

Newsletter from PROSAFE

PROSAFE and Market Surveillance Authorities from 26 EU Member States and EEA Countries Successfully Launch JA2015 Joint Market Surveillance Action on Consumer Products

PROSAFE continues the success from the Joint Action 2014 (the biggest PROSAFE Joint Action ever) and launches an equally large Joint Action 2015. In the coming two years, 35 market surveillance authorities from 26 EU Member States or EEA countries will identify and remove non-compliant products in five product categories: soothers and soother holders, plasticised toys, playgrounds, electrical household appliances and power tools.

The Joint Action 2015 purports to protect the consumers by identifying and removing unsafe products from the European market, to create equal terms and a "level playing field" for business and to support and increase the free flow of goods on the European market.

It has participants from almost all EU Member States and EFTA countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The Joint Action addresses the following 5 product categories:

- **Soothers and soother holders**

40 - 45 serious cases of injured children 0 - 4 years of age are caused by soothers and soother holders every year, according to the European Injury Database. This is why PROSAFE and its members have decided to focus on these products in this Joint Action. CEN has published a revised European standard in 2014 and the Member States want to check if this has resulted in safer products on the market: are the new mitigation rules for certain chemicals being met and have choking and suffocation hazards been appropriately dealt with?

- **Plasticised toys**

Between 2010 and 2015, EU Member States notified more than 500 plasticised toys in the RAPEX system indicating that these toys presented serious risk of chemical nature to the consumers. The Action will focus on various substances in such toys that are known for or suspected to present long-term carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic hazards to humans. Therefore, the use of such substances is restricted in consumer products including toys and the purpose of the Joint Action is to check whether these restrictions are properly met and to take action against non-compliant products.

- **Playgrounds**

Playgrounds are known to cause many accidents. The EU Injury Database shows more than 135.000 injuries to 0 - 14 year old children every year. Despite of this, there have been no RAPEX notifications on dangerous playground equipment in the past 3 years indicating that the risk might have to do with the installation, use and maintenance of the products. Playground equipment has a lifetime of about 20 - 30 years and the purpose of the Action is to ensure that it remains safe throughout its entire life. This includes checking that the equipment is properly installed and maintained. The participants will develop common guidelines for the inspectors and they will examine why so many children are injured and what can be done to prevent this from happening, but still allowing children to have fun on playgrounds.

- **Electrical household appliances**

This Activity will focus on blenders, mixers and small kitchen heating appliances such as toasters; products that are anticipated to be present in more than 80% of all European households. Though there is a good overall safety level in this group of products, the Member States still find products with issues so they agreed to make it a top priority for the Joint Action 2015.

The issues presented by these products are numerous: poor internal wiring that may cause fires or electric shocks to the user, accessible hot surfaces that may cause burns or moving blades that may cause cuts or break up during normal operation.

- **Power tools**

Power tools is a group of products that are inherently dangerous to the user due to the high power of the tool and the intended use for sawing, cutting, grinding, sanding or other risky activities. Therefore, the user has to exercise extraordinary care when using the product and the product itself has to be safe and fitted with appropriate protection guards.

The Power tools group will focus on handheld electrical circular saws following the recommendation from the participants in the Power tools activity in the Joint Action 2014.

These activities will sample a number of products, examine and test them, evaluate the results and take appropriate action against unsafe products that have been placed illegally on the market. Action will be taken in cooperation with the involved business if possible.

In addition to the above activities, the Joint Action continues the development of best practices for the Member State market surveillance authorities. They concern risk assessment methods, methods for addressing new and emerging issues, methods for improving the impact of the activities, developing of E-learning materials for market surveillance officers, implementation of mutual assessments between market surveillance authorities as well as other horizontal activities.

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Background information

This information is issued by PROSAFE and the 35 participating authorities in the Joint Market Surveillance Action on Consumer Products - JA2015.

The Action is coordinated by PROSAFE, a non-profit organisation that brings together market surveillance officers from all over Europe and across the world. Visit www.prosafe.org to learn more. Here, you will also find more information about other Joint Actions coordinated by PROSAFE. Explore the links to "Projects" in the left-hand column.

Disclaimer

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