

Press Release

PROSAFE Coordinates Market Surveillance Activities on Five More Products

Market surveillance activities will shortly commence on five more consumer products in the framework of a Joint Action coordinated by PROSAFE, the Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe.

PROSAFE is managing the project which has received 70% funding from the European Union. The 2010 Joint Action brings together 21 European Countries. Market surveillance activities will be undertaken over the next two years on five different products. These are Children Fancy Dress; Food Imitation Products; Ladders; Laser Pointers and Visibility Clothing & Accessories. In addition to the product specific activities, the project will also focus on a number of horizontal issues. These include co-operation with Customs; outreach to China; International co-operation; coordination of dissemination and use of results by all Member States; stakeholder outreach and other communications activities; follow-up with standards organizations; and co-ordination with EMARS II and other on-going and future Joint Actions.

By combining the activities into one single Joint Action PROSAFE hopes to be able to deliver more consistent and effective market surveillance across Europe. PROSAFE also believes that the future of market surveillance in Europe lies in the establishment of a multi-annual European level market surveillance programme. This vision is shared by the European Commission and the European Parliament. The 2010 Joint Action represents an important first step in this direction.

This latest Joint Action follows on from a number of Actions undertaken by PROSAFE in recent years. Within each Joint Action, a number of European countries work together to investigate the safety of a specific product. This usually involves developing a sampling plan, drawing up a test protocol, often based on the applicable voluntary standards and having the products tested. Corrective action is then implemented as necessary by the participating countries. This approach has proven enormously successful in promoting the establishment and widespread use of best practice in Europe and in targeting a long list of products such as lighters, toys, cords in children's clothing. More information can be found on PROSAFE's web-site at <http://www.prosafe.org/>.

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Joint Action Coordinator

This press release arises from the project Joint Market Surveillance Action on 5 Consumer Products (GPSD-JA 2010 - Five Products) which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the 'Programme of Community action in the field of Consumer policy (2007-2013).

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