



INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT SAFETY WEEK 2016

Agenda



Product Safety Alerts and Recalls: Boost the use!

16 November 2016, 14:00-18:00

Charlemagne Building
Alcide de Gasperi Room
Rue de la Loi 170,
B-1000 Brussels

The workshop brings stakeholders together to discuss how to improve the use and impact of product safety alerts. It will also explore how to better target the different interest groups. In Europe, the website of the Rapid Alert System (RAPEX) is the main source of information on measures taken on unsafe consumer products.

The workshop will consider experiences across sectors and jurisdictions as well as cooperation between authorities and product safety stakeholders with the aim of reducing the number of unsafe products on the market.

14:00 – 14:10

OPENING

Despina Spanou, Director for Consumers,
Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission

14:10 - 15:20

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

**INTRODUCTION PANEL ON HOW TO MAKE BETTER USE OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE
INFORMATION ON PRODUCT SAFETY RECALLS / ALERTS**

Moderator:

Thomas Zerdick, Acting Head of Unit, Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit,
Directorate-General Justice and Consumers, European Commission

Speakers:

Richard W. O'Brien, Director, Office of International Programs, U. S. Consumer Product
Safety Commission

Pipsa Korkkolainen, Senior Officer - Consumer Products, Finnish Safety and Chemicals
Agency

Romain Codron, Julienne Barenne, Legal advisers, Decathlon

15:35 - 16:45

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

Participants can choose one of the break-out sessions to discuss how the impact of public product safety alerts can be boosted.

IMPROVING THE INFORMATION FLOW ABOUT UNSAFE PRODUCTS:

1. From businesses to consumers

The alerts (on voluntary measures, in particular) tend to appear much more quickly on media and on other websites and blogs than on the RAPEX listings. Given the current legal framework, how could this be improved? How can consumers be better informed about product recalls?

2. From authorities to businesses and consumers

The current look and content of the web publication of RAPEX alerts and product safety information is not targeted to specific user groups (businesses or consumers). What would consumers need to see as relevant information? What would businesses need? Could there be solutions to target both?

3. From businesses to market surveillance authorities

Why businesses use or don't use the Business Application? How can the Business Application better meet businesses' needs? How to improve cooperation on risk assessment? Is the dialogue following the notification effective?

16:45 - 17:10

Coffee break

17:10 - 17:45

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

LOOKING AHEAD: IMPROVING SAFETY OF PRODUCTS AND RECALL EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH BETTER INFORMATION SHARING

Moderator:

Thomas Zerdick, Acting Head of Unit, Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit, Directorate-General Justice and Consumers, European Commission

Reporting from break-out sessions and further discussion on how to increase the impact of available information on product safety recalls

17:45 - 18:00

CLOSING REMARKS AND LAUNCH OF THE STAKEHOLDERS PLATFORM

Despina Spanou, Director for Consumers, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission

*The "GPSD Business Application" is an online application established by the European Commission to facilitate businesses' obligation to notify Member States' competent authorities of dangerous products recalled from the EU market. Businesses can use this application to submit their notifications on dangerous products to national authorities. Using this application, they can also notify chosen Member States at the same time.

The application is accessible via <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/gpsd-ba/>