

Brussels, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012

*News from PROSAFE*

**Joint Market Surveillance Action on GPSD Products - JA 2011  
Successfully Launched by PROSAFE**

**PROSAFE has launched a new Joint Market Surveillance Action addressing lawn mowers, battery chargers, childcare articles and fireworks. In the next two years market surveillance authorities from 19 Member States will work together to sample, test and remove dangerous products in these 4 categories from the European market.**

Spring has been a busy time for PROSAFE and the representatives of 29 authorities from 19 Member States as they have launched a wide range of activities, which are part of the Joint Action 2011, or simply JA2011. This project has received 70% funding from the European Union and includes four product-specific activities and a number of method development activities aimed at developing the best practices that Member States have already established under the umbrella of PROSAFE.

The Joint Action addresses four product categories:

- Lawn mowers. These products are among the most dangerous products around the home as they are powerful, sometimes very heavy and they employ sharp cutting blades.
- Battery chargers. Most European households possess several of these for mobile phones, music players, toys, etc. Numerous RAPEX notifications from the recent years (some 25 from 2011 alone) clearly indicate that there are safety problems with some of these products.
- Childcare articles are products used for sleeping, bathing, caring etc. The prime users (babies and very young children) are completely unable to judge any risk associated with the products so they must be made to the highest safety standards. Joint Action 2011 is focusing on baby bathing products and wheeled child conveyances.
- Fireworks. Across Europe thousands of accidents are caused every year even though fireworks intended for consumers should be safe.

On top of this, the Joint Action continues the development of best practices in the following areas:

- The risk assessment of dangerous products;
- 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;
- Priority-setting to focus the authorities' resources in the optimum way;
- Establishing a 'European Lead Authority System' by preparing a protocol for the practical cooperation between European market surveillance authorities and pan-European businesses;
- 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 29 participating authorities in the Joint Market Surveillance Action on GPSD Products - JA 2011.

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.prosafe.org](http://www.prosafe.org) to learn more.

On this website you will also find more information about Joint Action 2011, the EMARS project 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 newsletter reflects only the views of the author. The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.