



PROSAFE Joint Action  
Seamless surveillance by  
close cooperation



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Joint Action on Cooperation between PROSAFE and the AQSIQ in the Field of  
Consumer Product Safety  
(Grant Agreement no. 17.020200 / 12 / 643441)

Meeting between AQSIQ, CIQ Shenzhen, NVWA and PROSAFE  
19 - 21 January 2016 in Shenzhen  
Update.

*This memo has the aim to inform market surveillance Authorities in the field of product safety about the progress of Joint Action China II.  
It can be used together with the information video which can be downloaded from the website of Prosafe.*

**'Seamless surveillance by close cooperation'.**

European market surveillance Authorities and the Chinese Authority AQSIQ work together to better protect consumers and enhance trade flows.

A European delegation, led by project leader NVWA, has visited Shenzhen Control Authority CIQ in January 2016. The aim of the visit was to set joint inspection criteria for toy manufacturers. Those criteria will be used by Chinese Authorities to authorize toy manufacturers as triple-A companies (ATM).

Once authorized, the names of those factories will be transferred to the Dutch Authorities in a government-to-government ("G2G") information exchange procedure. Based on this information, toys from those companies, imported to Europe via Rotterdam, will fall in a reduced import control scheme. In this way unnecessary double controls of those goods will be avoided.

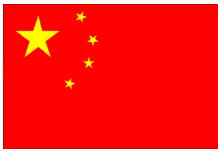
At the first day of the visit, both delegations met and discussed thoroughly some basic principles of 'seamless surveillance'. Making use of each other's control information requires mutual trust, clear and joint inspection criteria, G2G information exchange and several checks and balances.

Next to the basic principles, practical procedures and clear agreements were discussed to make sure that the parties knew exactly what to do.

In the afternoon, a toy manufacturer was visited. The management of the factory showed how plastic toys were produced from injection moulding to painting, assembly and packaging. The EU delegation checked several control points in the manufacturing process and had in-depth conversations with the managers of the factory on how they guarantee the safety of the toys they produce.

The visit to the company ended with a plenary meeting. The EU delegation presented the inspection criteria, and the management of the company commented. The management as well as the CIQ inspectors estimated the extra burden for A-graded companies would be very low and it seemed rather easy for such companies to qualify for the ATM status.

The second day, European inspectors trained CIQ inspectors in auditing companies according to the ATM criteria. In the morning session, a presentation was given on the contents of the criteria and the practical interpretation. In the afternoon, practical discussions took place and some additional explanations were given. Although it was concluded that some details still have to be solved, the European and Chinese inspectors agreed that the criteria are relevant and ready to be implemented in the current Chinese inspection procedures.



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At the third day, the two delegations evaluated the visit and summarised the decisions:

- It was agreed to analyse the similarities between the CIQ A-grade scheme and the ATM scheme. If the two schemes were compatible, it would increase the incentive for manufacturers to obtain ATM status. A-grade companies might even qualify automatically for ATM status.
- The setup of a practical pilot will continue: AQSIQ/CIQ will work to authorise a number of companies. The Chinese authorities will inform the Dutch partners about these ATM companies and individual consignments from the companies so the European parties together with customs in Rotterdam can identify the consignments and exclude them from the import control. The parties will establish a small working group that will analyse what information is needed to identify ATM companies and consignments from these companies.
- The European side will consider how to promote the ATM scheme to the European importers and will liaise with TIE (Toys Industry of Europe) to discuss this. It is also being considered to develop a website describing the ATM scheme.

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#### **Disclaimer**

This PROSAFE newsletter arises from the Joint Market Surveillance Action on China - JA China, which receives funding from the European Union in the framework of the 'Programme of Community Action in the field of Consumer Policy (2007-2013)'.

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