

PROSAFE

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LAYMAN'S REPORT

Joint Market Surveillance Action on Harmonised Products 2020



Co-funded by
the European Union



JAHARP2020



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Watch the JAHARP2020 movie on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaBTt_hn9AE

DISCLAIMER

This report arises from the Joint Market Surveillance Actions on Harmonised Products - JAHARP2020, which receive funding from the European Union in the framework of the Action entitled "EU support to joint market surveillance actions for non-food products".

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADCO	Administrative Cooperation Group
CE [marking]	European Conformity (Conformité Européenne)
DG GROW	Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
DoC	Declaration of Conformity
EEA	European Economic Area
EMC	Electromagnetic compatibility Directive 2014/30/EU
EN	Prefix to the reference of a European Standard
EN ISO	Prefix to the reference of a standard that is both a European and International standard
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
GAR	Gas Appliances Regulation (EU) 2016/426
ICSMS	Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LVD	EU Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU
MSA	Market Surveillance Authority
OJ	Official Journal of the European Union
RAG	European Commission's Risk Assessment Guidelines tool
RAPEX	The Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Products
RED	Radio Equipment Directive
SAR	Specific Absorption Rate
TPED	Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive
WP	Work Package

EXECUTIVE summary

The JAHARP2020-1 is a 24-month pan-European market surveillance project on harmonised products, co-financed (90% funding rate) by the European Union (EU). The project was part of the [Joint Market Surveillance Action on Harmonised Products 2020 Triplet](#) (JAHARP2020-1, JAHARP2020-2, and JAHARP2020-3) that ran between May 2021 and May 2023.

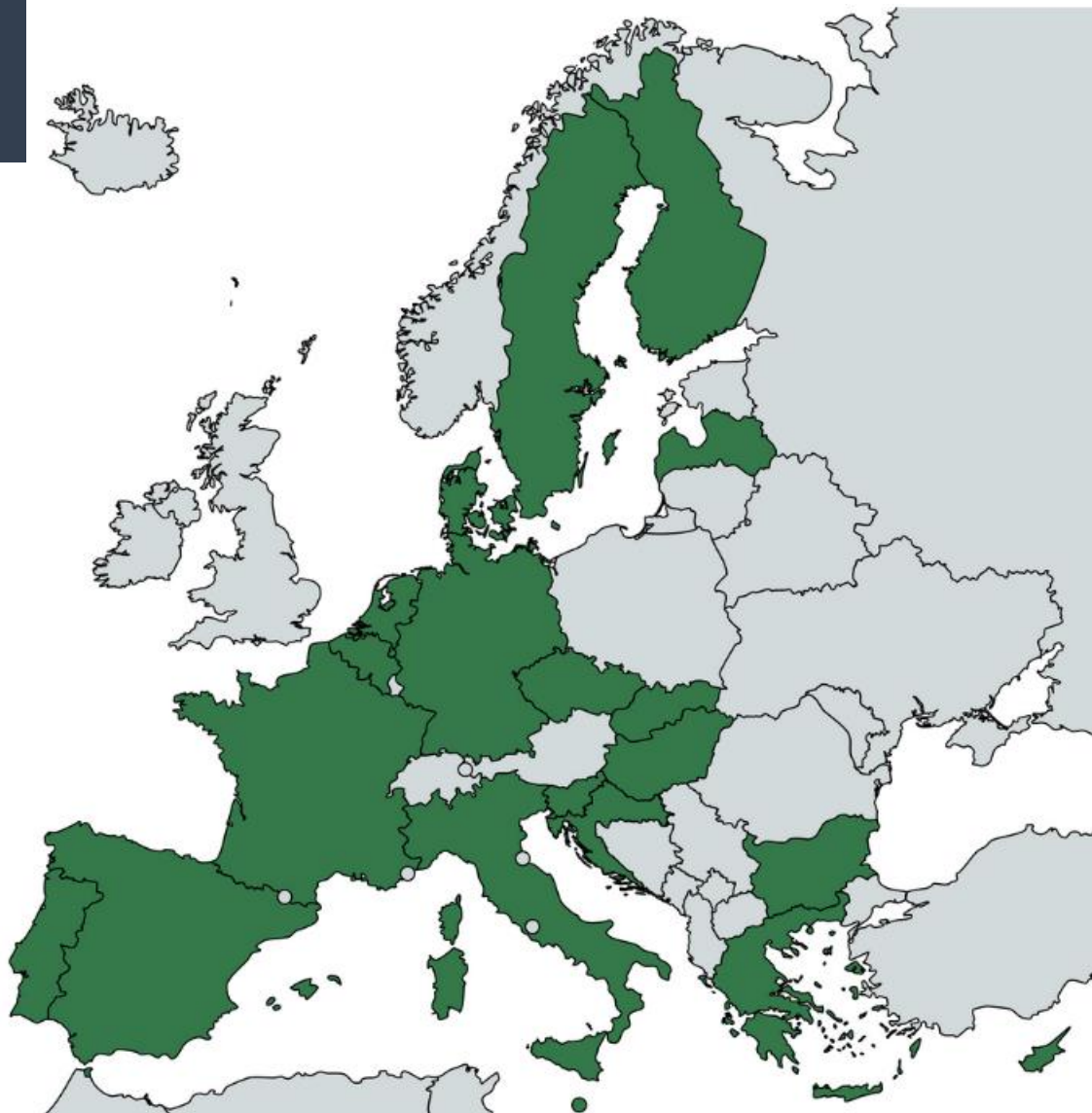
Non-compliant and unsafe products put EU citizens at risk and distort competition with economic operators selling compliant products within the EU. To ensure that all essential health and safety requirements imposed by Union legislation are fulfilled, JAHARP2020-1 carried out three activities:

1. Compliance verification of Gas cooking hobs/hot plates (Work Package 1)
2. The development of a harmonised approach to the evaluation of conformity to administrative requirements across six product sectors (Work Package 2)
3. Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) measurements on different types of connected portable devices (Work Package 3)




COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE JAHARP2020-1

- BELGIUM
- BULGARIA
- CROATIA
- CZECH REPUBLIC
- CYPRUS
- DENMARK
- FINLAND
- FRANCE
- GERMANY
- GREECE
- HUNGARY
- ITALY
- LATVIA
- MALTA
- NETHERLANDS
- PORTUGAL
- SPAIN
- SLOVAKIA
- SLOVENIA
- SWEDEN

plus SWITZERLAND (as an observer)



The primary objectives and achievements of the project were:

OBJECTIVE	ACHIEVEMENT
<p>1. To keep non-compliant and dangerous products from entering the Single Market through coordinated cross-boundary market surveillance campaigns.</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 293 products screened • 74 products checked • 55 products tested • 20 national markets • 24 corrective measures (as of July 2023) • 9 products removed or banned from the market (as of July 2023) • 4 EU Safety Gate risk alert notifications
<p>2. To support the application of the new Market Surveillance Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 through the development of common approaches, good practices for market surveillance, and synergies with relevant stakeholders.</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 10 recommendations to MSAs, EOs, or standardisation bodies • Regular interactions with ADCO groups • All EU-27 MSAs have been reached through communication and dissemination activities
<p>3. To increase the skills and knowledge of the European market surveillance authorities through the development of tools, cross-sectoral capacity-building and knowledge exchange, and the promotion of more harmonised practices and common approaches to market surveillance.</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 60 MSA officials involved in one or more activities • 15 trainings/workshops organised • Over 6 guidelines, Codes of Practice, and other replicable tools developed • One e-Library/Knowledge Base on PROSAFE's website, containing all tools, guidelines, etc., available to all EU/EEA MSAs beyond the duration of the project. More than 50 documents to be uploaded following the approval of the final periodic report by DG GROW.

SNAPSHOT of compliance verification results and of the capacity-building activity

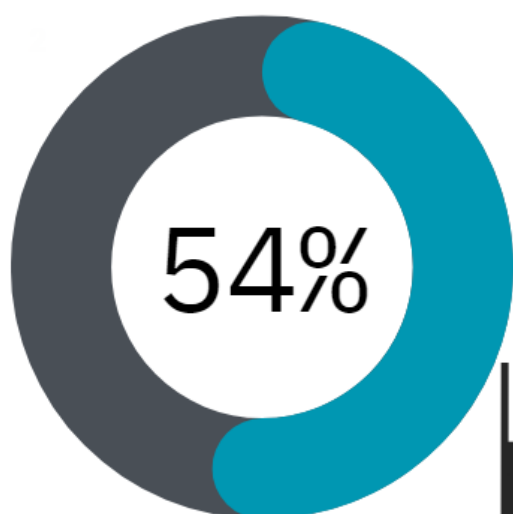
ATTENTION!

The results presented in this report are based on products that were sampled from the markets in the participating countries by experienced market surveillance inspectors that were looking for noncompliant and potentially unsafe products. As in any routine market surveillance activity, the results represent the targeted efforts that authorities undertake to identify unsafe products. They do not give a statistically valid picture of the market situation. The samples were tested at accredited laboratories. Product testing focussed on those safety requirements that have the largest impact on consumer safety.

25 GAS COOKING HOBS AND HOT PLATES WERE TESTED TO VERIFY THEIR SAFETY

JAHARP2020-1 tested three sub-product types of this product group:

- Cooking hobs for domestic use
- Cooking hobs for use in leisure vehicles
- Mobile hotplates



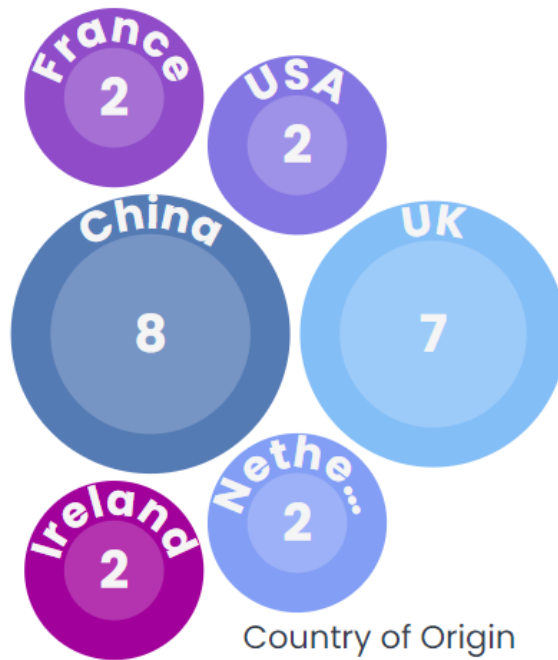
AT LEAST ONE NON-CONFORMITY

was found in 14 of the gas cooking hobs and hot plates that were tested

NON-COMPLIANCE RATE

30 CONNECTED PORTABLE DEVICES WERE TESTED TO VERIFY THEIR SPECIFIC ABSORPTION RATE (SAR)

The product types tested by the project included:
Smartphones
Tablets
Smartwatches
Headphones



NO NON-CONFORMITIES WITH THE SAR MEASUREMENT WERE FOUND IN THE 30 SAMPLES TESTED BY THE PROJECT

Nevertheless, testing results of only 30 pieces of equipment do not represent the entire state of the market



DEVELOPING A COMMON APPROACH TO TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION CHECKS ACROSS 6 EU LEGISLATIONS

We developed a Code of Practice to help EU market surveillance harmonise their inspection methodology. Furthermore, we created and tested a new common approach to the assessment of the risks of non-compliance in order to determine appropriate and proportionate corrective measures.

Consumer ADVICE



- 01** Check the CE mark and make sure it mentions the 4-digit ID number of the Notified Body involved in the production control of your gas cooking hob.
- 02** Ensure that cooking hobs have no sharp edges.
- 03** Make sure that your product contains warnings translated in your language.
- 04** The non-compliance rate throughout the project activities was surprisingly high – considering that it is mandatory to involve a Notified Body in the type-examination and the production control.



Be safe, check the Safety Gate!

<https://ec.europa.eu/safety-gate/#/screen/home>



Safety Gate is the EU's rapid alert system for dangerous products. Every week, national authorities across the EU send alerts on products found to pose a serious safety or health risk to consumers. Visit the Safety Gate to learn more about unsafe products. And remember—if a product is listed in Safety Gate, don't buy it!

We collaborate...



We build together...



We generate impact...



...to protect the health and safety of EU consumers

1. OVERVIEW of activities

Two compliance verification product-specific activities and one capacity-building and method development action

JAHARP2020-1 carried out two compliance verification activities on two product categories: **A) Gas cooking hobs and hot plates**, and **B) on SAR measurements on connected portable devices**.

Incident reports across Europe indicate that the users of non-compliant gas cooking hobs and hot plates may be exposed to several risks including the generation of CO (carbon monoxide), fire, burns, or injuries from leakage of gas or mechanical risks, or accident hazards due to dangerous (or faulty) operation as a result of errors in the user manual.

When it comes to connected devices like smartphones, tablets, smartwatches and wireless headphones, part of the energy carried by electromagnetic waves emitted by such radio equipment is absorbed by the human body. To quantify this effect, the reference measurement is the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) – the rate at which energy is absorbed per unit mass by the human body when exposed to a radio frequency (RF) and which must not exceed the permissible, by the EU legislation, SAR value limits.

In addition to these two product-specific actions, JAHARP2020-1 also implemented a capacity-building/method development activity that aimed to bridge the gaps in the assessment of the administrative requirements for several product categories under six EU legislations (RED, LVD, EMC, GAR, TPED, and PED).


1 **Gas cooking hobs and hot plates**

14 participating market surveillance authorities from 14 European countries



2 **Development of a harmonised approach to admin checks**

6 participating market surveillance authorities

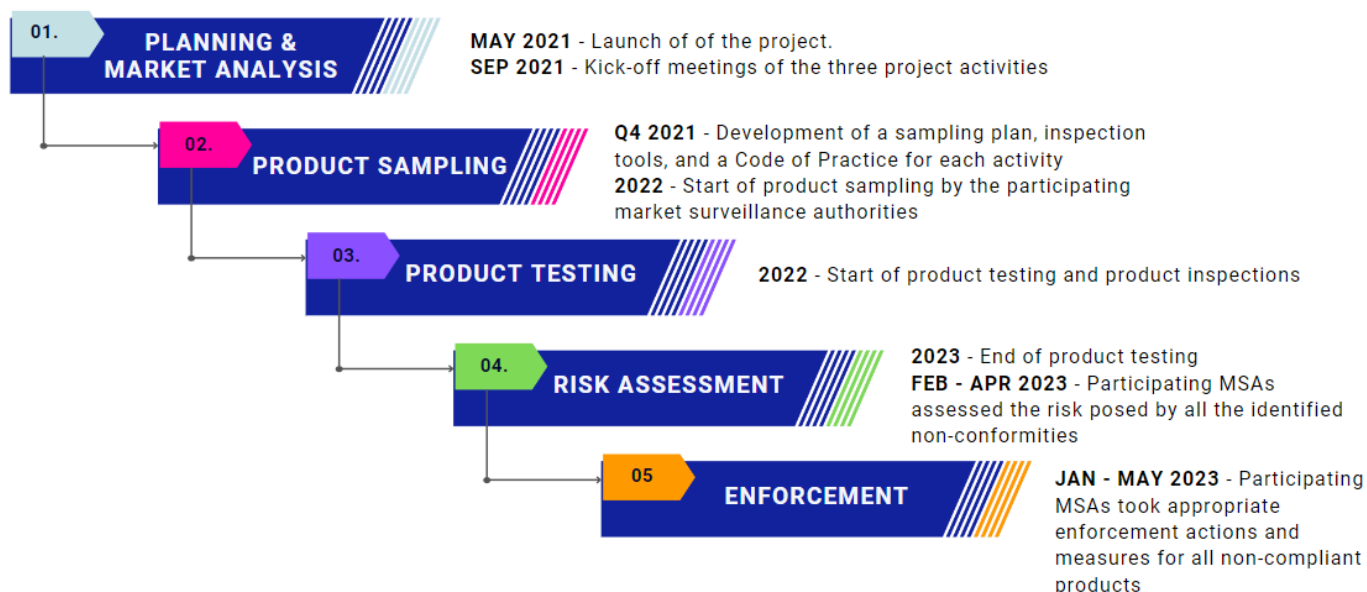


3 **SAR on connected devices**

7 participating market surveillance authorities from 7 European countries



The JAHARP2020 PROCESS



2. INSPECTION AND TESTING results

2.1 Gas cooking hobs and hotplates

2.1.1 Overview of main findings

14 of the 25 (56%) gas cooking hobs and hotplate models tested failed to meet one or more of the requirements of the test programme.

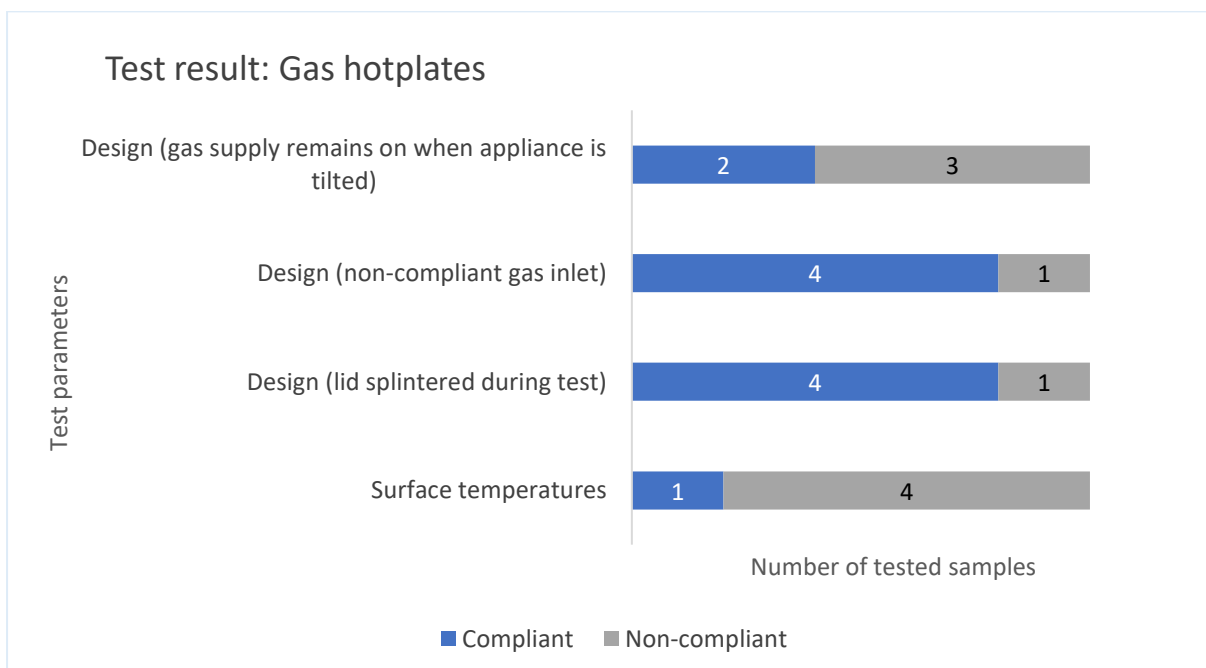
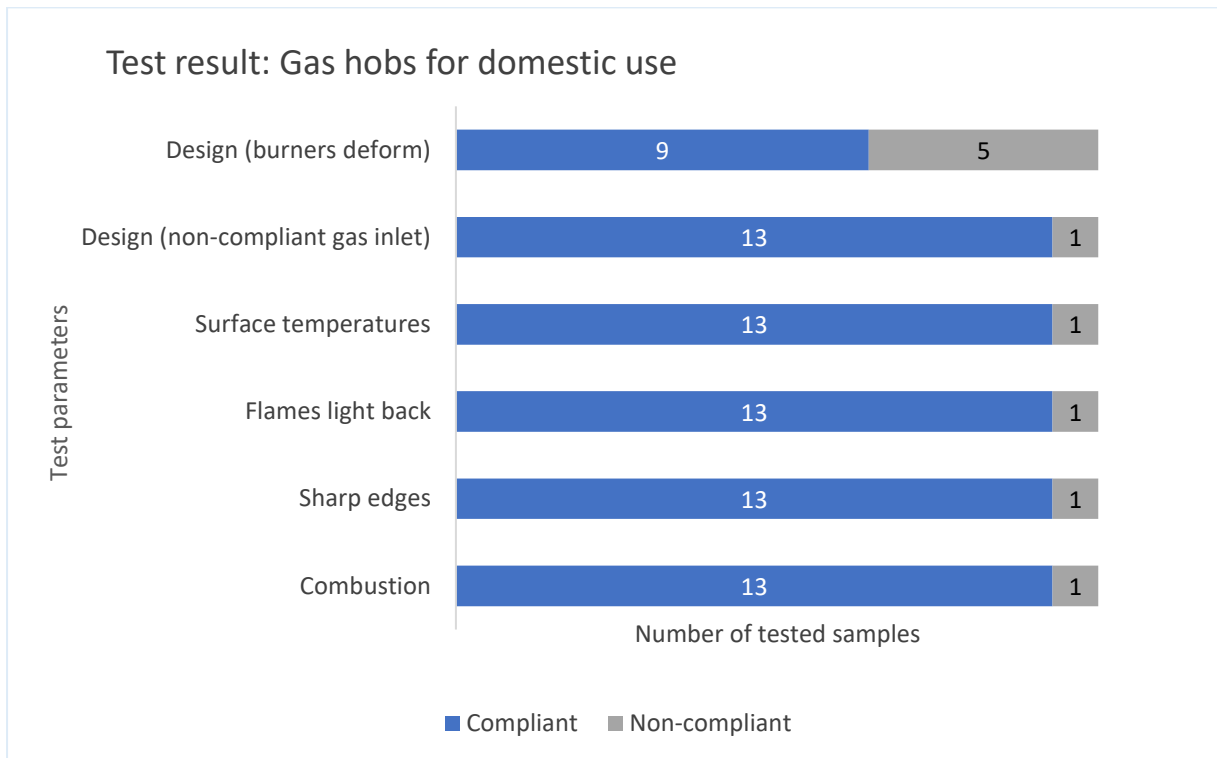
The project sampled 28 gas appliances of three different types: i) gas hobs for domestic use (14 samples), ii) gas hotplates for use in leisure vehicles (5 samples), and iii) mobile gas hotplates (6 samples). Samples were selected based on a prior risk and market analysis, with feedback from the industry and intelligence from the Gas Appliances ADCO group.

Samples were collected both from physical shops and online sellers. Many of these samples are sold as private label products, i.e., under the brand and trademark of the importer or trader instead of the manufacturer. This means that although many of these products are in reality manufactured in China, this information is not indicated in their documentation.

A total of 25 were tested to verify compliance with the essential requirements of the Gas Appliances Regulation (EU) 2016/426. To do so, the participating market surveillance authorities developed a common test programme based on the latest valid edition of the relevant standards EN 30-1-1:2021-Domestic cooking appliances burning gas—Part 1-1: Safety-General; EN 30-1-1:2008+A3:2013-Domestic cooking appliances burning gas—Part 1-1: Safety-General; and EN 17476:2021-Specifications

for dedicated liquefied petroleum gas appliances - LPG vapour pressure appliances incorporating a horizontal cartridge in the chassis.

Testing revealed that 14 of the 25 cooking hobs and hotplates failed to meet one or more test requirements.



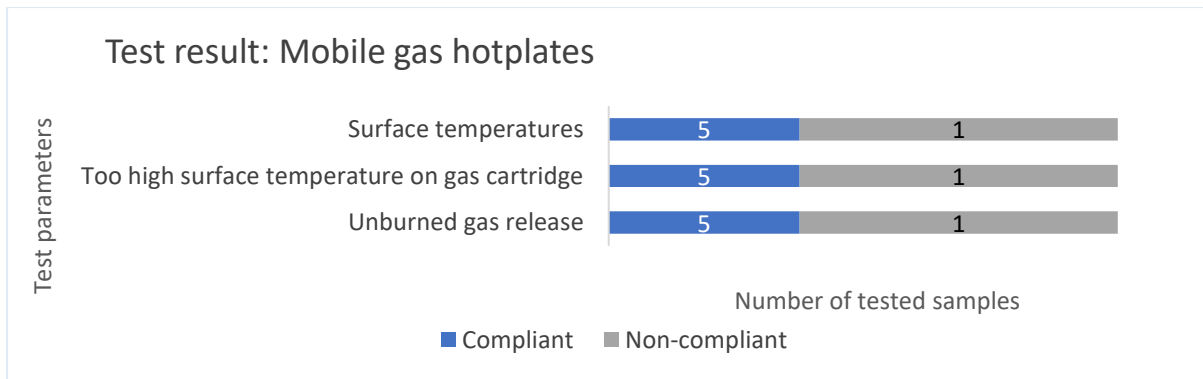


Figure 1: Test results - Gas hobs and hotplates

As we see in the results, a number of the tested samples had issues with their design. For example, in several appliances the burners deformed during testing. This defect can pose a risk to the user as the combustion may degrade more and more over the lifetime of the cooking hob, which in turn can potentially generate excessive amounts of CO₂ and CO.

Another issue detected during testing concerned the gas supply in some of the tested samples. This remained on when the appliance was tilted. For cooking hobs used in leisure vehicles, which are mounted in wagons, mobile homes, boats, or other vehicles, where the appliance may be tilted during use, the requirement to cut off the gas supply is very crucial. If an appliance is tilted, the gas supply must stop, so that gas does not leak out causing a fire risk.

Excessive surface temperatures expose the user to a risk of burns, if high temperatures occur on surfaces that are intended to be touched by the user in order to operate the appliance or are accidentally touched when the appliance is ignited.

Besides testing, the laboratory also examined the markings and warnings of the appliances and the instructions in the user manual. Errors in the markings, warnings and user instructions may affect the safety of the user. If a product is used or installed in a wrong or dangerous way because of incorrect or incomplete user instructions, this can directly put the health of safety of the user at risk.

In total, 23 of the 25 gas cooking hobs and hotplates checked had at least one nonconformity regarding the legal requirements for markings, warnings and user instructions.

Table 1: Results of checks on markings & user instructions, carried out by the test laboratory as part of the testing process

	NON-COMPLIANCE RATE %, per product sub-type		
	Gas hobs for domestic use	Gas hotplates for use in leisure vehicles	Mobile gas hotplates
Number of tested appliances	14	5	6
Marking and warnings on appliance	50% (7/14)	40% (2/5)	50% (3/6)
Information on nameplate	7% (1/14)	40% (2/5)	-
Marking and warnings on packaging	36% (5/14)	80% (4/5)	50% (3/6)
Information in user's guide	93% (13/14)	100% (5/5)	50% (3/6)

The main nonconformities found during this examination related to partly or fully missing mandatory markings or warnings, missing or incomplete user instructions, user instructions not written in the

language of the country of destination, missing nameplates, or missing mandatory information on the nameplate.

In addition to these checks done by the test laboratory as part of the testing process, the participating market surveillance authorities assessed the compliance of the technical documentation, markings, warnings, and user instructions of 44 models, including the products sent for testing. The share of products with nonconforming elements was overall high – always taking into consideration the risk-based approach used by the authorities for selecting these models.

Although typically nonconformities to the administrative requirements do not associate with a risk, missing or faulty warnings and instructions on the instalment, operation, or maintenance of a gas space heater may, in fact, pose a risk to the end user.

2.1.2 Risk assessment results and corrective measures

8 of the 14 nonconforming gas cooking hobs and hotplates were found to present a medium or a high risk to the user.

The participating market surveillance authorities assessed the non-compliances and the risk posed by all the identified non-conformities for the 14 products that failed in the laboratory tests. This was done using a harmonised methodology, based on the European Commission’s Risk Assessment Guidelines (RAG) tool¹, and a ‘Round Robin’ exercise to better align their risk assessments of similar non-compliances.

The results of the risk assessment are shown below.

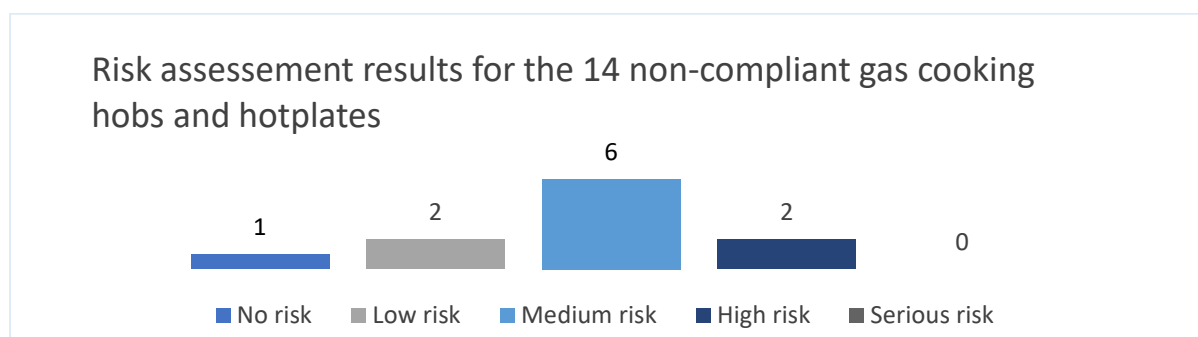


Figure 2: Risk assessment: Gas cooking hobs and hotplates

Based on the test results and risk assessment, the participating authorities took appropriate corrective measures against the products that did not comply with the Gas Appliances Regulation (EU) 2016/426 and the applicable standards. Five products were withdrawn from the market, while the sale of another four nonconforming models was banned or voluntarily stopped by the economic operators concerned. As of July 2023, the evaluation is still open for four cases.

All measures taken by the responsible market surveillance authorities are shown below.

¹ Available at the website <https://ec.europa.eu/rag/#/screen/home>

Enforcement measures taken for the non-compliant gas cooking hobs and hotplate

- No action required
- Minor measures/remark or advising the economic operator
- Sales ban
- Compulsory withdrawal from the market
- Voluntary withdrawal from the market
- Voluntary stop of sales
- Voluntary agreement to modify future deliveries
- EU Safety Gate A11 alerts made
- EU Safety Gate A12 alerts made
- Pending discussions between MSAs and Economic Operators

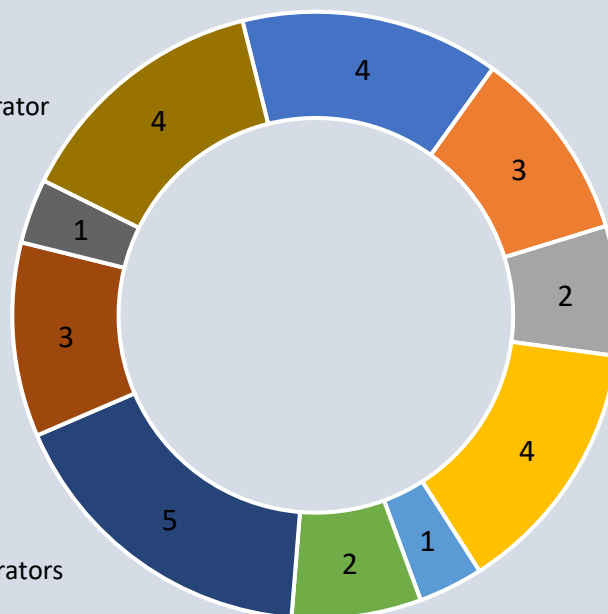


Figure 3: Enforcement actions: Gas cooking hobs and hotplates

2.2 SAR measurements on connected portable devices

2.2.1 Overview of main findings

No non-conformities were identified in the 30 samples tested by the selected test laboratory. Nevertheless, checks on the technical documentation of these products revealed several issues.

To shortlist the product samples to be sent for testing, the seven participating market surveillance authorities screened through desk research a total of 249 models from four product categories: 4G/5G smartphones, tablets, headphones, and smartwatches including smartwatches for children. Based on this investigation and considering products from different price levels and brands, participants selected for testing: 15 smartphones, 5 tablets, 5 wireless headphones, and 5 smartwatches for children.

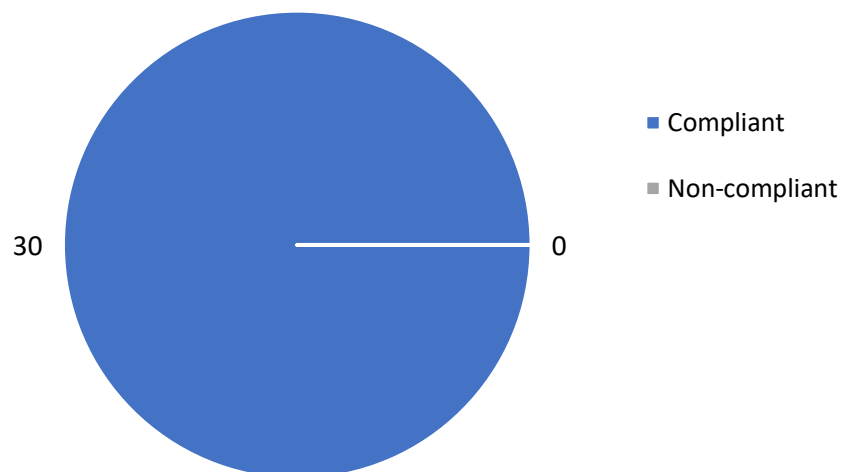
Most of the 30 samples were obtained from online sellers (21 of 30). According to the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) provided with the products, 8 samples indicated China and 7 the UK as the country of origin.

The 30 collected samples were tested to verify compliance with essential requirements related to the Specific Absorption Rate measurements set out in Directive 2014/53/EU Directive (RED). Laboratory tests were carried out according to a number of relevant standards:

- For smartphones: Head and limb SAR measurements according to EN 50360 / EN 62 209-1 and EN 50566/EN 62 209-2.
- For tablets: Limb SAR measurements according to EN 50566/EN 62 209-2.
- For smartwatches: Limb SAR measurements using EN 50566/EN 62 209-2.
- For headphones: Limb SAR measurements using EN 50566/EN 62 209-2.

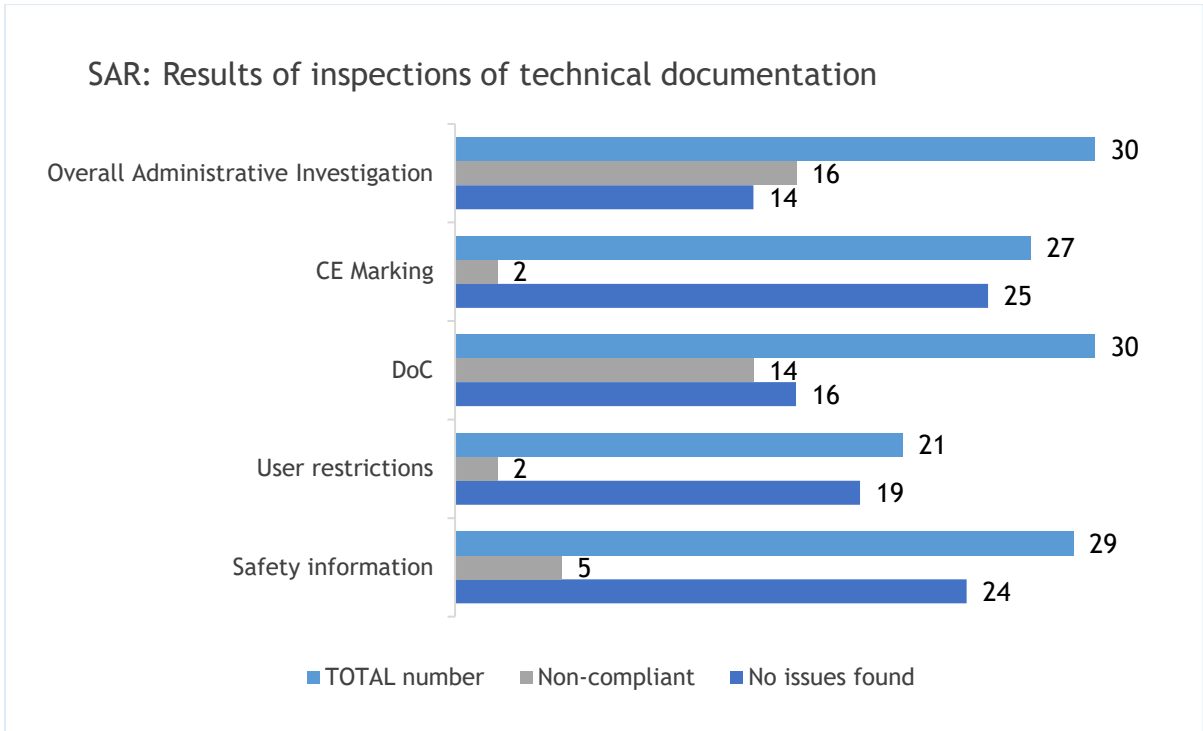
Tests showed that, whilst some samples were close to the limit values set by the regulation, no non-conformities were detected. Among the four product types tested, the highest observed measurements related to smartphones.

Test results: SAR measurement



The market surveillance authorities also performed checks on the technical documentation, warnings, user instructions and other important formal requirements of the RED. For this purpose, they requested and obtained the required technical documentation from the economic operator concerned.

The results of this assessment showed that basic administrative requirements are still not well understood by all market actors. Based on these, 16 products presented at least one administrative non-compliance. More specifically, 2 products were found to be non-compliant regarding the CE mark and user instructions, while 14 pieces of equipment (47% of the total) had issues with their DoC.



2.2.2 Assessment of results and corrective measures

Although product testing did not reveal non-conformities, checks on the technical documentation of the 30 selected samples showed, as we discussed above, non-conformities in 16 of the 30 product cases.

Based on the assessment of the responsible market surveillance authorities, 7 formal warnings have been issued and sent to the economic operator concerned as of July 2023. Eight evaluations are pending.

Follow-up measures taken to date

- No follow-up measures required
- Formal warning sent to economic operator
- Possible formal warning to be sent to econ. oper. in near future

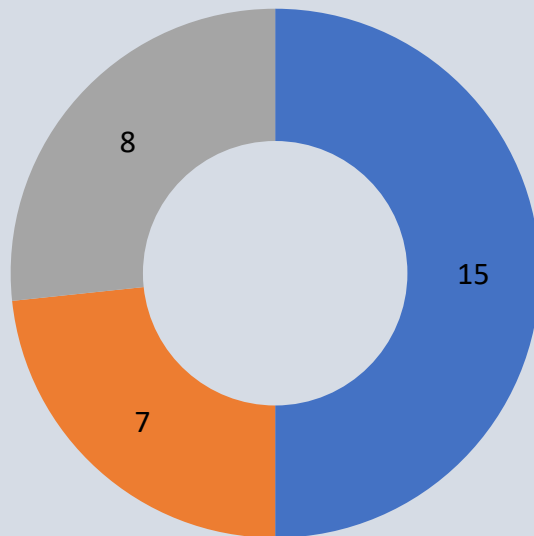


Figure 4: Follow-up measures in WP3 on SAR

3. CONCLUSIONS and recommendations

In JAHARP2020-1, we checked the compliance of 55 products in total, 25 gas cooking hobs and hotplates and 30 portable connected devices (including wearable technology).

Based on the results of the laboratory tests, 14 of 25 gas cooking appliances presented at least one non-conformity. On the other hand, no non-conformities were detected during the testing of the 30 selected samples of smartphones, tablets, headphones and smartwatches in relation to SAR measurements.

Furthermore, checks on the technical documentation, warnings, and user instructions showed various non-conformities in several product cases for both product categories covered by the action.

The participating market surveillance authorities took all the appropriate required corrective measures for the non-conforming products including formal warnings and advisory notes to economic operations, product withdrawals and sales bans – the last two only in relation to gas cooking appliances.

The following recommendations are based on the results of the product inspections and testing of this joint action.

Tips for consumers ✦

01

Pay attention to markings and safety warnings. Read the safety instructions/manual before use.

03

Be aware of the safety risks for you and your family when using gas cooking hobs and hot plates

02

Know who you're buying from
Always buy products from trustworthy retailers.

04

Check before you buy
Visit the EU's Safety Gate website to find all detected dangerous products



Tips for MSAs ✦

01

Continue market surveillance on gas cooking hobs, hot plates, and SAR on connected devices

02

Share the JAHARP2020 results and lessons learned with all EU/EEA MSAs

01

Place products on the market with complete and accurate markings and instructions

03

Improve your communication and accessibility of information in case of recalls

02

Ensure that your products comply with all applicable EU legislations

04

Enhance your cooperation with MSAs and Customs for imported products

Tips for economic operators ✦





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