

*Newsletter from PROSAFE*

## **Joint Market Surveillance Action on Consumer Products - JA2014 Successfully Launched by PROSAFE**

**PROSAFE has just launched its biggest Joint Action ever. In the coming two years, 35 market surveillance authorities from 27 EU Member States or EFTA countries will cooperate to target non-compliant products in five categories: safety barriers, LED and CFL lighting, noisy toys, fireworks and power tools.**

The Joint Action serves several purposes: Firstly, to ensure the safety of consumers by identifying and removing unsafe products from the European market. Secondly to create equal terms and a "level playing field" for business and thirdly to support and increase the free flow of goods on the European market.

The Joint Action participants come from: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The number of project beneficiaries makes this the biggest Joint Action ever coordinated by PROSAFE.

The Joint Action addresses the following 5 product categories:

- **Safety barriers**

PROSAFE repeated its priority-setting exercise on child care articles in 2013. It confirmed that safety barriers had the highest priority; one reason being that some 75 children 0-4 years of age are injured so seriously every year that they are taken to a hospital's emergency department. The main problems associated with these products are falls and entrapment of limbs or neck, choking and exposure to other hazards such as burns and poisoning. A revised European standard was published in December 2011 and one task of the Action is to examine whether the revision has resulted in a safe standard.



*The audience listens to presentations of the foreseen activities in the Joint Action*

- **LED (Light Emitting Diode) and CFL (Compact Florescent) lighting**

LED lighting (and CFLs) are some of the most efficient products that reduce the energy consumption and consequently these light sources have become popular in the recent years. However, the experience is that low quality, noncompliant and even dangerous LED lamps have been placed on the European market in high numbers. This has caused accidents and fires and it has compromised the reputation of LED lighting among the consumers. Since 2012, there have been more than 90 RAPEX notifications of LED lamps, lighting chains and tubes. In addition, many safeguard clause notifications under the LVD for LED lamps posing a risk of electric shock or fire have been made. A market surveillance project undertaken in 2013 by LVD ADCO showed that the overall nonconformity rate was very high (86% of 123 lamps did not comply with the technical or administrative requirements).

- **Noisy toys**

The activity will focus on acoustic toys or “noisy” toys. The background is that the main toy safety standard, EN71-1 was updated in 2013 when a new amendment was adopted (A2:2013 of EN 71-1, which deals with acoustic requirements for toys). This amendment classifies acoustic toys in three exposure categories depending upon the duration of the exposure:

- Category I including for example toys with headphones or earphones;
- Category II including for example rattles and squeeze toys, wind toys which are imitations of musical instruments;
- Category III including for example cap-firing toys and toy whistles.

The main risk associated with these toys is that excessive noise exposure can cause direct ear damage with noise induced hearing loss or threshold shift. There can also be indirect adverse effects linked to physiological and psychological effects as well as impaired cognition. Children are particularly vulnerable as they have a different perception of the dangers of noise and often lack the ability to control their environment.

- **Fireworks**

Fireworks accounted for 81 RAPEX notifications in the past three years, and a previous market surveillance activity undertaken as part of Joint Action 2011 identified large numbers of noncompliant products: 48% of the samples were found not to comply with the technical safety requirements or the marking requirements. This year's Joint Action purports to sample and test 190 articles in two rounds - before New Year 2016 and before New Year 2017 - partly in cooperation with customs. It also considers examining e-sales of fireworks.

- **Power tools**

This group of products comprises several subgroups, for instance drills, saws of different kinds, grinders, shears, nibblers, hammers, trimmers, screw drivers, impact wrenches and many more. The main hazards associated with power tools include cuts, electric shock, burns, flying particles, entanglement of clothing, sprains and strains, noise and vibration. There has been a significant number of RAPEX notifications in the past 5 years. The activity will address those “Power Tools” that are electrically powered, handheld (or transportable) and available in “do-it-yourself” shops. This activity will also commence a priority-setting process that can guide future activities in this product group.



*Director of Consumer Policy, DG JUST, Despina Spanou  
and PROSAFE Chairman Jan Deconinck during the JA2014 launch event*

In addition to the five product-specific activities, the Joint Action includes a number of method development activities aimed at further developing the best practices that Member States have already established under the umbrella of PROSAFE. They concern:

- The risk assessment of dangerous products;
- Developing E-learning materials for market surveillance officers throughout Europe;
- Continued Improvement of Market Surveillance by the implementation of mutual assessments between market surveillance authorities in various EU & EFTA Member States;
- Developing links between the market surveillance authorities and customs authorities, manufacturing nations and overseas regulatory authorities.

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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 - JA2014.

The Action is coordinated by PROSAFE (Product Safety), a non-profit organisation that brings together market surveillance officers from all over Europe and across the world.

Visit [www.prosafa.org](http://www.prosafa.org) to learn more.

On this website you will also find more information about Joint Action 2013 and the other Joint Actions coordinated by PROSAFE. Explore the links to "Projects" in the left-hand column.

**Disclaimer**

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