



Product Recall Bulletin

July 2022

RQA Group
Your product risk experts.

Product Recall

Welcome to the latest RQA Group Product Recall Bulletin, focusing on January to June 2022. This includes the latest recall data and trends in product recall in food, consumer products and automotive covering US, Europe and Australia as well as Canada that has been added to this edition.

In a period where over 400 million units of recalled food products were reported by the US FDA, there is lots to cover.

Contents



Food Recalls



Consumer Product Recalls



Automotive Recalls



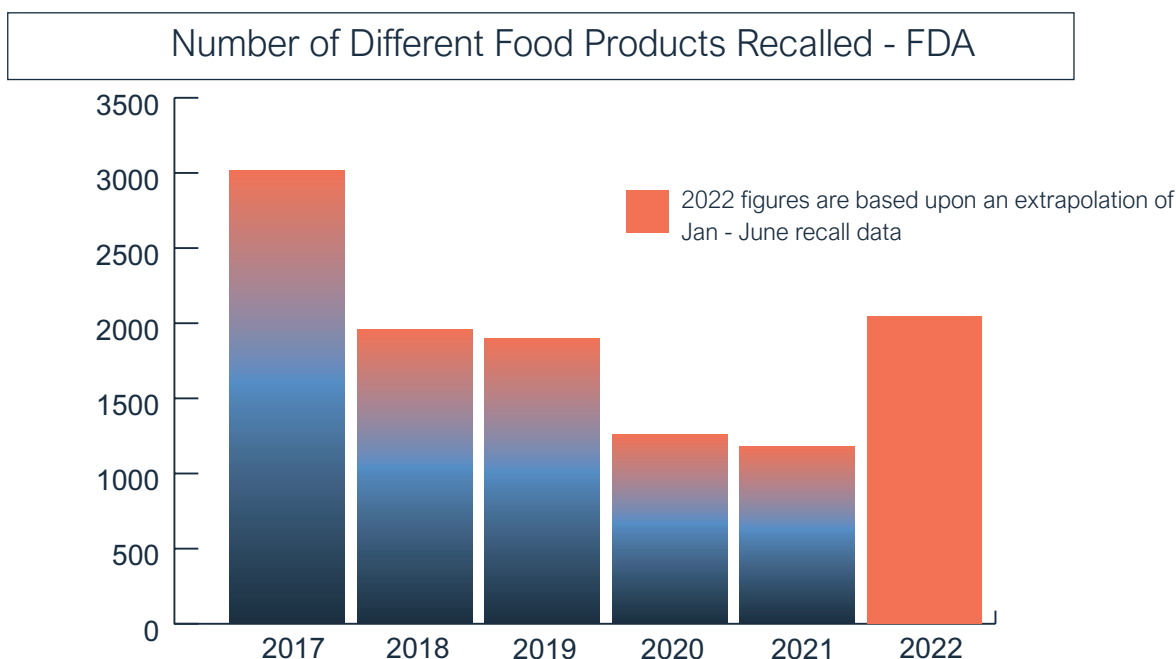
Food Recalls

Food Recalls as Reported by the US FDA

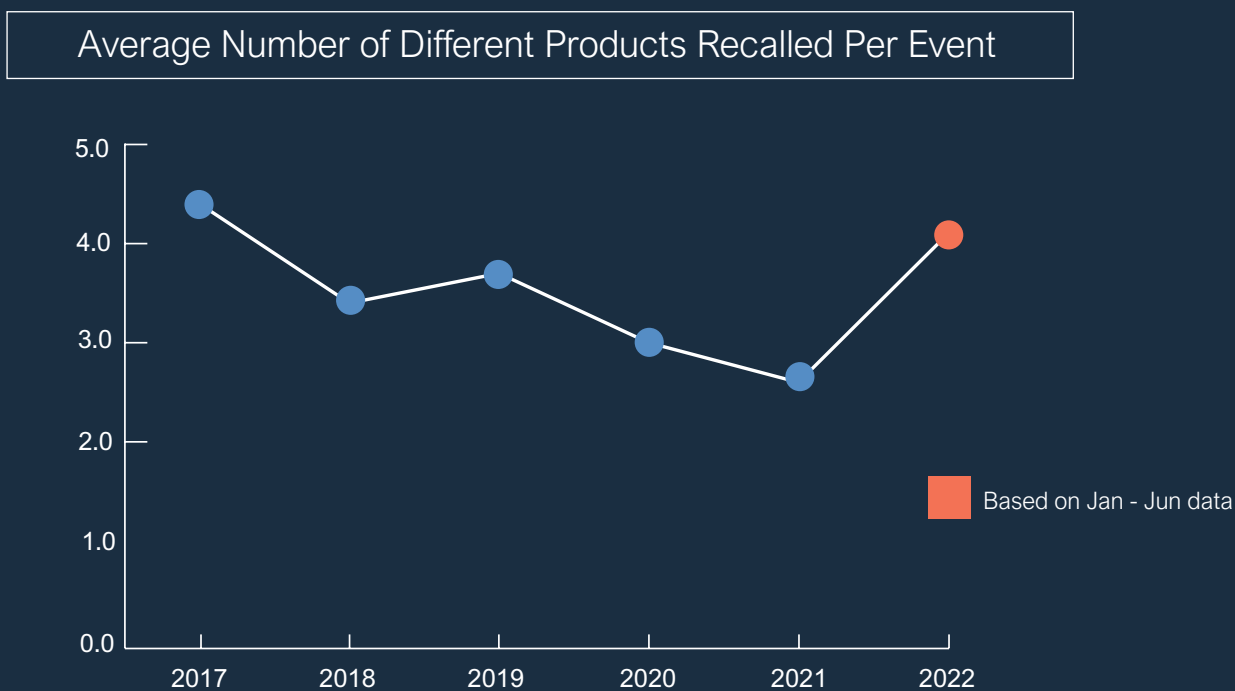
Key points:

- Number of different products recalled in 2022 is expected to be up 70% on 2021
- Number of different products recalled per event is highest since 2017
- Total food recall events back to pre-pandemic levels of 2019
- Over 400 million units of recalled products were reported by the US FDA, Jan - Jun 2022

The graph shows that the expected number of different food products recalled in the full year 2022, is likely to be 70% higher than in 2021.

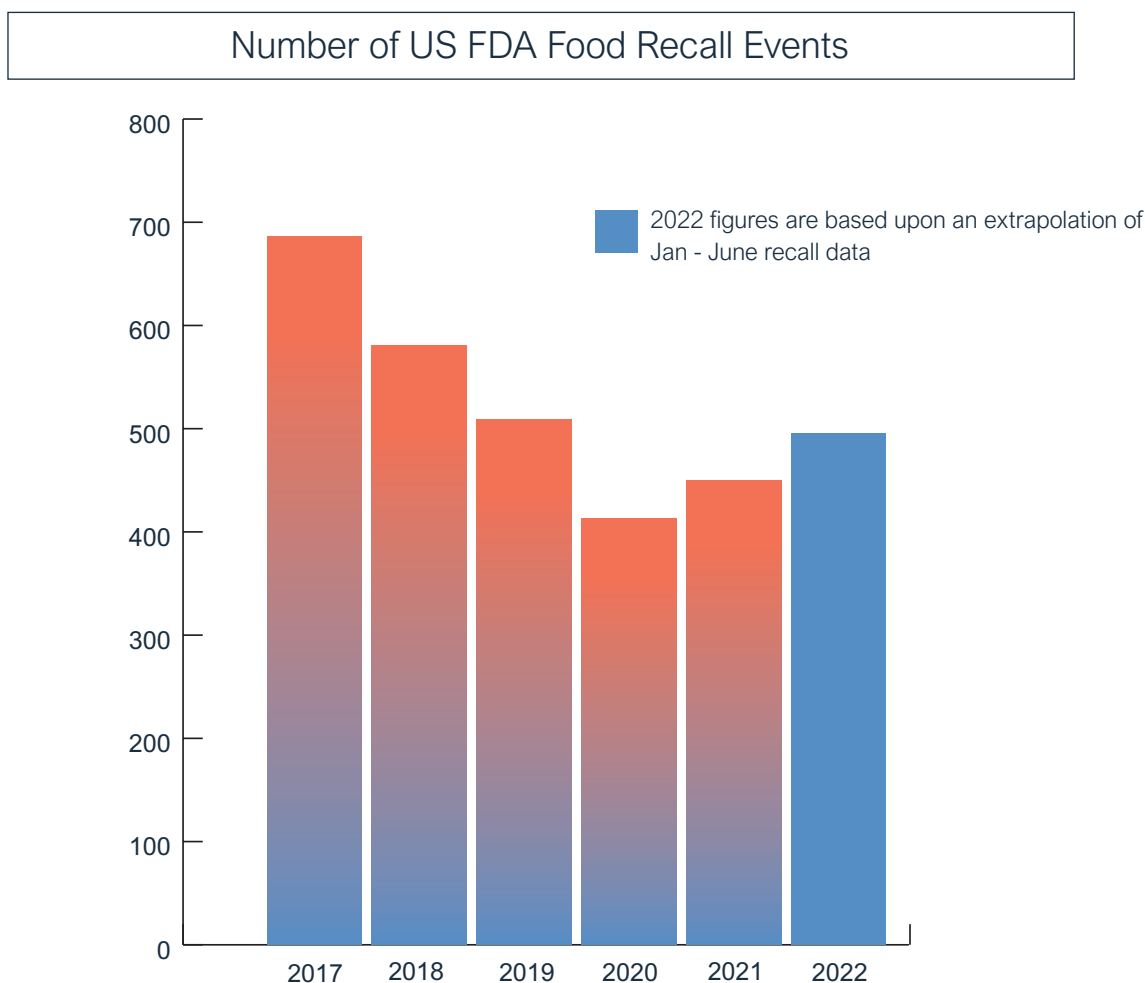


If we look at the number of different products recalled per event, it is clear that the recalls in 2022 will, on average involve more different products than they have since 2017.



- The number of different products recalled per event can be distorted by a small number of recall events that involve a large number of different products. For example one recall event in 2022 for leafy greens, potentially contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, involved over 70 different products.

Recall event numbers in the first half of 2022 suggest that the total number of recall events for 2022 will be comparable to pre-pandemic numbers from 2019.



FDA - Number of Units Recalled

- The FDA provide “product quantity” for each recall. Our estimate for the number of food units recalled from Jan to Jun 2022 is very high at over 400 million. It is not possible to get a 100% exact number of units because sometimes the FDA records number of units, sometimes they record number of cases (without always specifying units per case), sometimes they refer to packages and sometimes it is unknown. However, there is clearly a vast number of units of products being recalled in 2022.

US FDA Recall Standings by Food Type

In the standings for Jan - Jun 2022, Fruit and Vegetables are now the most recalled products as reported by FDA.

Product Type	2022 position	2021 position	Change from 2021
Fruit & Veg	1	2	up ↑
Confectionery	2	1	down ↓
Nutritional Products	3	7	up ↑
Nuts, Seeds & Snacks	4	9	up ↑
Cereals & Bakery	5	6	up ↑
Prepared Dishes, Pasta, Noodles	6	3	down ↓
Infant Products	7	14	up ↑
Soups, Broths, Sauces & Condiments	8	4	down ↓
Non-Alcoholic Beverages	9	10	up ↑
Dairy	10	8	down ↓

Note: A company may recall multiple products in relation to a single recall event as defined by FDA. This table uses the number of all different products recalled for each product category.



US FDA Recall Standings by Contaminant Type

We have also listed the standings of the most common contaminants or causes of recalls reported by the FDA. The three contaminants affecting the most recalled products are the same in 2022, 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 where the product has been put in the wrong pack and there is resulting allergen mislabelling. We call the latter, a [“Never Event”](#) product recall. 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	2022 position	Change from 2021
Microbiology	1	no change ↔
Allergen	2	no change ↔
Foreign body	3	no change ↔
Processing errors	4	no change ↔
Unapproved product	5	no change ↔

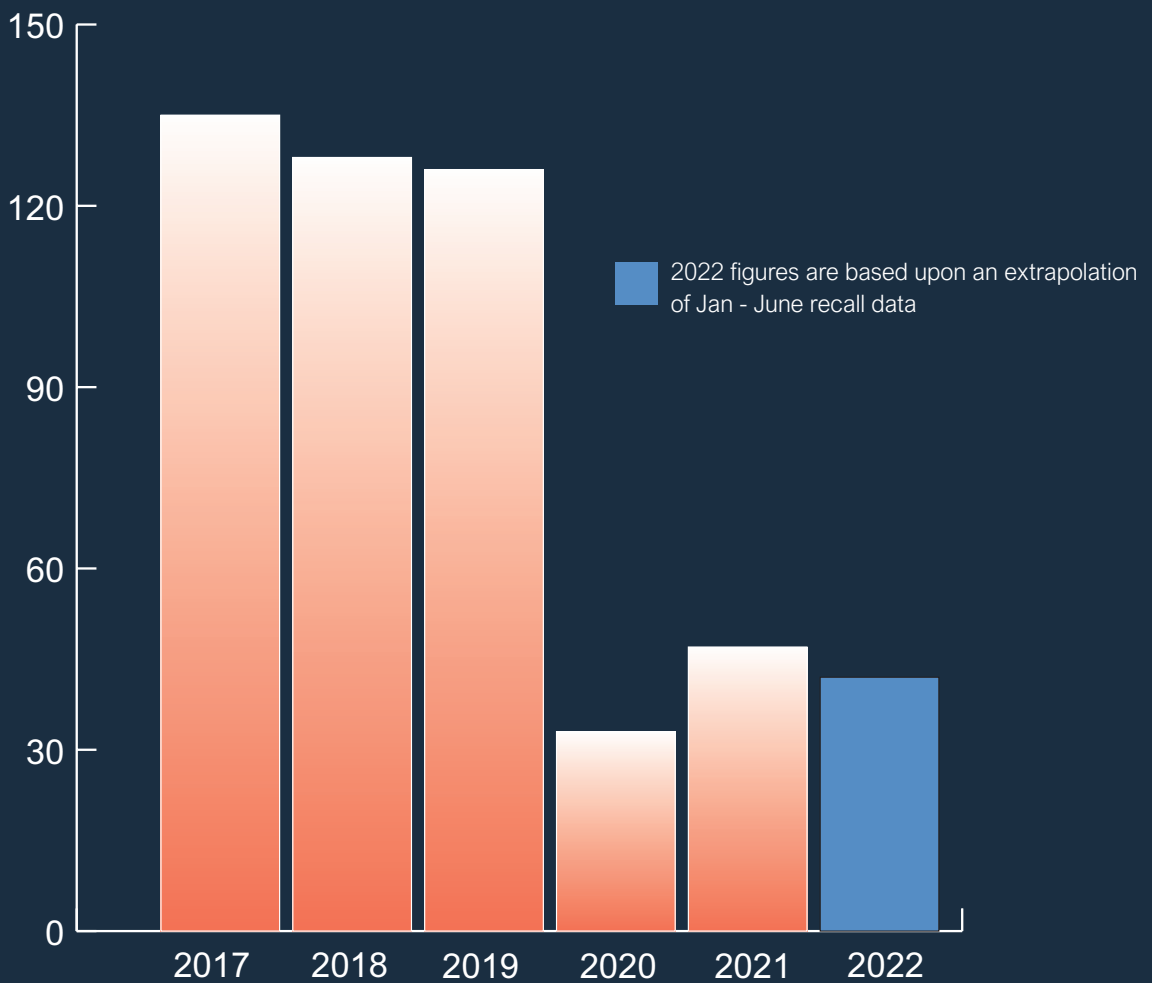
USDA FSIS Recalls

Key points:

- **USDA recalls still very low**
- **One possible theory: Could this be because FSIS inspectors are not rotating to different sites as frequently as pre-pandemic?**

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. January to June 2022 data suggests that this year could end with similar number of recalls to 2021. There is currently no sign that the recall numbers reported by USDA FSIS will be returning to 2019 levels.

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

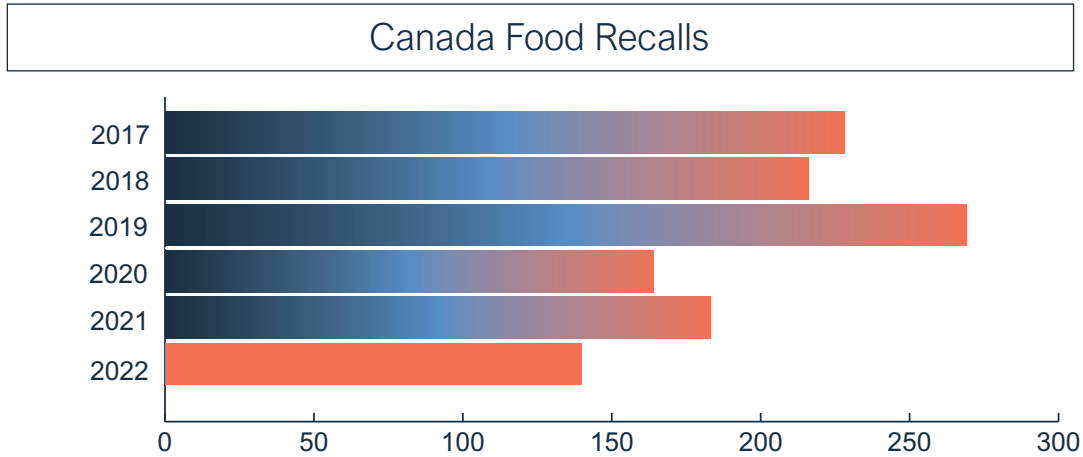


Canada

Key points:

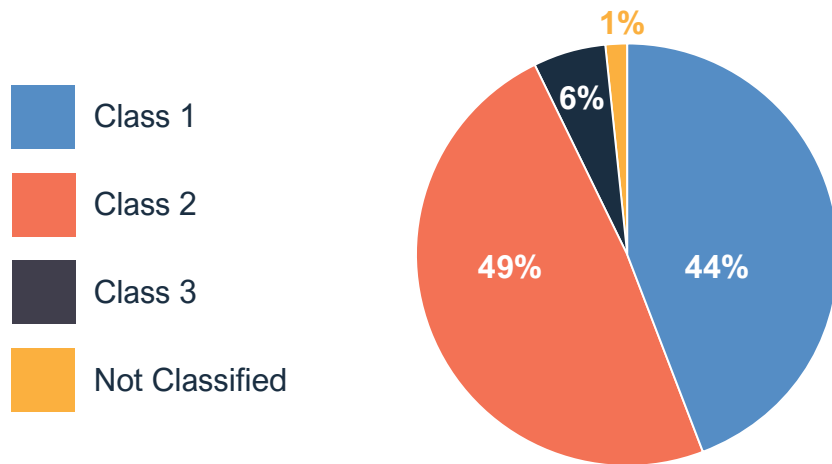
- 44% of food recall warnings issued in 2022 are Class 1 (high risk)

- Food recall numbers at lowest level in over 10 years



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

Canada Food Recall Warnings (Class, I, II or III) Jan - June 2022



Definitions of Canada Food Recall Warnings:

Class I: There is a high risk that consuming the food may lead to serious health problems or death

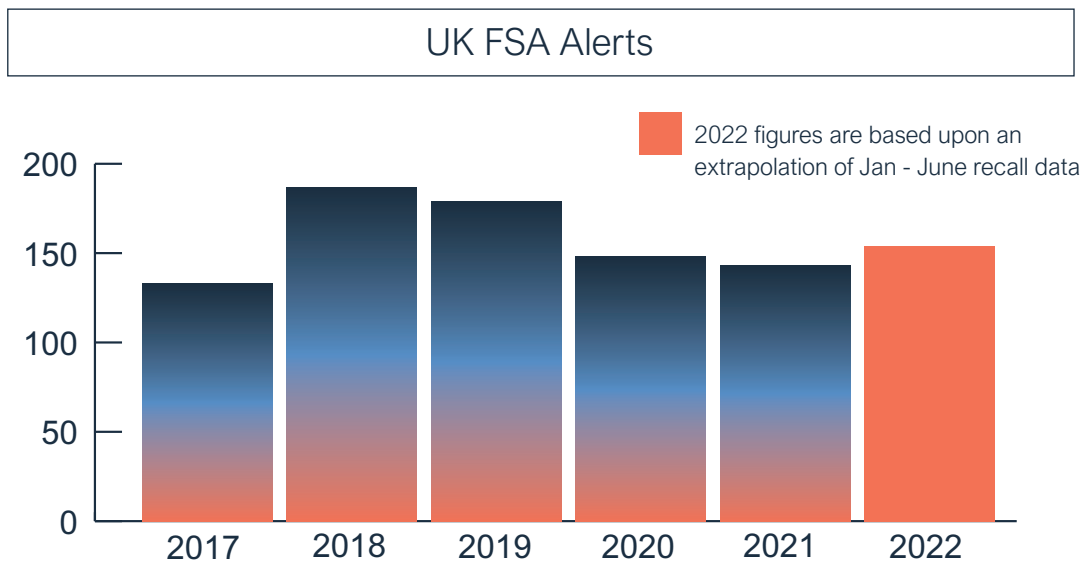
Class II: There is a moderate risk that consuming the food may lead to short-term or non-life threatening health problems

Class III: There is a low risk that consuming the food may result in any undesirable health problems. This class also includes food that do not pose a health risk, but that do not comply with legislation

UK Food Standards Agency

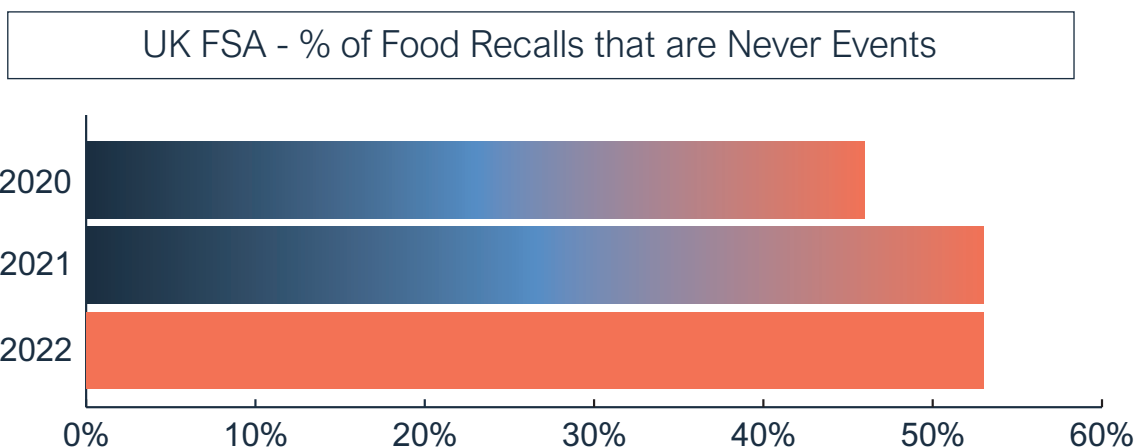
Key points:

- **Recall numbers seem to be increasing in 2022 compared with 2021 but expected to still be lower than the two years prior to the pandemic** UK Food Standards Agency recall alerts in 2022 look like they are slowly heading back up towards recall numbers seen before the pandemic.
- **Over 50% of UK food recalls could be classed as “Never Event” recalls.**



In 2022 it looks like over 50% of all recall alerts issued by FSA could be classed as “Never Event” product recalls. These are recalls identified by RQA as those that should never happen. For

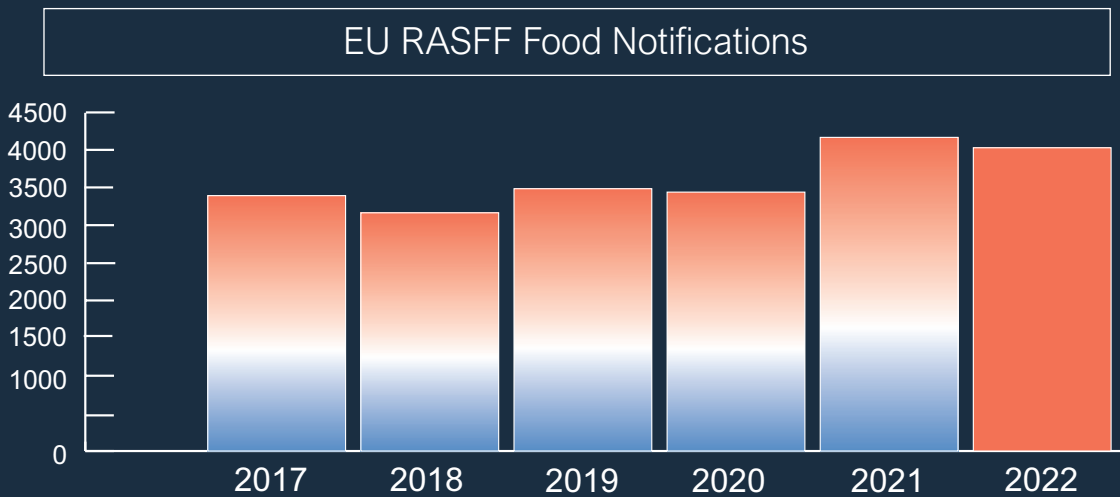
example, where the wrong label has been used or the item has been put in the wrong packaging resulting in potential serious health risks due to allergens. [Find out more.](#)



European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Key point:

- European RASFF notifications for food were the highest ever in 2021. It looks like 2022 will also be high and have similar or slightly lower notifications than 2021.



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

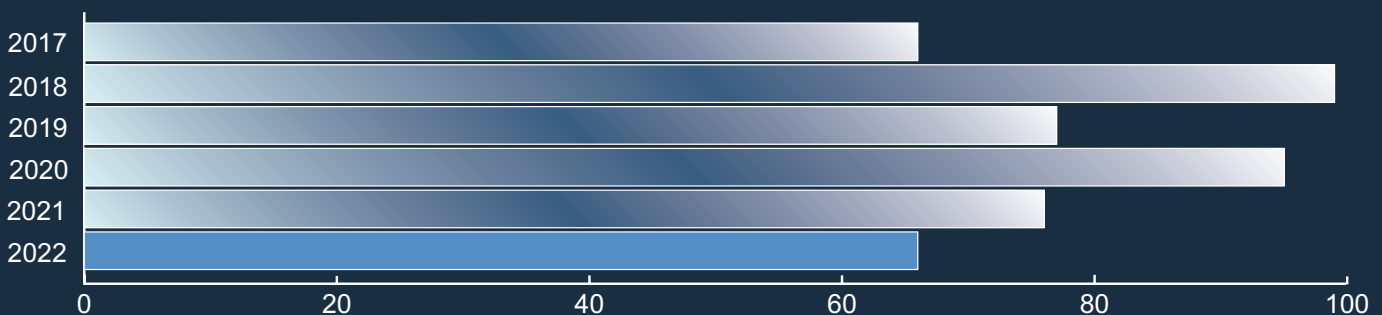
Product Safety Australia

Key point:

- Food recall numbers in 2022 could be the lowest since 2017

Food recall numbers in Australia appeared largely unaffected by the pandemic in 2020 but numbers have been decreasing since then.

Food & Grocery Recalls - Product Safety Australia



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

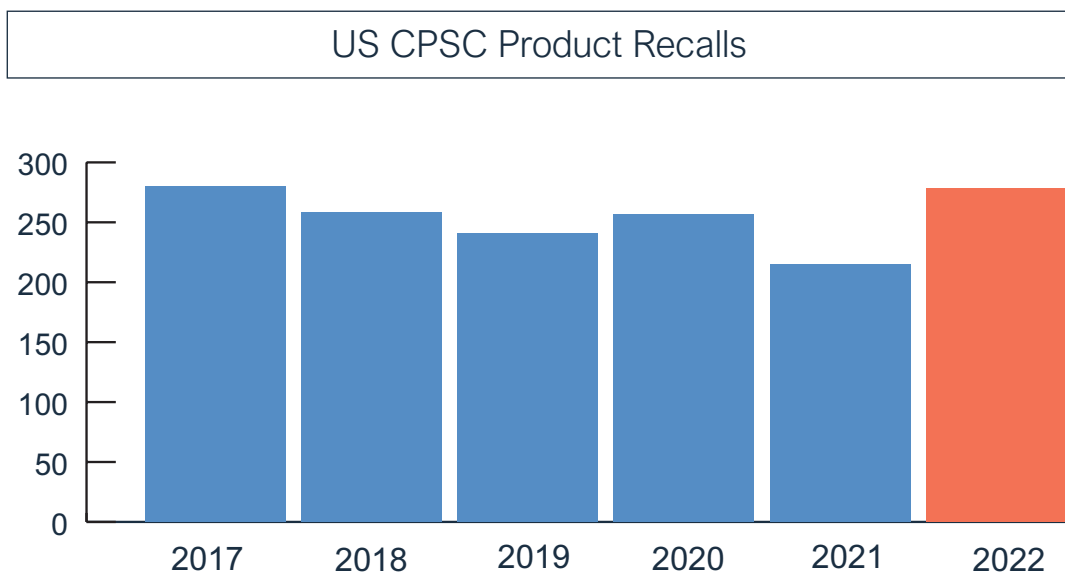


Consumer Product Recalls

US Consumer Product Safety Commission

Key Point:

- The number of CPSC reported recalls in 2022 look like they may be 30% higher than 2021 and the highest since 2017. Look out for RQA's Q3 Recall Bulletin (in early October) where we will dive into the detail on CPSC recalls.



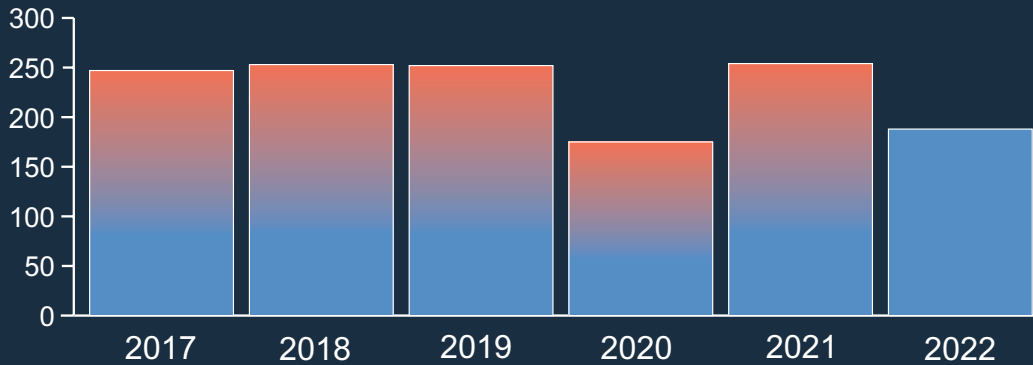
2022 figures are based upon an extrapolation of Jan - June recall data

Canada

Key point:

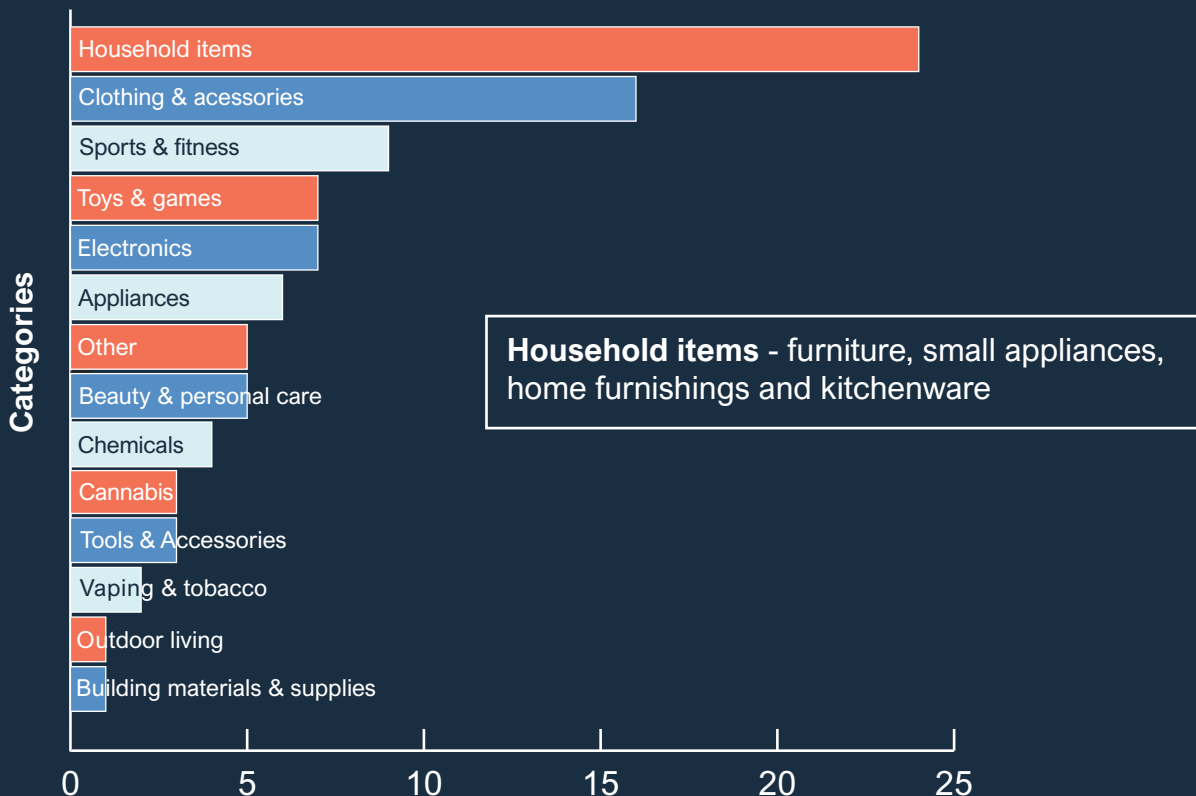
- The number of recalls of consumer products looks like it will be the lowest in recent years (other than the pandemic year of 2020).
- Household items were the category most recalled in both 2021 and 2022

Number of Consumer Product Recalls (Canada)



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

Number of Consumer Product Recalls by Category (Canada) Jan - Jun 2022



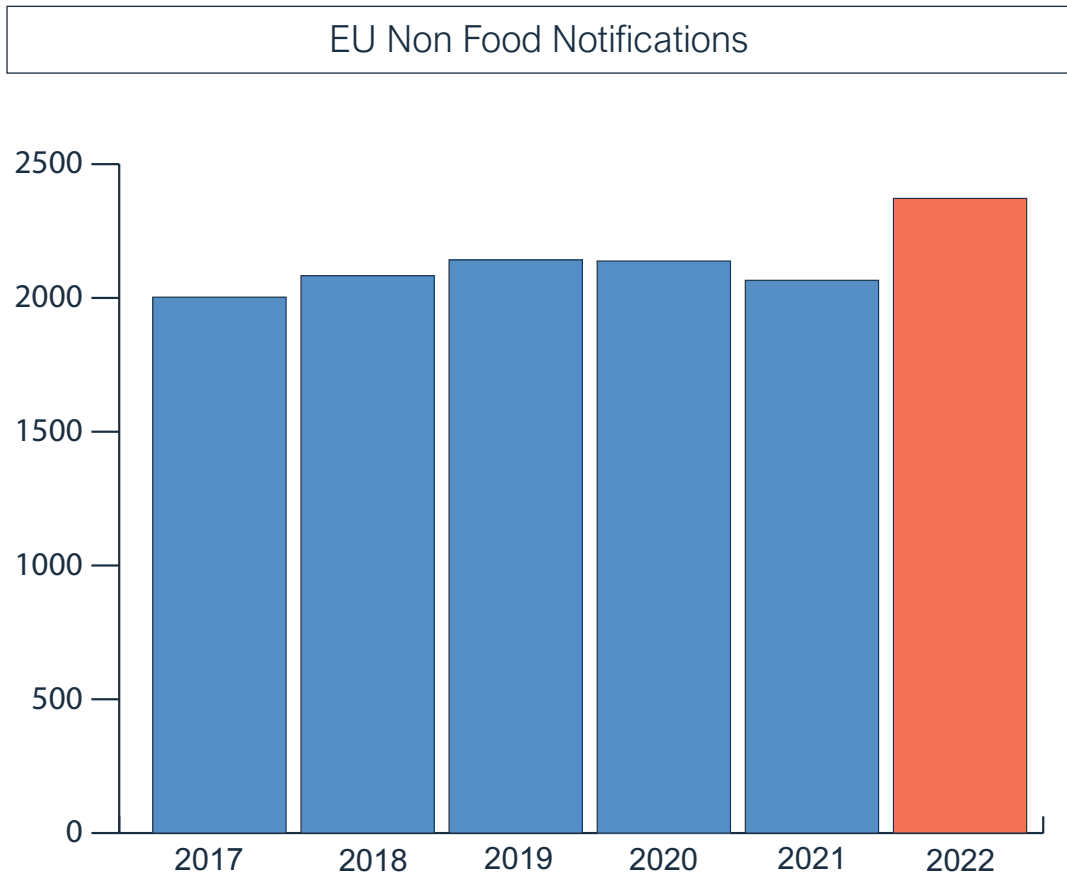
EU Safety Gate

Key point:

- **Total notifications are expected to be the highest ever in 2022**

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, 2022 looks like there could be 15% more notifications than in 2021.



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



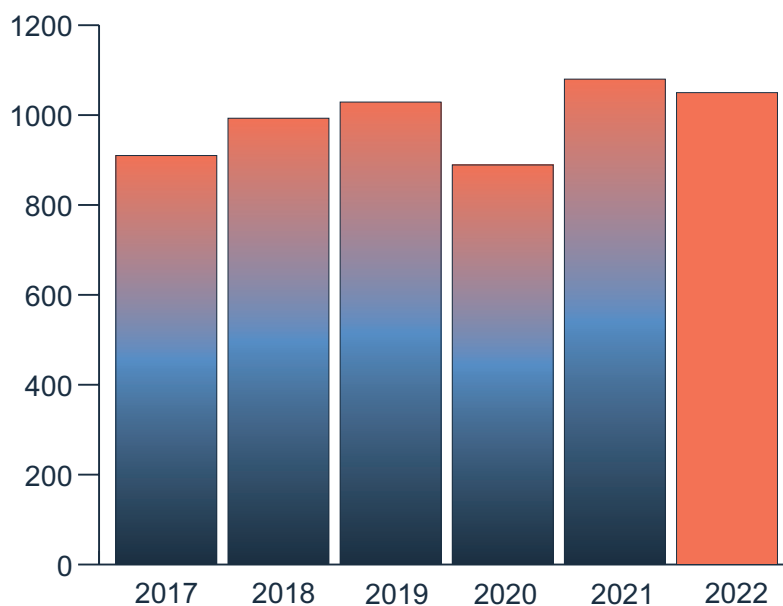
Automotive Recalls

Key point:

- **2022 likely to have one of the highest numbers of NHTSA safety issue recalls in recent years.**

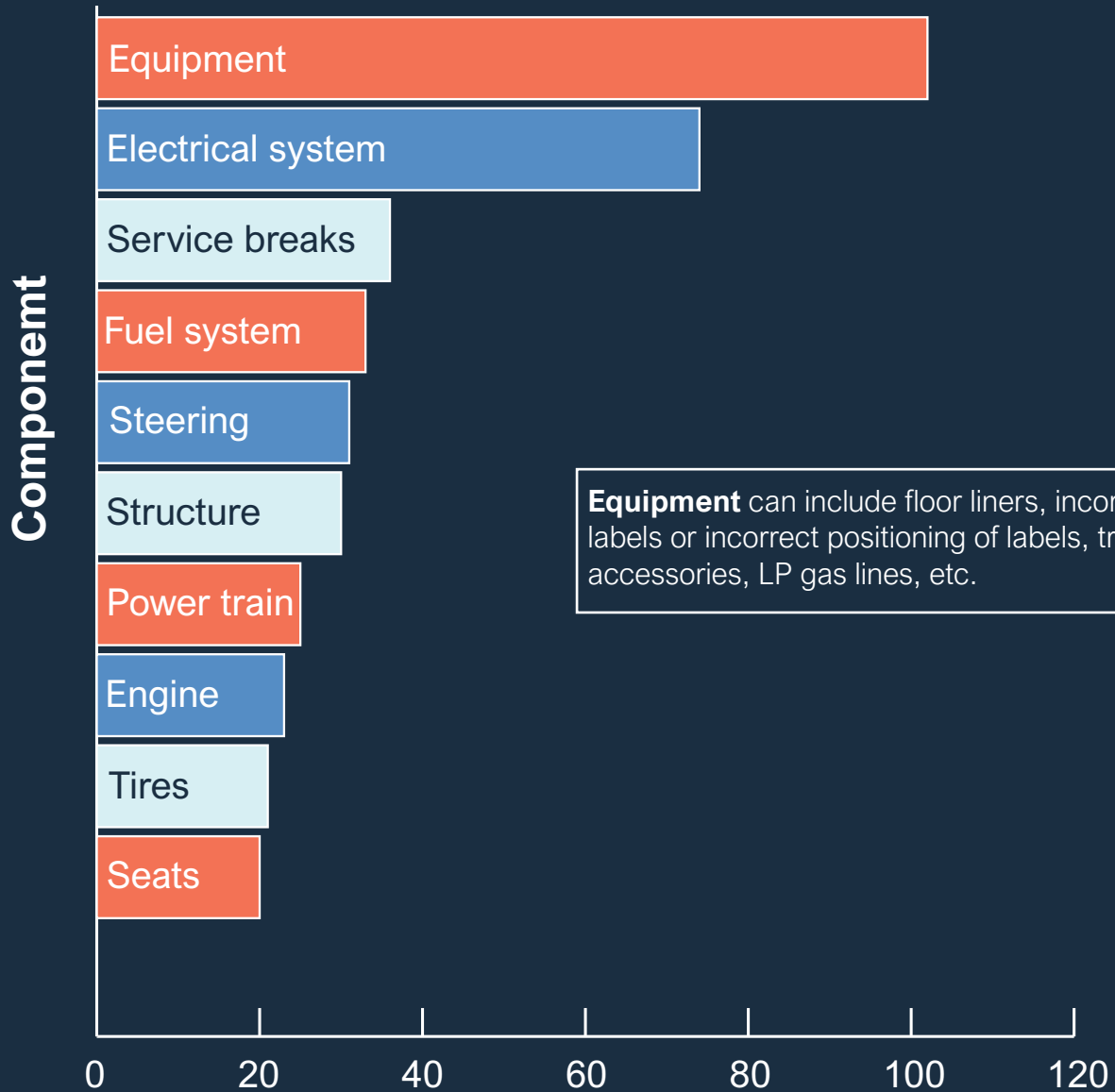
Recalls reported via the US NHTSA showed a high in 2021. 2022 may be slightly lower, but still one of the highest in recent years. This includes safety issue recalls of all product types reported on the NHTSA site.

NHTSA Safety issues - recall



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

Top 10 Components involved in NHTSA reported recalls Jan - Jun 2022



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.



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.

RQA Group
Your product risk experts.

contact@rqa-group.com
+44(0)118 405 0192

Wyvols Court, Basingstoke Rd,
Swallowfield, Reading RG7 1WY, UK

www.rqa-group.com