

Press Release

Workshop Recognises Progress on Testing in Joint Market Surveillance Action

Bonn recently played host to a Workshop held within the framework of PROSAFE's Joint Market Surveillance Action JA2010.

JA2010 brings together 21 European countries to sample and test five different consumer products. These are children's fancy dress; food imitation products; ladders; laser pointers and visibility clothing and accessories. The European Commission funds the project.

The workshop participants heard that the progress to date with the project is very encouraging. Testing has already been completed for laser pointers. 73% of the samples contained lasers from Classes 3R and 3B. 94% of these were incorrectly classified and labeled or bore no markings whatsoever. In respect of the wavelength 15% of the lasers were violet or green and the remainder the more common red. 70% of the red lasers should not have been on the market of consumers as they were class 3R or 3B and none of the violet or green lasers should have been on the market for consumers. Testing is now underway on food imitation products and ladders and will start shortly on children's fancy dress and visibility clothing. The coming months will see the commencement of market surveillance activities following up the test results.

An important feature of the Joint Action has been the enthusiastic participation of many stakeholders. They have been directly involved in some of the product activities and were invited to participate in the workshop in Bonn.

PROSAFE coordinates JA2010 with its other activities and pro-actively works to ensure that best practice is developed and implemented throughout its activities. The workshop provided an opportunity to share experience and best practice gained through the different product activities and the Joint Action as a whole.

Two events that are to be held in the autumn will permit further review of the progress of JA2010 and PROSAFE's other activities. The first event is a Risk Assessment Seminar organised by PROSAFE and will be held during International Product Safety Week (IPSW). This week of activities will be held in Brussels in the week beginning the 15th of October. More information on IPSW can be found on the European Commission's web site at http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/safety/int_coop/international_product_safety_week_2012_en.htm PROSAFE will then hold its first annual European Market Surveillance Workshop in November. More information on this event will be available in due course from <http://www.prosafe.org>.

Contact Person:

Michael Cassar, JA2010 Project Leader

Tel: +356 23952000

e-mail: michael.cassar@prosafe.org

Disclaimer

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The publication reflects only the views of the author, and the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Additional information on JA2010

In addition to the product specific activities the project will also focus on a number of horizontal issues. These include co-operation with Customs; outreach to China; International co-operation; coordination of dissemination and use of results by all Member States; stakeholder outreach and other communications activities; follow-up with standards organizations; and co-ordination with EMARS II and other on-going and future Joint Actions.

By combining the activities into one single Joint Action PROSAFE hopes to be able to deliver more consistent and effective market surveillance across Europe. PROSAFE also believes that the future of market surveillance in Europe lies in the establishment of a multi-annual European level market surveillance programme. This vision is shared by the European Commission and the European Parliament. The 2010 Joint Action represents an important first step in this direction.

This latest Joint Action follows on from a number of Actions undertaken by PROSAFE in recent years. Within each Joint Action a number of European countries work together to investigate the safety of a specific product. This usually involves developing a sampling plan, drawing up a test protocol, often based on the applicable voluntary standards and having the products tested. The participating countries then implement corrective action as necessary. This approach has proven to be enormously successful in promoting the establishment and widespread use of best practice in Europe and in targeting a long list of products such as lighters, toys, cords in children's clothing.

About PROSAFE

PROSAFE (*the Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe*) has been established by market surveillance officers from various countries throughout Europe. As from 2006, PROSAFE has taken the initiative to coordinate a number of Joint Actions between various market surveillance organizations within the EEA (*European Economic Area*), which are all financially supported by the EU Commission. In order to effectively handle this additional responsibility and to adequately administer all Joint Actions, PROSAFE utilizes consultancy services. Furthermore, a Secretariat has been established, which, thanks to the generosity of the EFTA Secretariat, is located at the EFTA Building in Brussels. More information can be found on PROSAFE's web-site at <http://www.prosafe.org/>.

About International Product Safety Week Brussels 15th-19th October

More information on the upcoming International product safety Week can be found on the European Commission's web site at http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/safety/int_coop/international_product_safety_week_2012_en.htm