

Open Project Group Meeting 16 June 2016 - Ag 3.1

Joint Action 2015

Playgrounds

Kick Off Event

Overview of the Project

16 June 2016

Brussels

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Activity Coordinator: Robert Chantry-Price

Extent of PROSAFE Joint Action 2015

- 25 EEA Member States participating from 35 market surveillance authorities
- Consists of horizontal and vertical Joint Actions
- Builds on extensive work undertaken by PROSAFE over the last 25 years
- Developing closer ties with economic operators, consumers, customs, standards organisations, labs

Product related activities in JA 2015

- Child care articles - soothers and soother holders
- Toys - Plasticised toys
- Playground safety
- Power tools
- Electrical appliances - blenders, mixers & toasters

Horizontal activities in JA 2015

- Risk assessment - developing the methodology
- Continuous Improvement of Market Surveillance
- E- Learning - Modules on the safety of cots
- New and emerging issues e.g. hoverboards
- Impact improvement -

Are these products dangerous?

- No RAPEX notifications in the past three years!
- EU Injury Database - Annually in the EU approximately 137,000 injuries to children (0-14) involving playground equipment requiring visit to A & E department
- Head injuries decreased because of increase in use of impact absorbing surfaces.
- In UK of 40,000 injuries per year. Circa 40% - 50% due to playground equipment

Participants in JA 2015 - Playgrounds

- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Germany
- Iceland
- Latvia
- Norway
- Slovakia
- Slovenia

Objectives

- To ensure that inspected playgrounds are safe in use
- To build on and further develop if necessary the extensive documentation produced by the first Joint Action on playgrounds

Traditional items of equipment



Complex items of equipment



Complex items of equipment with water



Legal & Standards Framework

- Principal Directive 2001/95/EC - GPSD;
- Standards
- EN 1176: Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10: 2008; EN 1176: Part 11 2014 - Playground equipment & surfacing
- EN 1177:2008. Impact attenuating playground surfacing. Determination of critical fall height
- Draft standards published for EN 1176: Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6: 2014
- PD CEN/TR 16396:2012. Replies to requests for interpretation of EN 1176:2008 and its parts
- PD CEN/TR 16467:2013. Playground equipment accessible for all children
- PD CEN/TR 16598:2014. Collection of rationales for EN 1176. Requirements

Phasing of the Project - 1

Risk and market analysis to uncover the nature of the market and the risks posed by the respective product groups. To include:

- Number of actors in the marketplace - their size and maturity
- The relative share of imported and home manufactured products
- Number of products on the market; Annual sales
- Injury statistics
- Research data,
- The results from previous JA concerning playgrounds
- Knowledge of new & emerging hazards.

Phasing of the Project - 2

Sampling criteria. Participants to decide on how the Member States shall carry out sampling.

- This phase will also includes developing checklists and/or guidelines for the Member States.

Risk Assessment. The Member States will discuss a common set of principles for risk assessment and then carry out the risk assessment for the inspected playgrounds.

Phasing of the Project - 3

Inspect playgrounds. Member States will visit playgrounds and carry out inspections in line with previously agreed guidelines. They will be coordinated and reported back to the Joint Action.

Follow-up on non-compliant playgrounds; exchange information on follow-up activities. Member States will consult the operators on the results from the risk assessments; agree on appropriate measures and ensure they are implemented

Interesting issues

- Unusually the project involves NO lab testing of the products. It is an inspection based project
- The lifetime of some items of playground equipment is circa 20-30 years. This is much greater than other products for which PROSAFE has conducted JA, e.g. fireworks 10 -60 seconds; toys 2-3 years; electrical goods 5-10 years.
- The inspection & maintenance of these products is therefore considerably more significant than for other JAs

Interesting issues - 2

- There seem to be several approaches to the Risk Assessment of playground equipment - These will need to be reviewed & a decision made on which to use
- Current issues for PROSAFE on which this JA will probably get closely involved -
Links with stakeholders; Development of standards; Education & training of inspectors; Developing & updating the documentation published in JA 2007

The Next Steps

16 June 2016 - Kick Off 1st Project Group meetings -
(open & closed)

September 2016 - 2nd Project Group meeting - 2 days -
detailed review of market in each participating MS;
decide on sampling criteria and risk assessment
methodology;

October - December 2016 - Undertake 1st inspections