

*Newsletter from PROSAFE*

**Joint Actions on Lighters**

**The Joint Actions on Lighters used the final conference on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 to present the results obtained after almost 5½ years of dedicated work.**

Since September 2007 PROSAFE and its members have undertaken joint market surveillance activities on lighters. The purpose has been to check whether only lighters that are safe and child-resistant are placed on the market and to improve collaboration among market surveillance authorities across the EU. The activities involved 17 Member States and EFTA-EEA countries in two Joint Actions, and additional 12 countries associated on their own to the Actions. Both Joint Actions were funded with support from the European Commission.

The second Joint Action started in 2010 and had a high level of activities:

- The participating market surveillance authorities carried out some 8,000 inspections at retailers, wholesalers, importers and manufacturers.
- Customs inspected 850 consignments with lighters from third countries upon arrival to the EU.
- The inspections resulted in more than 5,000 lighters being checked.

The inspections ranged from inspections of instructions and warnings over indicative tests carried out by the inspector to full laboratory tests. The results are that:

- The checks resulted in no remarks in 3,721 cases corresponding to 72.7% of the inspected lighters. The share was 69.0% in the previous action (from 2007 to 2009).
- Of the non-compliant lighters, the checks revealed non-compliances according to EN ISO 9994 in 295 cases (or 5.8% of the lighters). The share was 7.5% in the previous action.
- The checks revealed non-compliances regarding child-resistance in 101 cases (or 2.0% of the cases). This share was 1.5% in the previous action.
- The checks revealed other non-compliances in 480 cases (or 9.4% of the cases). This share was 5.1% in the previous action.
- Finally the checks showed non-compliances that weren't categorised in 516 cases (or 10.1% of the cases). This share was 16.9% in the previous action.

As part of the second Joint Action, 74 (selected) lighters were tested at an accredited laboratory. The results were that:

- There were no remarks in 53% of the tests.
- The tests revealed minor non-compliances in 22% of the cases.
- The tests revealed major non-compliances in 16% of the cases.
- The tests revealed critical non-compliances in 9% of the cases.

These figures are not immediately comparable to the figures from the first Joint Action as the test requirements have been a bit different and the testing comprised lighters of different brands. An analysis has been carried out where these differences have been removed, i.e. the statistics are based on lighters from the biggest 9 actors on the lighter market and the conclusions of the tests are drawn from tests according to similar test requirements in both Actions. The results can be seen in the following table:

	<b>New Joint Action (2010-2012)</b>	<b>Previous Joint Action (2007-2009)</b>
Share of lighters with critical non-compliances	5%	21%
Share of lighters with major non-compliances	17%	12%
Share of lighters with minor non-compliances	19%	16%
Share of lighters with no remarks to test reports	59%	51%
Number of lighters in analysis	59	82

Both two Joint Actions have pioneered the cooperation between Member States and have resulted in a number of best practices that have now been applied on other Joint Actions run by PROSAFE. The Joint Actions have also seen the development of a number of tools specifically useful for those market surveillance authorities that undertake activities against lighters.

#### **TAKE CARE!**

The above results are based on samples of lighters from the lighter markets in the participating countries. As in any other routine market surveillance activity, the results represent the targeted efforts that authorities undertake to identify unsafe products. They do not give a proper picture of the market situation.

The sampled lighters were tested at an accredited test laboratory. The tests focussed on those safety requirements that have the largest impact on consumer safety. The number and type of tests in this Joint Action were slightly different to those in the previous Joint Action.

#### **Contact Person:**

Project Leader Gunnar Wold  
Email: [gunnar.wold@dsb.no](mailto:gunnar.wold@dsb.no)  
Telephone: +47 95 98 34 81

#### **Background information**

This Newsletter release is issued by PROSAFE and the 13 participating countries in the second Joint Action on Lighters, Austria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. It is also targeting at not participating Member States to facilitate them for similar action in their country.

The Action is coordinated by PROSAFE, a non-profit organisation that brings together officials of Market Surveillance Authorities from all over Europe.

On our website [www.prosafe.org](http://www.prosafe.org) more information can be found about the two Joint Actions on Lighters, the EMARS projects and the other Joint Actions coordinated by PROSAFE. Explore the links to "Projects" in the left-hand column.



## Disclaimer

This PROSAFE newsletter arises from the Joint Market Surveillance Action on GPSD Products - JA 2011, which receives funding from the European Union in the framework of the 'Programme of Community Action in the field of Consumer Policy (2007-2013)'.

The publication reflects only the views of the author. It is based on the information available at the moment of publication. Statistics and results are not representative for the situation on the market of the participating countries, but only for the samples taken in the framework of this Action. PROSAFE cannot be held responsible for incorrect or misleading use of this publication.

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