

NEWSLETTER 2

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Joint Market Surveillance Action on Harmonised Products - **JAHARP18 on Recreational Craft (RCD) and Portable Room Heaters (LVD)**, co-funded by the European Commission

JUST BEFORE THE FINISH LINE...

Three months before the end of JAHARP18 and 2 years and a half after the start, we now see the fruits of our labour. The goals set by 11 EU Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) and [PROSAFE](#), were to survey the state of compliance and safety in the Internal Market for recreational craft and household electrical appliances, detect and remove unsafe products, and reduce unfair competition due to free-riders.

And despite all challenges caused by the extraordinary pandemic circumstances, *we have delivered!*

FIELDWORK AND RESULTS

JAHARP18 - RCD Working Group

The sampling of recreational craft was completed in June 2021. The boom in boat sales that followed the end of the COVID-19 restrictive measures entailed zero stocks and delays in delivery of craft from the manufacturers, and consequently caused difficulties in the sampling process.

One sample for each of the **30 selected models of recreational craft** were taken from the Bulgarian, Finnish, French, Latvian, Maltese, Portuguese, and Swedish markets: 14 models of small inflatable craft and 16 models of rigid hull craft having a length of less than 6m. These models were manufactured in 12 different countries. Some of the samples were purchased from local distributors; others were ordered from online sales outlets.

Checks on the mandatory markings (Watercraft Identification Number and Builder's Plate) and accompanying documents (EU Declaration of Conformity (DoC), and Owner's Manual) were carried out using a common checklist developed by the project. The samples were then transported to two test laboratories selected via public Call for Tenders.



Main results of checks and tests - RCD

Testing was completed by mid-September 2021. The main results were as follows:

- 01** Many items were missing from Owner's manuals;
- 02** All of the inflatable craft passed the crucial buoyancy and stability tests;
- 03** Two-thirds of the rigid hull craft failed the stability tests, the buoyancy tests or both.

The lack of stability and/or buoyancy shown by most of the tested rigid hull craft is of great concern. Many of the manufacturers, largest part SMEs, do not know or fully understand their obligations and have not tested their craft according to the harmonised standards before placing them on the market.

The results were discussed with experts at a project group meeting at the premises of the test laboratory in Helsinki on 13-14 October 2021.

These issues detected will be put before the representatives of stakeholders at the closing meeting planned in August 2022.

Caution: The results of JAHARP18 are based on samples of products from the markets in the participating countries. As in most market surveillance activities, the results represent the targeted efforts that authorities undertake to identify unsafe and non-compliant products. They do not present a statistically valid picture of the situation of the whole market. Tests were undertaken at accredited laboratories and focused on those safety and compliance requirements that have the largest impact on public interest.



Main results of checks and tests - LVD

Overall, 95% of the room heaters failed the test programme. 57% of those products failed multiple test clauses in the applied harmonised standards.

Most of the non-conformities concerned the absence of critical safety information and warnings in user manuals. Other non-conformities involved excessive accessible surface temperatures, accessible live parts, several products overturning during tilt tests, and materials having insufficient resistance to heat and fire.

The MSAs also requested copies of the EU DoC from economic operators, with 6% being unable to provide a DoC. Overall, 3% of those provided were non-compliant.

The follow-up of non-compliant products is now completed. The final technical reports for each non-compliant sample were discussed with the respective economic operators. In terms of corrective measures:

The follow-up of non-compliant products with economic operators is ongoing. Corrective measures include:

- 01** Several Owner's Manuals are being completed and the revised version sent to customers;
- 02** Several products are being brought into conformity;
- 03** Several models of recreational craft will be withdrawn or recalled from the market;
- 04** There will be several notifications via the [Safety Gate - the EU Rapid Alert system for dangerous non-food products](#).

01 47% of the products are now withdrawn from the market;

02 Several products have been brought into conformity;

03 8% are subject to sales bans;

04 One product has been recalled following a A12 notification via the EU Safety Gate.

The RCD action has shown several areas where the harmonised standards need to be improved. Suggestions for improvements will be included in the final report of the activity and will be communicated to the relevant standardisation groups this autumn.

JAHARP18 - LVD Working Group

Based on the results of the initial market analysis and hazard identification, the activity sampled a total of **60 portable room heaters for household use** (fans, convectors, oil-filled and radiant).

The product sampling coincided with the seasonal nature of these products ensuring good availability. Products were sampled via physical shops, importers, and web shops.

The test programme focused on safety-critical criteria from the applicable EU Low Voltage Directive (LVD) and harmonised standards EN 60335-1 and EN 60335-2-30. Testing intended to identify potential hazards revealed in the initial market analysis included access to live parts and fire. The six participating MSAs sent two samples of each heater type to a test laboratory, selected through an open Call for Tenders.

COMING UP...

The findings of the conformity checks and testing, coupled with evidence-driven conclusions and recommendations, will be reviewed and discussed with stakeholders and the European Commission at the closing project meetings in August 2022. A Layman's Report with the findings of our work will be published on [PROSAFE's website](#) this autumn.

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