

JAHARP2020-1 - First Newsletter

24 Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) from 20 European countries work jointly to keep European consumers safe.

Geographical Scope of JAHARP2020-1



24 Market Surveillance Authorities from 20 European Member States

How safe are your products?

JAHARP2020-1 performed documentary checks and tests on consumer products to assess their safety and compliance with the European legislation. We are investigating 26 gas cooking hobs, and the Specific Absorption Rate of 30 models of connected portable devices. Also, we are preparing a harmonised approach to evaluate the administrative requirements for 6 product-related Directives. All non-compliant products would require follow-up measures by the European Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs).



The JAHARP2020-1 is a 24-month pan-European Triplet Project co-funded by the European Union (EU). Its strategic objective is threefold: (i) to raise the level of market surveillance; (ii) to facilitate the application of the new Market Surveillance Regulation (EU) 2019/1020; and (iii) to increase the capability of the European MSAs. 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.

Caution! The results described stem from samples of products from the markets in the participating countries. As in most market surveillance activities, the results represent the targeted efforts that MSAs undertake to identify unsafe products. This means that the detected non-compliance rate does 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 the state of play per working group

→ Gas cooking hobs and hot plates



Cooking hobs and hot plates imply several hazards, such as fire, burns from accessible hot surfaces, injuries from leakage of gas or mechanical risks, and CO (carbon monoxide) associated with the combustion process. Seen the hazards and risks, the project group has chosen to verify the compliance and safety of these home appliances. Up to now, the group inspected the documentation for 28 products (i.e., declaration of conformity, type approval certificates, and proof for production control) - with 85% of them having incorrect or incomplete documentation. Based on this preliminary screening, the group identified **26 samples** to send further to an accredited test laboratory. The laboratory found that **all products** out of the 13 that have been examined *so far* present administrative non-compliances (e.g., marking errors, errors in the user instructions, etc.), and **7** pose possible technical issues that would make the product unsafe. The testing of the remaining 13 products will continue in the next months. The group will also develop risk assessment scenarios for the non-compliances detected.

→ Harmonised Approach to Evaluation of Administrative Requirements



Insufficient harmonization of the administrative checks leads to several adverse effects, including legal uncertainty for the economic operators who would be faced with different interpretations or applications of the requirements from one Member State to another. To bridge the gaps in the assessment of the documentary requirements, the participants **covered 6 EU pieces of legislation (RED, LVD, EMC, GAR, TPED, and PED)** and prepared **12 cases** on the following product types: a two-way radio, two pumps, two safety valves, a cylinder valve, a multiple socket outlet, a microwave oven, a surveillance camera, a gas bottle, a gas heater, and a gas hob. As a first step, participating MSAs encode each case in the applicable Directive Related Product Information (DRPI) in ICSMS. Then, the group analyses if the information is encoded in the same way in ICSMS (e.g., identification of the product, or manufacturer's name). Next, the group highlights possible differences and proposes corrective actions. The participants already finalized the harmonized assessment for the Radio Equipment Directive (RED) and the main takeaway was that if undertaken with the ADCO group engagement, all MSAs are committed to deliver the results. The analysis of the cases from the other directives is ongoing. In the meantime, the project will collect tooltips and precise guidance (e.g., a guidance document for ADCOs to help them set up "Round Robin exercises") to enhance the quality of the data encoded in ICSMS.

→ SAR Measurements on Connected Portable Devices



SAR is an index measuring the rate of Radio Frequency (RF) Energy absorbed by the human body when close to a RF source. When SAR is too high, there may be side effects to health. The scope of this action is to increase the safety of consumers by measuring the SAR for several types of devices such as tablets, headphones, smartphones, and, exceptionally, smartwatches for children. A screening task was undertaken on **249 models** identified by the 7 MSAs. This desk research allowed to establish a shortlist of **30 models to test**. Different criteria were used to elaborate this shortlist, e.g., the number of times the device has been cited by different MSAs, the price, and the brand. The project group has recently selected an accredited laboratory to conduct the prepared test programme that will establish the maximum SAR values for each equipment. The sampling process and the documentary checks began with products being shipped to the lab momentarily. Testing will take place in January-February 2023.

Communication and Outreach

PROSAFE's web portal www.prosafe.org and social media ([Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) keep the target audiences regularly updated with news on the project progress thanks to effective communication complemented by infographics and visuals. The status of the activities was also communicated on other channels, e.g., presentations at the TPED AdCo group meeting on 10 June 2021 and at the PROSAFE General Assembly organised on 31 May 2022.

Contact us:

Ioana Sandu, Executive Director, **PROSAFE Office**, Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 41, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32 2 8080 996, info@prosafe.org / www.prosafe.org, @PROSAFE_ORG