

MULTINATIONAL EC PROJECT “JOINT ACTION ON GPSD PRODUCTS AND HARMONIZED PRODUCTS” (JA2014)

Objectives of the Joint Action

The overall programme seeks to co-ordinate the product-specific market surveillance activities in the most efficient manner and provides an opportunity for further evaluating the best practices originally developed under the two EMARS projects, JA2009, JA2010 and being applied and developed in the JA2011, JA2012 and JA2013.

Project Structure

Thirty-six Market Surveillance authorities from twenty-eight Member States and Members of the European Economic Area participate in this Joint Action. The project is coordinated and managed by PROSAFE. The project includes a number of product activities, method development activities and project management and coordination activities.

The product activities target noisy toys, child safety barriers, fireworks, power tools and LED and CFL Lighting. Each product activity will take samples of the product concerned and submit these samples to testing. Risk assessments will be carried out on the products once the test results are made available. If serious non-conformities are found out appropriate actions will be undertaken.

All states participating in the Joint Action have commitment to follow up on the results of the product testing and risk assessments. If necessary, feedback will be given to the appropriate standardisation bodies.

In addition, the activities on child care articles, toys, fireworks and power tools have some element of priority-setting identifying the products that should be addressed by future Joint actions.

The method development activities address issues such as risk assessment, CIMS (continuous improvement of national market surveillance authorities) and e-learning.

The project management and coordination activities are aimed at ensuring that adequate attention is being given to issues such as the use of best practices, cooperation with customs, outreach to producer nations and international collaboration.

The launch event is held in July 2015 by organising the first workshop, the interim results will be presented in the spring of 2016 and the final conference will be held in early 2017.

The work on this Joint Action will be closely coordinated with the other Joint Actions being managed by PROSAFE. This helps to ensure the development and practical application of best practices.

Participants

Thirty-six MS authorities of 28 EEA Member States are participating within the financial framework of the project.

Timeline

15 May 2015 to 15 July 2017

The product-specific activities are:

WP1 Management (PROSAFE)
WP2 Dissemination of Information (PROSAFE)
WP3 Risk Assessment (PROSAFE)
WP4 CIMS (MCCAA - Malta)
WP5 E-learning (MCCAA - Malta)
WP6 Child care articles - safety barriers (MDC, Greece)
WP7 Toys 3 (NVWA – NL)
WP8 LED/CFL Light Resources (Tukes Fin)
WP9 Fireworks 2 (ILT, NL)
WP10 Power tools (MIRS, Slovenia)

SAMTS participates in the following product-specific activities:

1. WP9 - Fireworks 2 (Participants: **ILT**, PROSAFE, FPSE, SAMTS, MDC, CA, ILNAS, DSB, UOKiK, IRSI)

The relevant European legislation is Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 on the placing on the market of pyrotechnic articles. The Member States were obliged to transpose the directive into national law by 4th January 2010 and to apply the provision of the directive as from 4th of July 2010 to fireworks of categories 1,2 and 3.

The 2007 Directive was the first piece of Community legislation covering fireworks. Member States had, for the first time, to deal with CE marked fireworks and the free circulation of fireworks around the European marketplace.

The primary focus of 2011 Joint Action was related to the development of best practices and exchange of experience, with the implementation of the new requirements and building up a better understanding of the European market.

The 2014 Joint Action will review how the recast Directive, 2013/29/EU, is impacting on the market and establish procedures to determine the proportion of products that are made in conformity to the 2007 Directive and the proportion that are being made to the, more onerous, 2013 Directive.

Moreover, firework testing is very expensive and special consideration has to be given to the transport of samples, an issue that presented significant problems during the 2011 Joint Action. Therefore there was a limited testing directly financed under the Joint Action. In JA2014 sufficient testing will take place to provide a platform for the exchange of experience and information and to allow the development of best practices. At the same time Member States will be encouraged to sample and test products at their own expense and share the results with the other Member States in the Joint Action.

In JA 2011 the Project Group reviewed the various types of firework defined in EN 15947, of which there are 31, and singled out five types of firework for inclusion in the market surveillance exercise. These were the types of firework, which at the time were thought to present the greatest hazard to consumers. In the meantime the fireworks market has changed significantly and it is necessary to review the current market and establish which types of firework currently present the greatest risk to consumers. This priority-setting activity will form a key aspect of the Joint Action.

The project envisages a joint market surveillance activity where the participants will carry out coordinated market surveillance in their national markets. The activity comprises 6 project meetings (including a meeting with stakeholders) and laboratory testing of an estimated 200 products. The activity will be able to benefit from the best

practices developed under JA2011 in particular with respect to the testing procedures.

The activity within JA2014 goes through the following phases, bearing in mind the need to coordinate with the New Year period or other seasons when firework use is common:

- Risk and market analysis to uncover the nature of the market and the risks posed by the product group. The analysis includes factors such as number of actors on the marketplace, their sizes and maturity, the relative share of import and manufacturing, number of products on the market, annual sales, injury statistics, research data, results from previous activities and knowledge of emerging hazards.
- Identify sampling criteria. The participants will decide on how the Member States shall carry out sampling. This phase also includes developing of checklists and/or guidelines for the Member States.
- Sample products. The Member States will visit manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers to sample products. This will be coordinated and reported back to the Joint Action.
- Testing products at a laboratory. This includes the organisation of the testing.
- Risk assessment. The Member States will discuss a common set of principles for risk assessment and then carry out the risk assessment for the sampled products.
- Follow-up on non-compliant products and exchange of information on follow-up activities. The Member State authorities will consult the economic operators on the results from the risk assessment, and agree on appropriate measures and follow-up that these are followed through.

Main results expected from the JA2014 in relation to the fireworks

Deliverables:

- Planning of activities (Detailed approach to market surveillance activities, memo from kick-off & planning meeting.)
- Project meetings (Minutes of 5 project meetings)
- Tools for market surveillance (Guideline for exchange of information, sampling schemes, checklist)
- Organisation of laboratory testing (List of test criteria, letter to laboratories with call for tender, list of replies and evaluation of quotations, contract with laboratory)
- Market surveillance (Statistics on market surveillance activities, memo with description of follow-up activities, final technical report from fireworks activity).

2. WP10 - Power tools (Participants: **MIRS**, PROSAFE, SAMTS, MINGO, CTI, Tukes, ROGA, CRPC, ILNAS, MCCA, UOKiK, ASAE, STI)

The participants will carry out coordinated market surveillance in their national markets. The project activities comprise 6 project meetings (including a meeting with stakeholders), testing of an estimated 60 products and risk assessment, with the results being presented at the final conference of the Joint Action.

One of the main objectives of the activity is to draw up a priority list. This is necessary as the scope of this product sector is far too broad for a single product activity.

One product group will be selected for sampling and testing within the framework of JA2014 and the others can be addressed in future Joint Actions.

The work will of course be closely coordinated with the groups working on standards concerning Power tools. The Joint Action will support the work with the definition and checking of the test methods, the reproducibility of the tests, etc.

The activity will go through the following phases:

- Risk and market analysis to uncover the nature of the market and the risks posed by the product group. The analysis includes factors such as number of actors on the marketplace, their sizes and maturity, the relative share of import and manufacturing, number of products on the market, annual sales, injury statistics, research data, results from previous activities and knowledge of emerging hazards.
- Identify sampling criteria. The participants will decide on how the Member States shall carry out sampling. This phase also includes developing of checklists and/or guidelines for the Member States.
- Sample products. The Member States will visit manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers to sample products. This will be coordinated and reported back to the Joint Action.
- Test products at a laboratory. This includes the organisation of the testing.
- Risk assessment. The Member States will discuss a common set of principles for risk assessment and then carry out the risk assessment for the sampled products.
- Follow-up on non-compliant products and exchange of information on follow-up activities. The Member State authorities will consult the economic operators on the results from the risk assessment, and agree on appropriate measures and follow-up that these are followed through.

Main results expected from the JA2014 in relation to the power tools

Deliverables:

- Planning of activities (Detailed approach to market surveillance activities, memo from kick-off & planning meeting.)
- Project meetings (Minutes from 5 project meetings)
- Tools for market surveillance (Guideline for exchange of information, sampling schemes, checklist)
- Organisation of laboratory testing (List of test criteria, letter to laboratories with call for tender, list of replies and evaluation of quotations, contract with laboratory)
- Market surveillance (Statistics on market surveillance activities, memo with description of follow-up activities, final technical report from power tools activity.)