

WHAT IS THE STATE OF COMPLIANCE OF CIRCULAR SAWS?

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The [JAHARP2021-07](#) Project is a pan-European market surveillance project, co-funded by the EU, which started in August 2022 and is now reaching its completion.

PRODUCTS TARGETED

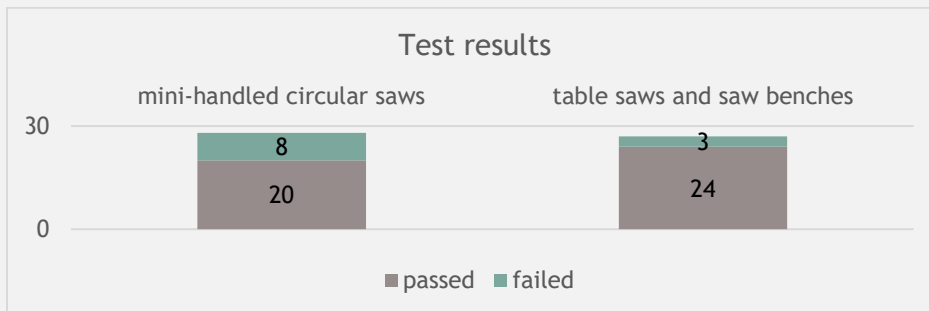
The Joint Action targeted 2 main categories of circular saws in order to check their safety and conformity with the requirements of the EU Machinery Directive and the relevant harmonized standards:

1. **Mini handheld circular saws**, including 20 mains-powered and 8 battery-powered machines (28 models from 22 different brands);
2. **23 transportable table saws** and **4 circular saw benches** (27 models from 24 different brands).

The products were sampled from do-it-yourself shops and from the Internet. They were sent for testing to an accredited test laboratory, selected following a public call for tender. The manufacturer's instructions and EC Declaration of conformity were checked by the MSAs themselves using common checklists.

RESULTS OF THE TESTS AND CHECKS

The tests showed a **generally satisfactory level of technical conformity** of the circular saws that were sampled.



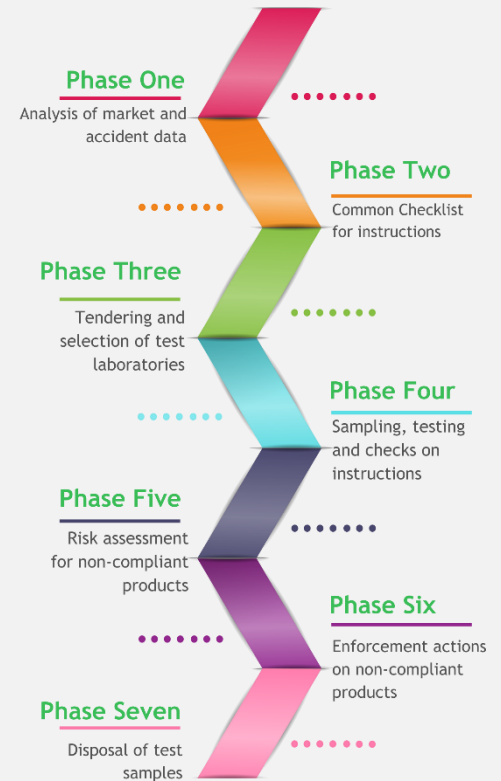
The most serious deficiencies for mini-handled circular saws concerned the lack of endurance of the supply cord and inadequate strength or absence of the base plate.

Concerning transportable table saws and saw benches, on 2 models the material of the saw blade guard was too thin. On another model, there were openings in the guard when the saw blade was tilted.

The **noise emissions measured at the test laboratory were generally close to or inferior to the values declared by the manufacturers**. These values confirm that circular saws are very noisy machines, requiring operators to wear personal hearing protectors. On the other hand, the vibrations transmitted by the mini handheld circular saws to the hands indicate that **vibrations do not constitute a significant risk for these machines**.

The outcome of the checks on the manufacturer's instructions was less satisfactory: **more than half of the instruction manuals checked lacked multiple warnings and safety related instructions**.

Market Surveillance Cycle



PARTICIPATING AUTHORITIES

11 Market Surveillance Authorities from the following 10 EU Member States have participated in this Joint Action coordinated by [PROSAFE](#): Croatia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain (Andalusia and the Basque Country), Sweden, and Switzerland which took part outside the framework of the Grant Agreement.

Disclaimer

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Caution!

The above results are based on products that were sampled from the markets in the participating countries by experienced market surveillance inspectors that were looking for non-compliant products. As in any routine market surveillance activity, the results represent the targeted efforts that authorities undertake to identify non-compliant products. They do not give a statistically valid picture of the market situation.



MAIN CHALLENGES

The main challenge encountered during this Joint Action was a **lack of clarity regarding the harmonised standards** that apply to the targeted product categories. The original plan was to also include building site saws in the scope of the activity. The issue was that no products were found on the market that were designed according to the specific standard for building site saws, and furthermore no test laboratories were accredited to conduct tests in accordance with this standard. Once this issue had been clarified, the project was able to test a wide range of transportable table saws and saw benches, including machines designed for use on building sites.

It was also discovered that many of the circular saws tested had been designed to superseded versions of the applicable harmonised standards. In such cases, the standard applied by the manufacturer was used as the basis for testing and any differences with the current version of the standard were noted in cases of non-conformity.



VISIT OF THE PROJECT GROUP TO THE TEST LABORATORY



The project group visited the contracted test laboratory on 14-15 May 2024 to examine and discuss the results of the testing together with the team of test engineers.

The discussion helped the MSAs to evaluate the risks caused by the non-conformities detected during the testing.

Members of the project group inspecting some of the tested samples



FINAL CONFERENCE

The final conference of the project took place online on **11 June 2024**. The key results of the tests and checks were shared and discussed with representatives of the European Commission services and stakeholders, including manufacturer associations, the standardization bodies CEN/TC 142 and CENELEC/TC 116, and consumer protection bodies.

A layman's report presenting these findings will be prepared and published on the [PROSAFE's website](https://www.prosafe.org).

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