

Brussels, October 2019

## JA2016: Final Results Newsletter

**31 Market Surveillance Authorities from 24 European countries work jointly to keep European consumers safe.**

The **Joint Market Surveillance Action on Consumer Products 2016 (JA2016)** is a 26-month pan-European project co-funded by the European Union (EU) that focusses on consolidating and enhancing product safety through effective market surveillance on 5 target product categories across the European Economic Area (EEA). The project is coordinated by [PROSAFE - The Product Safety Forum of Europe](#), a non-profit NGO formed by market surveillance officers and based in Brussels.

The final results from the product inspections, testing and Method Development activities were presented at a 2-day open Final Conference held on 17 and 18 September in Brussels. During these two days, the participating Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) had the opportunity to discuss on the challenges and demonstrate the quantifiable impact and the achievements of the project to the benefit of the European consumer. End benefits were generated through the assessment of the risks associated with unsafe products and the respective enforcement measures taken by the participating authorities. Enforcement actions included recalls, withdrawals and sales bans of the dangerous/unsafe products.

*Photo: Day 2 Plenary of the JA2016 Final Conference*



On Day 2 of the Final Conference, participants engaged in a break-out session discussing ways to leverage the results of JA2016 and to further increase their impact. Furthermore, a Stakeholder Panel led by **Mrs Pinuccia Contino**, Head of Unit Unit E4 - Product Safety and Rapid Alert System, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission and comprised of:

- **Mr Hans Ingels**, Head of Unit B1 - Single Market Policy, Mutual Recognition and Surveillance, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission;
- **Mr Rod Freeman**, Partner at Cooley LLP;
- **Mrs Ionela-Cristina Borhan** on behalf of **Mr Vlad Marius Botoș**, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the IMCO Committee;
- **Mrs Tania Vandenberghe**, Senior Programme manager, ANEC,

reflected on the achievements of the model of Joint Actions on market surveillance since 2005 and the challenges ahead.

**In total, JA2016 sampled and inspected 756 products.**

### Caution!

The results are based on samples of products from the markets in the participating countries. As in most market surveillance activities, the results represent the targeted efforts that authorities undertake to identify unsafe products. They do not present a statistically valid picture of the situation of the whole market.

Tests were undertaken at accredited laboratories and focussed on those safety requirements that have the largest impact on consumer safety.

## Overview of findings per product category

### ► Childcare Articles - Baby carriers and cots



84 baby carriers have been tested during the Joint Action. JA2016 also provided an opportunity to verify the efficacy of the new European Cot Standard which has been introduced since the poor results obtained in JA2013 with 92% of cots tested failed the standards then in force and half were found to present a serious risk to consumers. In JA2016 round **88%** of baby carriers and **87% of cots** were found to be non-compliant. The results for cots demonstrate that the recently updated standard has not yet had time to take effect. A total of **27** products were reported in the European Commission [Safety Gate](#). By the end of the project the participating MSAs will have undertaken enforcement action on **89** products. The project concluded that the current safety standards for baby carriers are not as clear as they could be and the updated safety standard for cots is still lacking in a couple of areas.

### CONSUMER ADVICE:

In respect of **baby carriers**, the consumer should ensure that:

- The baby is kept secure in the carrier, in an upright position with their spine supported, where the parent/carer can see baby's face;
- The baby's airway must be kept clear (their chin must not rest on their chest, baby's mouth and nose must not be covered by parent's skin/clothing/ fabric of carrier).

In respect of **cots**, the consumer should ensure that:

- When using cots-products such as baby nests, duvets, pillows, loose bedding, padded cot bumpers and other items that can place soft padding close to the baby's face should be avoided as they can present suffocation and overheating hazards. Products, such as sleep positioners, wedges or straps, that will keep your baby in one sleeping position should not be used.

### ► Electrical toys



The activity has looked at the electrical safety aspects of different battery and mains powered toys. Some toys were also tested for compliance with the ROHS2 Directive that restricts the use of certain hazardous substances such as lead and cadmium. In total, JA2016 tested **238** samples according to the Electrical Toy standard and **119** for ROHS. **135 out of the 238 samples (about 58%)** had some form of non-compliance with respect to their safety.

**13 samples were found to contain a 'serious risk'** and were reported in the European Commission Safety Gate tool. **73 out of 119 samples (61%)** tested for compliance with the ROHS2 Directive were not compliant, most of which had extremely high levels of lead and/or cadmium. **66 out of the 73 non-compliant samples** were determined by the MSAs to pose a 'serious risk'.

**72 out of the 73** non-compliant samples have been notified by the MSAs through the Safety Gate tool for dangerous non-food products.

## HOW PARENTS SHOULD AVOID ACCIDENTS RELATED TO BUTTON-CELLS:

- Store button cells out of sight and reach of children.
- Try to opt for products that have a securely fastened battery compartment, especially if you have young children.
- Make sure that you securely refasten the battery compartment every time you change the button cell batteries.
- DO NOT keep your waste button cells at home. Take them to a collection point for recycling.
- DO NOT store button cells together with medication/tablets or coins.

### ► Electrical Appliances: Hair Care Products



109 samples of hairdryers, curling irons and hair straighteners have been tested. Almost 40% of the samples were taken from online retailers. Overall, **19 hairdryers (53%), 21 of curling irons (58%) and 23 of hair straighteners (62%),** as tested, were non-compliant. 44% of samples posed a low risk, 5% a medium risk, 2% a high risk and 7% posed a serious risk. The MSAs made a total of **9 Safety Gate notifications.**

In total, the MSAs recalled **3 samples,** withdrew **18 samples** from the market, and applied **sales bans for 13 samples.** The results from the document inspections show that a large amount of relevant information was omitted from user instructions which in certain circumstances might give rise to a hazard.

## CONSUMER ADVICE:

- Ensure that hair dryers, curling irons and hair straighteners are unplugged from the mains supply immediately after use;
- Allow products to cool down on any heat mats or heat proof pouch supplied with the products. Hair straighteners and curling irons reach temperatures above 200°C and may take at least 30 minutes to cool down after use, do not leave them unattended when not in use. Always seek medical attention in the event of a serious burn particularly where children are concerned, as their skin is significantly thinner than adults.
- Always read the user instructions provided and keep them for future reference.

### ► Impact drills



100 products have been sampled from online and brick and mortar shops. The testing results have shown that **14% of the samples** had one, two or more non-conformities mostly based on one or two clauses in the standard. The inspection of markings, warnings and user instructions showed that **only 53% of the samples** complied with the appropriate requirements. A number of impact drills had other non-conformities like mechanical hazards, inadequate mechanical strength failures.

**Two samples** posed serious risks (risk of electrocution due to broken enclosures), some posed medium risks (due to static stalling Torque or Slip torque of clutch mechanism failure), and some posed low risks (lock on device failure) and lacking markings, instructions or safety warnings. MSAs have taken a number of enforcement actions such as withdrawals, sales bans and recalls of the products. **One single serious risk Safety Gate notification was issued** for an impact drill that failed the mechanical strength drop test posing an electric shock hazard for the user. Detailed feedback concerning the standard has also been conveyed to the relevant CENELEC Working Group - CLC/TC 116 Safety of motor-operated electric tools.

## CONSUMER ADVICE:

- Always read users instructions and keep them for future reference.
- Wear personal protective equipment, and
- Never use an impact drill if it is damaged or has a broken body and access to the live parts is possible.

### ► PPE Climbing Equipment



Five types of climbing equipment have been inspected: **mountaineering ropes, harnesses, energy absorbing systems, connectors and helmets**. In all, **185** models have been sampled and tested. The checks on markings and documents revealed a significant number of models placed on the market without any accompanying information. This clearly increases the risk of accidents due to misuse of the equipment. In all, **102 (55%)** of the products sampled had one or more non-conformities with respect to markings or documentation. **37 models (20%)** failed one or more of the performance tests. **14 products** were considered to present a **serious risk**, **16 a high risk**, **19 a medium risk** and **10 a low risk**.

This has resulted thus far in **53 voluntary measures** to bring products into conformity, **18 voluntary product withdrawals** and **4 recalls**. In addition, the authorities have imposed **3 measures** to bring products into conformity, **withdrawn 30 products** from the market and instigated **20 recalls**. A total of **11 Safety Gate notifications** for dangerous products were made as follows: 2 for dynamic ropes, 3 for harnesses, 2 for energy absorbing systems for via ferrata climbing and 4 for helmets.

## CONSUMER ADVICE:

- Select climbing equipment appropriate to your climbing activity;
- Only accept equipment bearing the CE marking and accompanied by an information leaflet supplied by the manufacturer;
- Use the equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- Always check your equipment before setting out - discard and replace any worn or damaged equipment - your life may depend on it!

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### Background information

This information is issued by PROSAFE and the MSAs representing 24 EU/EEA countries in JA2016: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden. PROSAFE brings together market surveillance officers from all over Europe.

**Disclaimer:** This newsletter is part of the joint action 'JA2016 - GPSD' which has received funding from the European Union's Consumer Programme (2014-2020). The content of this newsletter represents the views of the author only and it is his/her sole responsibility. It cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.