

Newsletter from PROSAFE

**Joint Market Surveillance Action 2012
Progress presented at Workshop in Brussels**

PROSAFE recently showcased the progress that has been made with Joint Action 2012 in a workshop in Brussels attended by 39 market surveillance officials and stakeholders. Twenty-one Member States were represented.

JA2012 tackles a wide variety of products: child care articles, nanotechnology and cosmetics, cords and drawstrings, ladders and CO and smoke detectors. In addition there are a number of method development activities addressing issues such as risk assessment, e-learning, best practice and continuous improvement of the work of national market surveillance authorities.

The method development activities have all reached a conclusion at the end of 2013. An e-learning module has been developed on the European Home Authority principle and the principle is being applied practically in a number of the product activities. There have been CIMS reviews undertaken in Malta and the Czech Republic. The workshop heard a presentation of the best practices identified in the five Member States who have hosted CIMS reviews in recent years. The risk assessment activity has been striving to make risk assessment easier and more uniform across different activities and different authorities. A guidance document has been developed, as have templates for a wide range of products. A risk assessment seminar was held in Prague in November 2013 in conjunction with the annual market surveillance workshop, another initiative held within the framework of JA2012.

Considerable progress has been made with the product activities. Sixty-four samples of high chairs have been taken and are being submitted to testing. In addition two Member States have submitted a further ten samples for testing at their own cost. The priority list of child care articles has been reviewed. The number one priority, the safety barriers, will be included in the proposal for the new JA2014.

The Cords and drawstrings Activity seeks to build on the success of our Joint Action from 2008. The focus of the activity is clothing for children aged 0-14. To date there have been 607 inspections and 2913 articles of clothing have been checked. The non-conformity rate found to date is 7%. This compares very favourably with the results from our previous Joint Action suggesting that the previous Action had a real impact in the marketplace.

The ladders activity is also building on a previous Joint Action 2010, where 20 of 38 samples were found to present a serious risk. The focus of the new activity is telescopic and hinged ladders. The first samples have been provided to the testing laboratory and we expect results shortly.

The focus of the Detectors Activity will be CO detectors due to the cost of testing. Work on smoke detectors will be undertaken within the framework of JA2013 that earlier this year. Testing is underway but long term stability testing takes three months.

Nanotechnology and cosmetics represents a new field of activity for PROSAFE. The participants have been grappling with the uncertainties to be found in an emerging sector. The methods of analysis are complicated and expensive and there are as yet no standardised methods. A testing laboratory has been selected and the results are expected soon.

All results and findings from the Action will be presented at a final conference that is to be organised in February 2015.

PLEASE NOTE!

These provisional results are based on the activities carried out in the markets of 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 statistically valid picture of the market situation.

Background information

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) more information can be found about other Joint Actions coordinated by PROSAFE.

JA2012 represents PROSAFE's largest Joint Action to date with twenty-four Member States of the European Economic Area participating within the financial scheme of the project. The project is co-funded by the European Union.

Contact Person for Joint Action 2012:

Matthias Honnacker

Project Leader

Email: Matthias.Honnacker@stmuv.bayern.de; info@prosafe.org

Telephone: +32-2-286-1726

Disclaimer

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