request
distribution to other member countries	forward traceability: recipient countries (if recipients are identified in the notification) and countries identified in the backward traceability chain (not including the notifying country) backward traceability: upon request
distribution to non-member countries only	forward traceability: recipient countries (if recipients are identified in the notification) and countries identified in the backward traceability chain (not including the notifying country) backward traceability: upon request
information on distribution not (yet) available [there should not be any recipient countries other than the notifying country]	forward traceability: countries identified in the backward traceability chain (including the notifying country) or the notifying country as recipient country backward traceability: upon request
no distribution from notifying country [there should not be any recipient countries other than the notifying country]	forward traceability: countries identified in the backward traceability chain (not the notifying country) backward traceability: upon request
product (presumably) no longer on the market	forward traceability: none backward traceability: upon request
product not (yet) placed on the market [there should not be any recipient countries]	forward traceability: none backward traceability: upon request
product forwarded to destination	forward traceability: recipient country backward traceability: upon request
product traded online	forward traceability: upon request backward traceability: upon request

Table 2 distribution status versus traceability requirement

The ECCP makes forward traceability requests to the member countries identified in the backward traceability chain (origin) only in case of an alert notification. The ECCP can make backward traceability requests to any country identified in the backward traceability chain (origin) depending on the seriousness of the risk.

The country of origin and recipient country(ies) are automatically flagged for attention if no back- or forward traceability information is required, unless it concerns the notifying country.

The notifying country is only flagged for follow-up if the notification is not complete and more info is expected by follow-up or if there is another reason for flagging the country (e.g. request by ECCP/SCP or additional distribution of the product to the notifying country).

2. CLOSE-OUT RULES

Close-out rules determine under what conditions a flag for a country is *closed out* in a notification. The ECCP then fills in the *date out* field in its database. This is reflected in the weekly tables and in the follow-up daily tables.

- Flags *for attention* are not closed out
- Flags *for follow-up* regarding forward traceability: closed out if follow-up received on measures taken
- Flags *for follow-up* regarding backward traceability: closed out when information on traceability is given (outcome of investigations)
- Flags *for follow-up* regarding questions/requests: closed out when question/request is fully answered

Note: if a follow-up does not answer all questions or conditions for flagging or raises new conditions for flagging the notifying country or another country then

- the necessary flags need to be kept (i.e. not closed out) or
- the necessary flags need to be added or
- an already closed-out country can be “reopened”.