

Second Newsletter JAHARP2021-08

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF NON-COMPLIANCE OF PYROTECHNICS?

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The [JAHARP2021-08](#) Project started in June 2022 and is now reaching its completion. This project falls within the scope of the Directive 2013/29/EU on pyrotechnic articles and Directive 2014/90/EU on marine equipment and focused on detecting non-compliances in two product categories: consumer fireworks and Pyrotechnic Marine Distress Signals and Rescue Products.

KEY FINDINGS - CONSUMER FIREWORKS

After a thorough market and risk analysis, the project group identified **64 consumer fireworks** for documentation checks and testing in a laboratory.

The result was that **17 of the 64 samples (27%) failed the laboratory tests**. The MSAs carried out a risk assessment exercise for all non-compliant articles, which resulted in 7 of the 17 products being considered as posing a serious risk to consumers.

The main non-compliances detected centered on:

- too short fuse burning times,
- nonfunctioning products, burning debris,
- objects launched outside the safety distance, or
- effects that burst at a too low altitude.

Enforcement activities have started with the aim of resolving the issues before New Year's Eve.

The market surveillance authorities also checked the technical documentation for **114 articles**. This control revealed errors in **54% of the products (61 of the 114 articles)**. The manufacturers have been contacted and asked to correct the errors.

Market Surveillance Cycle



PARTICIPATING AUTHORITIES

9 Market Surveillance Authorities from the following 7 Countries have participated in this Joint Action coordinated by [PROSAFE](#): Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, and Sweden.

Disclaimer

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Contact us:

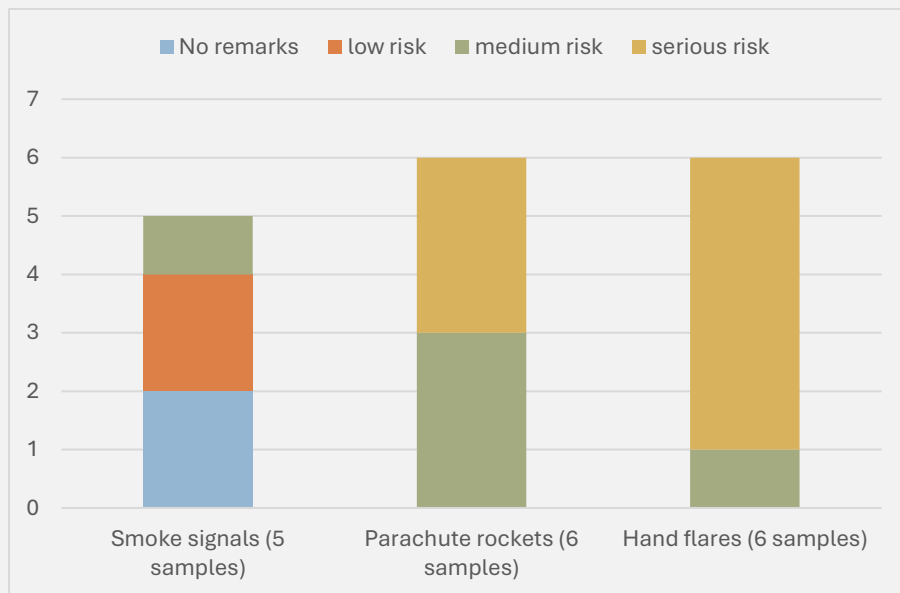
Ioana Sandu, Executive Director, PROSAFE Office, Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 41, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium, Tel: +32 2 757 9336, info@prosafe.org, www.prosafe.org

KEY FINDINGS - PYROTECHNIC MARINE DISTRESS SIGNALS AND RESCUE PRODUCTS

Concerning Pyrotechnic Marine Distress Signals, the project group identified **17 marine distress signals** - **6 hand flares**, **5 smoke signals** and **6 parachute rockets** for documentation checks and testing in a laboratory.

The results were as following:

- Overall, **only 2 out of 17 products passed the laboratory test** without remarks.
- All hand flares failed the tests. Five of them were found to present a serious risk to the user.
- Two of the five smoke signals passed the laboratory test. None of the samples presented a serious risk.
- All six parachute rockets failed. Three of them were found to present a serious risk to the user.



The Joint Action participants sampled the articles from shops in the EEC/EA area, with one product being sampled from a third Country.

The test revealed that the articles suffered from a number of non-compliances. The most relevant ones were:

- **Hand flares:** Malfunctioning when ignited or broke down into fragments, handle caught fire during operation, too short burning times, too short time delays before ignition, failed the heptane test.
- **Smoke signals:** Too short burning times, broken initiation key or failure to ignite.
- **Parachute rockets:** Too short burning time, ejected at too low altitude, burning debris reached ground level, descent rate too high, malfunctioning when ignited or broke down into fragments.

Any of these non-compliances can put a crew in a lifeboat in peril or fail to signal a danger. An article that does not work properly implies that the crew have one less opportunity to call for help and therefore, to be rescued.

Contact us:

Ioana Sandu, Executive Director, PROSAFE Office, Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 41, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium, Tel: +32 2 757 9336, info@prosafe.org, www.prosafe.org



MAIN CHALLENGES

Main challenges related to consumer fireworks:

The main issues for MSAs working with consumer fireworks are well-known and have persisted for many years. Firstly, **the non-conformity rate has turned out to be quite stable in most European Countries** with randomly varying non-conformity rates over the years. This means that probably fireworks will have to be addressed again in the future. Secondly, carrying out market surveillance campaigns for fireworks is complicated as **the season is very short**, making it difficult for MSAs to intervene in the supply chain in a way that effectively removes non-compliant fireworks from the market with a minimum impact on the economic operators.

Main challenges related to Pyrotechnic Marine Distress Signals:

An immediate challenge faced by the MSAs relates to the very **poor state of the products on the market** that calls for manufacturers to take action, and for market surveillance authorities to follow up closely to ensure that real and significant improvements are made. The second issue relates to the **difficulty of sampling products from businesses located outside the EU**. Many of them sell these products directly to European flagged vessels when they call on harbours in the far East or South America. The products hardly cross EU coastal territory, making it very difficult for MSAs to intervene in the supply chain. The project is in touch with the Administrative Cooperation group focusing on Marine Equipment, ADCO MED, and the issue will be discussed in their next meeting.

In addition, the need for harmonization of market surveillance methodologies is a cross-cutting issue that this Joint Action and several other initiatives try to mitigate through the encouragement of discussions and collaboration among national authorities.



FINAL CONFERENCE

The final conference of JAHARP2021-08 took place online on 11 July 2024. The key results were shared and discussed with the European Commission and stakeholders.

A layman's report presenting these findings will be prepared and published on the [PROSAFE's website](#).

Follow us!

PROSAFE's web portal and social media accounts are regularly updated with news on all our activities and the EU funded projects we coordinate.



@PROSAFE_ORG



@PROSAFE



www.prosafe.org

Caution: The articles have been selected after a risk assessment exercise and with a focus on products that were assumed to be more likely to fail. The figures cannot be considered to represent the situation on the market.

Contact us:

Ioana Sandu, Executive Director, PROSAFE Office, Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 41, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium, Tel: +32 2 757 9336, info@prosafe.org , www.prosafe.org