

FINAL PRESS RELEASE

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The EU co-funded Joint Market Surveillance Action on Harmonised Products - JAHARP18 has come to an end.

30 recreational craft and 60 portable room heaters were tested for safety. Here are the results.

Caution!

The results are based on samples of products collected from the markets in the participating countries. As in most market surveillance activities, the results represent the **targeted efforts that authorities undertake to identify non-compliant products**. Because of that, the results of this joint action do not present a statistically valid picture of the situation of the entire market of recreational craft and portable room heaters.

[The JAHARP18 Joint Action](#) was a 34-month EU co-funded project that started in November 2019 and was completed in August 2022. Eleven Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) from 9 EU Member States cooperated to assess the safety of **30 recreational craft** and **60 portable room heaters** against the requirements of the applicable standards and Union regulations. Inspections included checks on technical documentation and laboratory testing. [PROSAFE - The Product Safety Forum of Europe](#) was the project coordinator.

The rather distressing results of the JAHARP18 inspections were discussed with the relevant industry associations and standardisation bodies during two closing events organised separately in August 2022 for each product activity.

The **Recreational Craft** working group held its final meeting in a hybrid format on **18 August 2022** in Amsterdam. The meeting was attended by 14 delegates including stakeholders. Inspection and testing results, the follow-up measures against non-compliant products, and policy recommendations on the improvement of the respective harmonised EU standards were the main themes of the agenda.

Overall, **14 inflatable boats** and **16 rigid hull craft** were tested to verify compliance with the essential requirements of Annex I.A of the Recreational Craft Directive (RCD). **The results showed that 5 of the sampled inflatable boats and 16 models of rigid hull craft failed the testing of at least one essential requirement.**

The failures detected on the inflatable craft were generally of a minor character. On the other hand, **12 out of the 16 rigid hull craft tested lacked adequate means of reboarding from the water, while 13 out of 16 failed either the crucial offset load test or the swamped flotation test or both, showing insufficient stability and/or buoyancy of the craft concerned.**

Moreover, **checks on technical documentation and markings** showed a 100% (14 samples) non-compliance rate for inflatable boats, whereas for rigid hull craft the failure rate was 88% (14 samples). Some of the non-conformities of markings and documents are essentially administrative failings. On the other hand, the large number of non-conformities with respect to the Owner's Manual, where safety-related information is missing, increases the risk of unsafe use of the craft concerned.

The MSAs continue to liaise with the concerned economic operators with regard to corrective actions.

The **Portable Room Heaters** working group organised its closing virtual event on **26 August 2022**. The meeting was attended by 9 project participants from the involved MSAs and PROSAFE and representatives of industry associations and consumers' interest/organisation.

On the day, participants analysed the final inspection and testing results, alongside enforcement actions. Specifically, **57 (95%) of the 60 products tested (convertor heaters, fan heaters, liquid-filled radiators and radiant heaters) failed the test programme** with 60% having multiple non-conformities against the standard clauses applied and the test criteria.

Conversely, **checks on technical documentation have shown an overall compliance rate of over 90%**. The absence of safety information and warnings in user instructions accounted for a significant share of these non-conformities. However, there were also serious safety concerns including insufficient protection against access to live parts, hot touchable surfaces, overheating during abnormal operation, and poor electrical insulation.

This market surveillance activity has resulted in **5 sales bans and 28 withdrawals of unsafe portable room heaters from the market**. This has not only protected the health and safety of EU consumers but also manufacturers from unfair competition because of free-riders.

The JAHARP18 Joint Action has built upon the work of several past actions coordinated by PROSAFE in the field of household electrical appliances and has laid the base for future coordinated market surveillance activities on Recreational Craft. During the years, cross-border joint actions like JAHARP18 have proved to yield significant benefits for the participating market surveillance inspectors, ranging from the exchange of knowledge and good practices to the co-creation of common approaches and shared inspection tools.


Moreover, the JAHARP18 product activities have generated policy feedback and recommendations to the European standardisation organisations, conformity assessment and notified bodies on the improvement of the relevant harmonised standards—which, in turn, should help manufacturers improve their understanding of the regulatory requirements.


JAHARP18 RCD Final Conference Photo Gallery



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Background Information: This information is issued by PROSAFE - The Product Safety Forum of Europe, a non-profit NGO formed by market surveillance officers and based in Brussels, and the 11 MSAs representing 9 EU Member States in JAHARP18: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Latvia, Malta, Portugal and Sweden. PROSAFE brings together market surveillance officers from all over Europe. Visit www.prosafe.org to learn more the other market surveillance projects coordinated by PROSAFE.

Disclaimer

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