



Product Recall Bulletin

April 2022

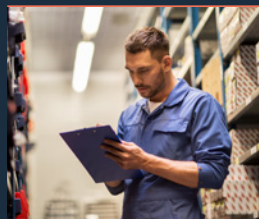
RQAGroup
Your product risk experts.

Welcome to the first RQA Group Product Recall Bulletin, where we have analysed the latest recall data and highlighted key trends in product recall in food, consumer products and automotive. We will publish this quarterly to track and highlight any changes that we see in product recall across the US, Europe and Australia.

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Food Recalls in US, UK, EU and Australia



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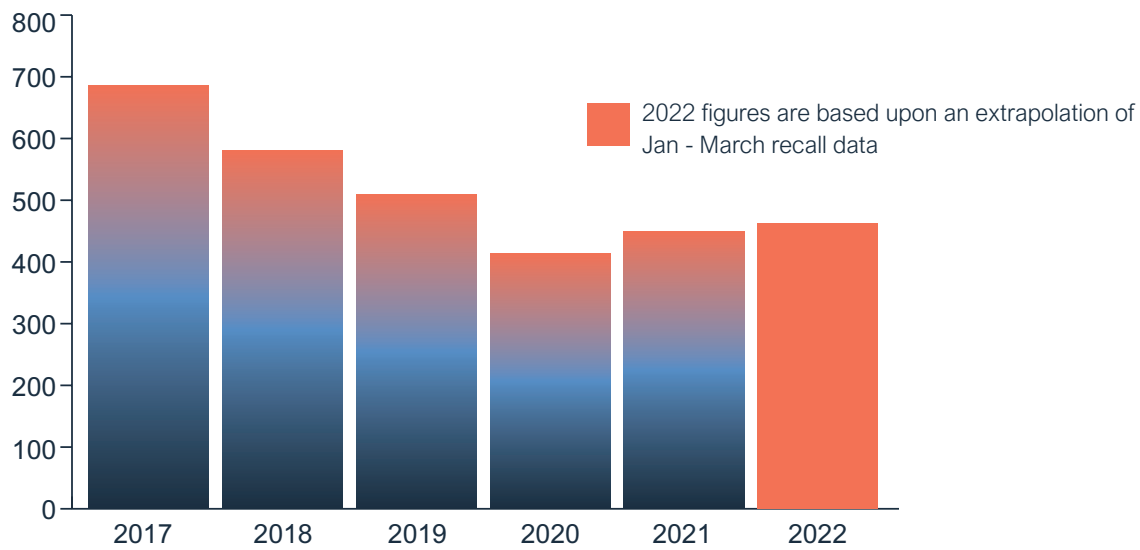
Food Recalls

US FDA Food Recalls

US FDA recall events were higher in 2021 than in 2020. Whilst still on the relatively low side, the number of recall events is perhaps heading back

up to pre-pandemic recall event numbers. Early 2022 recall numbers suggest there could be more FDA food recall events in 2022 than 2021.

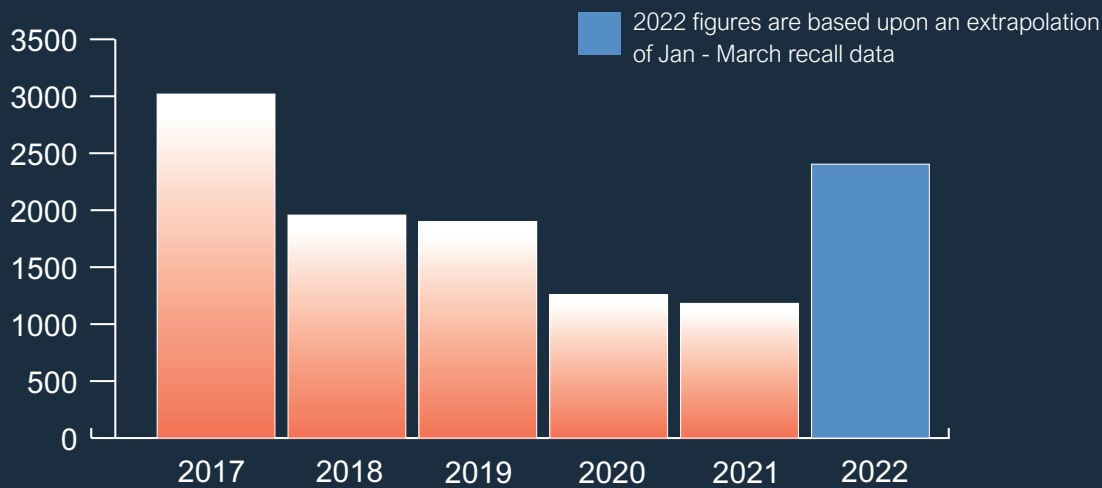
Number of US FDA Food Recall Events



Whilst the above graph shows that the number of food recall events may be slightly increasing, it is also important to look at the number of different products recalled. The chart below shows FDA reported recalled food products. This shows a different picture particularly for 2022. It can be seen that based on numbers of recalled products from January to March, there may be more food products recalled in 2022 than any year since

2017. This is largely due to a number of large recall events that involve many different products. For example in early 2022 the FDA reported two recall events involving over 160 salad products that may be contaminated with *Listeria Monocytogenes*. There has also been a single recall event that involved over 100 different nutritional products due to undeclared allergens.

Number of Different Food Products Recalled by FDA



US FDA Recall Standings by Food Type

Looking at the FDA recall numbers, we have created the standings, or league table, of the most common product categories involved in these

recalls. Confectionery products had the most number of recalls in 2021, up from 2nd position in 2020 replacing fruit and vegetables.

Product Type	2021 position	2020 position	Change from 2020
Confectionery	1	2	up ↑
Fruits and vegetables	2	1	down ↓
Prepared dished, pasta, noodles	3	4	up ↑
Soups, broths, sauces and condiments	4	3	down ↓
Seafood	5	6	up ↑
Cereals and bakery products	6	7	up ↑
Nutritional products	7	9	up ↑
Dairy	8	10	up ↑
Nuts, seeds and snacks	9	8	down ↓
Non-alcoholic beverages	10	11	up ↑

Note: A company may recall multiple products in relation to a single recall event as defined by FDA. This data includes all the recalls of individual products.

Fruit and vegetables are likely to retake the top spot in 2022. Even by the end of February 2022, fruit and veg has already exceeded the fruit and veg recall number from 2021.

As mentioned above, two recall events alone being responsible for the recall of over 160 different salad products due to potential listeria monocytogenes contamination.



US FDA Recall Standings by Contaminant Type

We have also looked at the most common contaminants or causes of recalls reported by the FDA. The three contaminants affecting the most recalled products are the same in both 2021 and 2020. Within microbiology, listeria monocytogenes and salmonella are typically the most common pathogens. Milk is the most common allergen. Recalls due to allergen contamination may be due

to cross-contamination in the factory or supply chain or it may be due to where the product has been put in the wrong pack and there is resulting allergen mislabelling. Metal is the most common foreign body contaminant, but this can vary from year to year. For example, plastic was the most common foreign body contaminant in 2019.

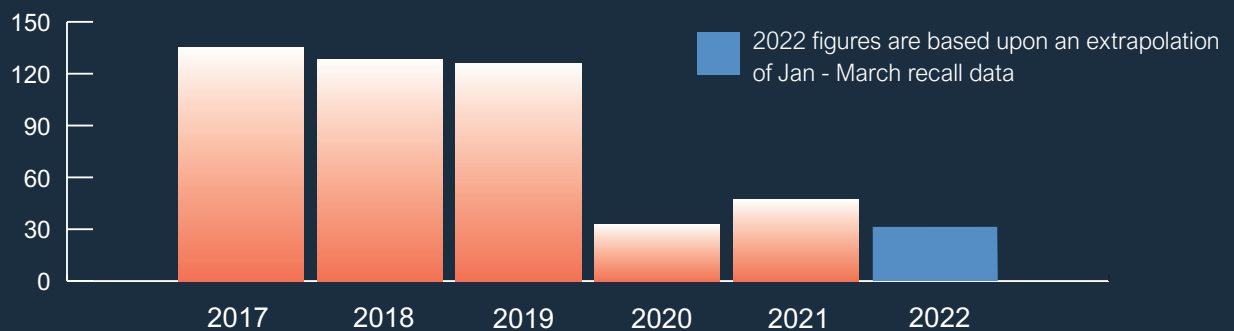
Contaminant	2021 position	2020 position	Change from 2020
Microbiology	1	1	no change ↔
Allergen	2	2	no change ↔
Foreign body	3	3	no change ↔
Processing errors	4	6	up ↑
Unapproved product	5	4	down ↓

USDA FSIS Recalls

USDA FSIS recalls (Class I, II or III) were higher in 2021 than in 2020 but still much less than half the number recorded pre-pandemic. Data from the first three months of 2022 suggest the year could

end with very low recall numbers again. There is currently no sign that the number of recalls reported by FSIS will be back at 2019 levels any time soon.

Number of USDA FSIS Food Recalls (Class, I, II or III)



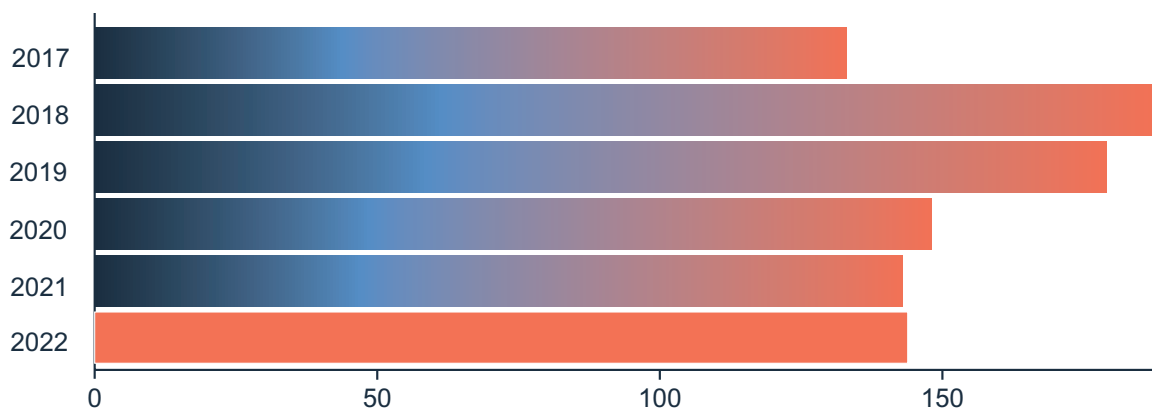
UK Food Standards Agency

UK Food Standards Agency recall alerts were marginally lower in 2021 than in 2020, suggesting a “baseline” level may have been reached. Recall alerts in 2022 may be on a similar scale.

A large proportion of UK food recall alerts relate to avoidable labelling or wrong package issues.

Read our article on this topic [here](#)

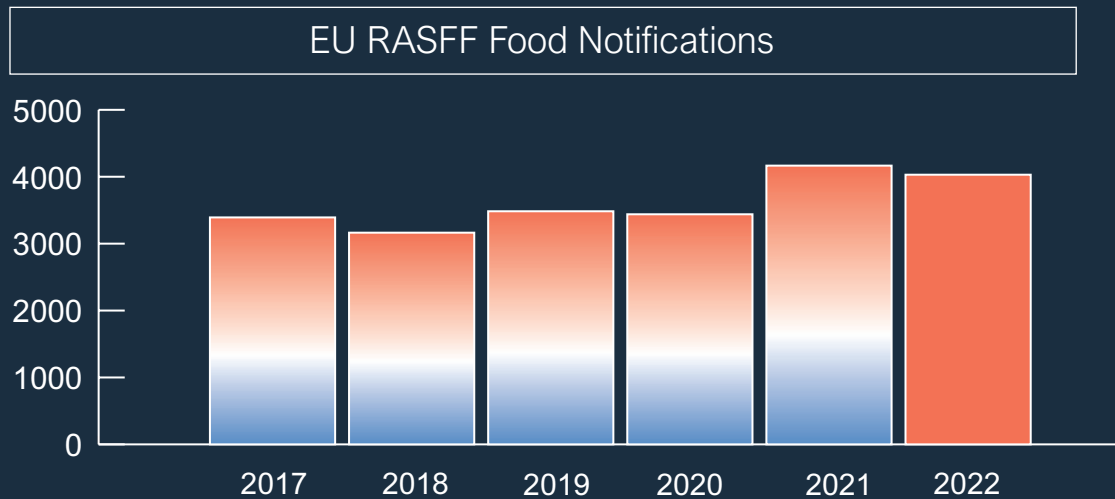
UK FSA Alerts



2022 figures are based upon an extrapolation of Jan - March recall data

European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

European RASFF notifications for food were the highest ever in 2021. Early numbers suggest 2022 may have a similar very high number of notifications.



2022 figures are based upon an extrapolation of Jan - March recall data

Product Safety Australia

Product Safety Australia reported fewer food and grocery recalls in 2021 than in 2020, and very similar to 2019. Recall numbers in Australia appeared largely unaffected by the pandemic in

2020 and were in fact higher than usual. Based on early data, the downward trend of the past couple of years may continue in 2022.



2022 figures are based upon an extrapolation of Jan - March recall data



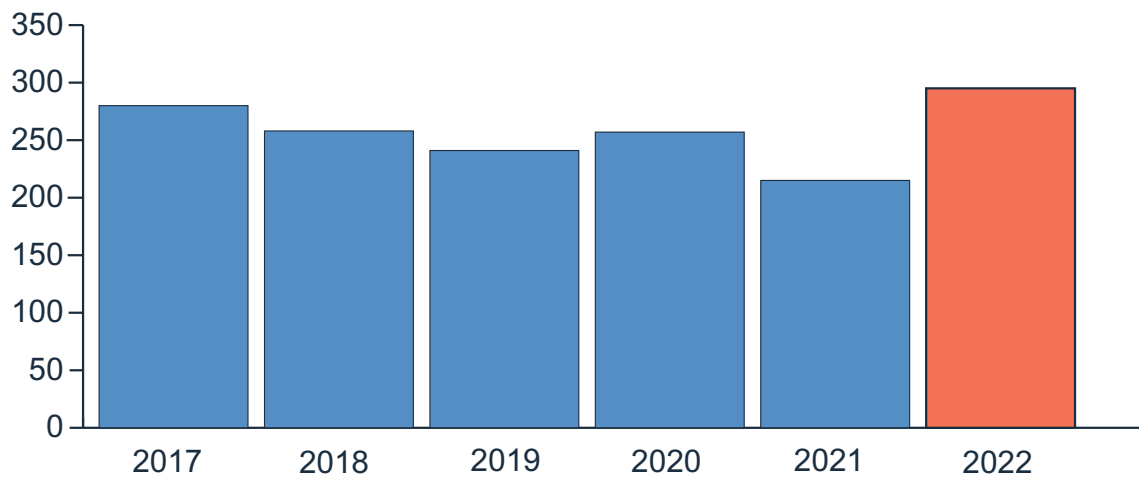
Consumer Product Recalls

US Consumer Product Safety Commission

The consumer product recalls, reported via the CPSC, had a dip in numbers in 2021 compared with 2020. It looks from recall numbers from

January to March, there may be more consumer product recalls in 2022 than any other recent year.

US CPSC Product Recalls



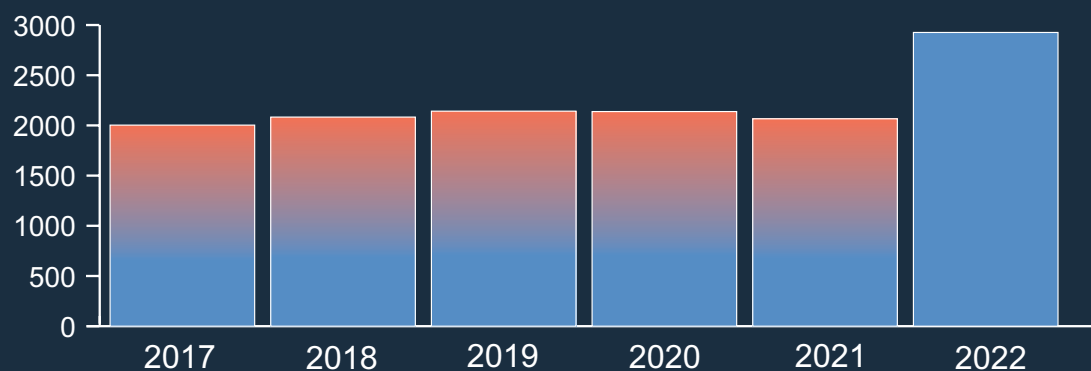
2022 figures are based upon an extrapolation of Jan - March recall data

EU Safety Gate

The EU system, formerly known as RAPEX, is now “Safety Gate: the EU rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products”. The number of consumer product recalls has been reasonably

consistent from 2017 – 2021, without any noticeable pandemic effect. However, early recall numbers from 2022 suggest this year could show a significant increase.

EU Non Food Alerts



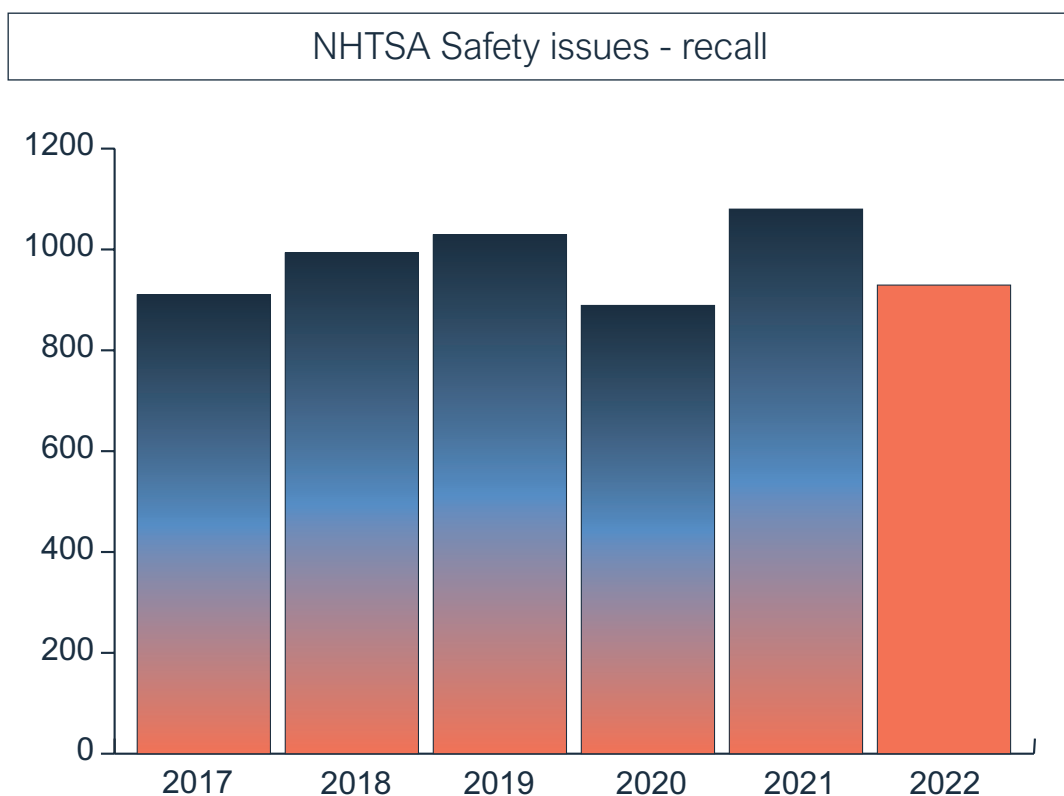
2022 figures are based upon an extrapolation of Jan - March recall data



Automotive Recalls

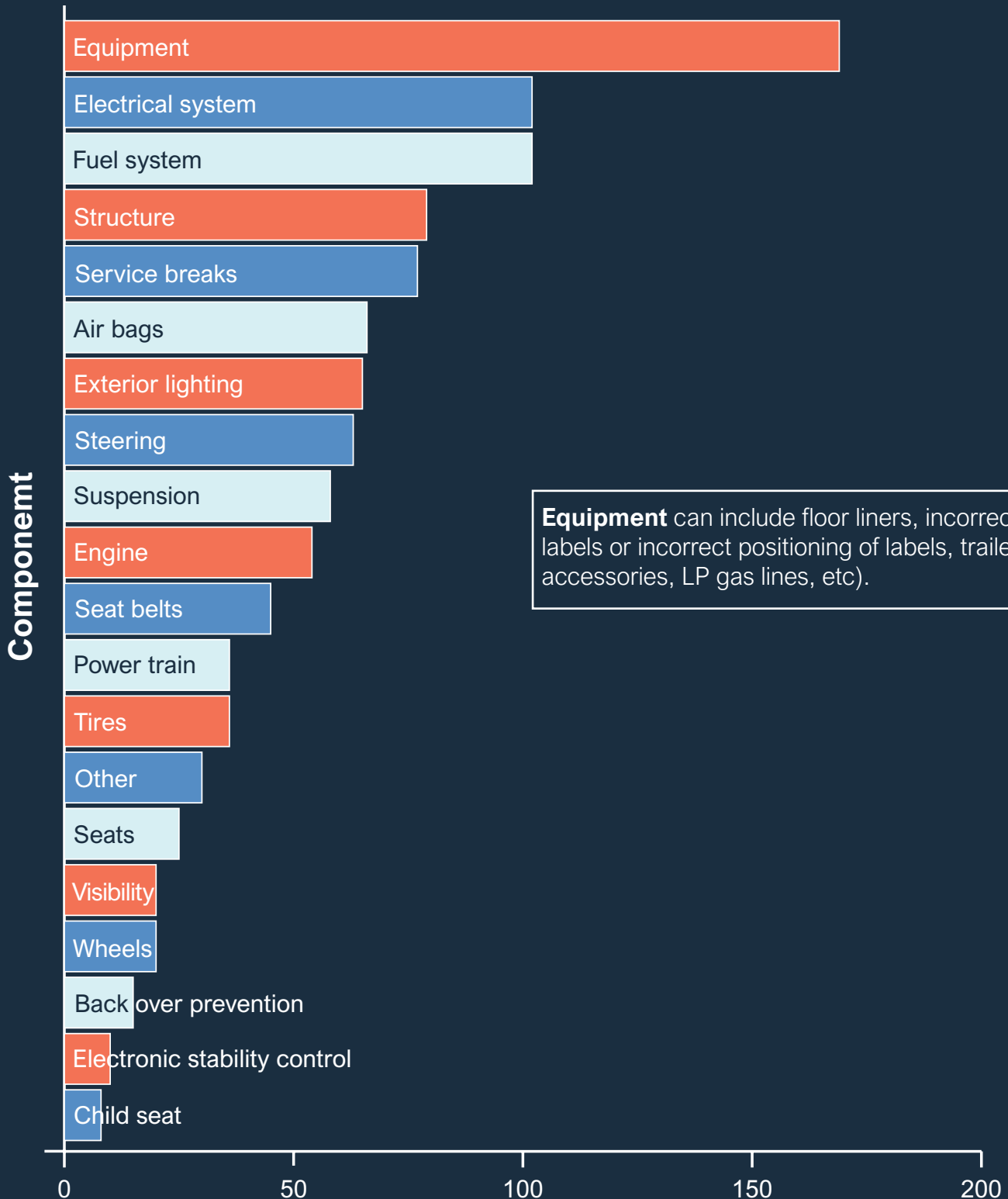
Recalls reported via the US NHTSA showed a high in 2021. This includes safety issue recalls of all product types reported on the NHTSA site. The number of recalls in 2021 looks like it

is a continuation of the rising trend in number of recalls seen from 2017 – 2019. In contrast, early recall numbers from 2022 suggest this year may have fewer recalls.



2022 figures are based upon an extrapolation of Jan - March recall data

Components involved in NHTSA reported 2021 recalls



If we look at the primary components involved in causing recalls, it can be seen that recalls may be the result of failures in many areas of the vehicle or accessories.

2022 figures are based upon an extrapolation of Jan - March recall data



We hope you have found this bulletin useful and interesting, please let us know if there is any data that you would like to see in the next bulletin and we will do our best to incorporate this.

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