

# Building capacity for the European Market Surveillance

## WHAT IS THE STATUS OF HARMONISATION OF MARKET SURVEILLANCE?

The Joint Action JAHARP2022-04 received funding from the European Union to survey the EU-27 MSAs and identify the priority areas for harmonisation and carry out two mutual visits. The aim is to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices in the field of the Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU, and the Ecodesign Framework Directive 2009/125/EC. The project, coordinated by [PROSAFE](#), started in April 2023 and will end in March 2025.

### HARMONISATION OF METHODOLOGIES



#### **Workshop:**

On 24 February 2025, we held a workshop presenting the results of the case studies on Risk Assessment in the fields of LVD and Ecodesign.

The event was open to all EU MSAs. **Over 70 officers attended the workshop and actively participated** in the organised live polls and interactive sessions.

The workshop was well received, with the vast majority of the participants stating that they were **extremely satisfied** with the event

The project group carried out two case studies using **tumble driers** as an example for applying risk assessment methodologies for the Low Voltage Directive (LVD) and the Ecodesign legislation.

Experience and knowledge gained in the previous Actions [JAHARP2020](#) (for LVD) and [EEPLIANT3](#) (for Ecodesign) were used to develop real cases of non-compliance.

A template was developed to determine the risk class and to take decision on corrective measures, fines and follow up actions.

The risk determination is based on the following existing guidance materials:

- **For LVD:** the SafetyGate Risk Assessment Guide
- **For Ecodesign:** a methodology developed by the administrative Coordination Group (ADCO)

The case study highlighted variations in how MSAs evaluated the risks of non-compliance.

**A major difference was observed between risk classification of formal non-compliance between the Low Voltage Directive and Ecodesign Framework legislation.**

In fact, while all electrical safety MSAs considered formal non-compliances as a low risk, contrarily Ecodesign MSAs evaluated some of these even as a High risk.

## MUTUAL VISITS

Two mutual visits were organised hosted by the Latvian MSA Consumer Right Protection Centre (CRPC) and the Italian MSA Chamber of Commerce of Milan (CAMCOM).

### *Visit in Latvia:*

CRPC hosted a mutual visit focused on **market surveillance in the field of the Low Voltage Directive** and **cooperation with customs authorities**.

**8 participants from 5 MSAs** attended the visit and discussed procedures, best practices and emerging challenges.

A **practical workshop** was organized to conduct technical on-site screening of electrical products on multiple electrical safety requirements.

CRPC and the national customs organization presented their **joint approach in checking imported electronics**. Part of the visit was a **joint Low Voltage Directive inspection on imported products**.

The Latvian authorities have established a very efficient and effective digital communication system to exchange information, inspection results and follow up.

### *Visit in Italy:*

CAMCOM organised a mutual visit focused on the **exchange of best practices related to market surveillance** in the field of Ecodesign and LVD.

**7 participants from 5 MSAs** attended the visit. The participants exchanged information about procedures with a focus on laboratory testing, risk assessments and corrective actions.

**Workshops with real cases** lead to constructive in-depth discussions and exchange of experience and knowledge.

The group visited a test laboratory. This provided insight into the **perspectives and challenges faced by laboratories and manufacturers**.

### **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.



*Figure 1 Customs checks from the mutual visit in Latvia*



*Figure 2 Group Picture from the mutual visit in Italy*

**JAHARP2022**

**5 PROJECTS**

**25 MSAS**

**16 COUNTRIES**

## MAIN TAKEAWAYS

The case studies revealed that MSAs are mostly **consistent in the corrective actions** they take towards Economic Operators. In general:

- Low risk non-compliances lead to warnings;
- Medium and high-risk lead to withdrawal of the products till the non-compliance is resolved and;
- Serious risks lead to withdrawal or re-calls.

MSAs are also consistent in their **follow-up of corrective actions**. They systematically monitor the product until they have evidence that it is brought into compliance or destroyed.

**Significant variations have been observed in the imposition of fines.** Some MSAs lack the necessary competencies and capabilities to impose fines, while the amount of the issued fines varies from zero to €20,000 for the same non-compliance.

The developed template was updated with the experiences of the case studies and most recent legal and guidance material was added.

The MSAs indicated that they are going to use the template or take over parts in their own tools.

Concerning the mutual visits, the evaluation conducted revealed that for **9 out of the 10 visiting MSAs the lessons learnt led to changes or improvements in their own organisation.**

## THE WAY FORWARD

The MSAs will continue to **disseminate the results** of the action to ADCO and EU Product Compliance Network members, with the aim to **foster cooperation** inside the market surveillance community and with external partners.

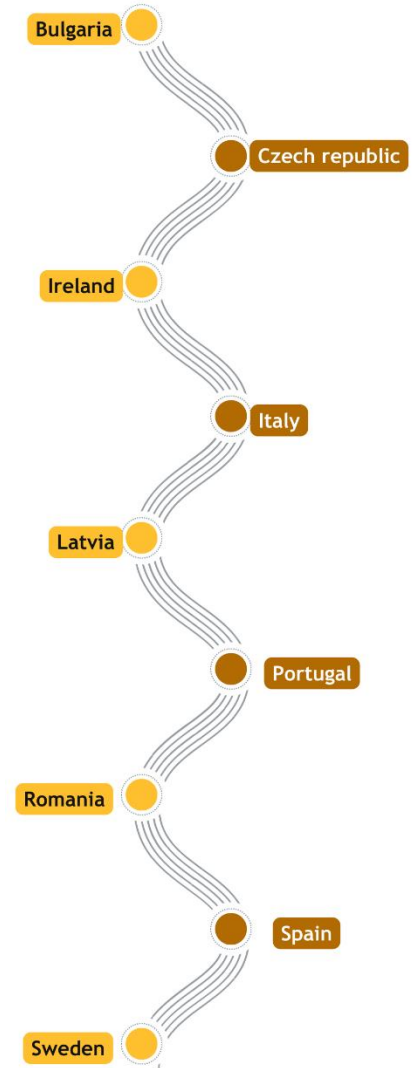
PROSAFE will draft recommendations for MSAs, economic operators and the European Commission to support the efficient implementation of the Union Legislation and ensure the circulation of safe and compliant products on the Single Market.

## FINAL CONFERENCE

The Final Conference of the Joint Action will be held on **17 March 2025**.

The 12 participating Market Surveillance Authorities from 9 EU Countries will present the key results and lessons learnt to the European Commission and interested stakeholders. If you would like to join, please contact PROSAFE at [info@prosafe.org](mailto:info@prosafe.org).

## JAHARP2022-04 Member States



Follow us:

