

**Report on the Member States reviews and assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities for the 2010-2013 period pursuant to Article 18(6) of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008**

**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

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Information on activities in other product sectors can be find on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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***Belgium***

**FPS Economy – DG Quality and Safety E6**

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	7	4	1	2
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	0	0	0	0
3.	Number of inspections (total number)				
3.1	number of reactive inspections	28	36	32	34
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	46	20	76	2
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	1	0	2	9
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	40	17	71	0
4.2	physical checks of products	56	25	83	13
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	46	23	70	12
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators (“voluntary measures”)	46	21	69	12
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	0	2	1	0
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties				
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	1		1	

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

After each inspection campaign a report is drawn up. The results of inspection campaigns are published in a press release and the report is shown on the website, e.g. [http://economie.fgov.be/nl/consument/Securite\\_consommateur/veiligheidsvestjes/](http://economie.fgov.be/nl/consument/Securite_consommateur/veiligheidsvestjes/). Explanations or presentations are given regularly at study days or seminars organised in collaboration with stakeholders. In the same way, market surveillance and PPE regulations are explained at ESF (European Safety Federation) study days and at European PPE seminars.

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**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)				
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (% age of total national budget)				
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	0.75	1	1	1
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)				

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

On the basis of a market study of the sector for 2009, which included PPE for work use, the total Belgian market was estimated at +/- EUR 172 million, the top three items being protective clothing, hand protection and respiratory protection.

The distribution channels for PPE are generally assessed to be as follows, in declining order of size: specialist distributors (> 60%), technical trade, direct sale by the manufacturer, textile services (industrial laundries), DIY distributors and other channels.

Most types of PPE are not manufactured in Belgium; the products are therefore mainly from other European Member States or countries outside the EU. However it is difficult to estimate proportions from inside and outside the EU, given that even production in the EU by 'European' manufacturers is steadily declining. A few sales establishments (sometimes European headquarters) of foreign manufacturers (e.g. 3M, Honeywell, Ansell) are based in Belgium.

A number of protective clothing manufacturers are based in Belgium (estimated at 30), but only a limited number actually manufacture in Belgium.

As regards distributors, there are estimated to be 20 larger specialist importers and wholesalers who therefore sell to larger industrial users. Retailers specialising in safety probably number around 200. Provided that sufficient resources are available, the aim is for PPE inspections to be organised (at least) once a year. Various factors are taken into consideration in the planning of inspection campaigns, including the number of incidents, number of notifications (RAPEX, complaints, etc.), and other miscellaneous information from our stakeholders.

In 2010-2013 market surveillance inspections were carried out on safety jackets, cycle helmets and hearing protectors. In view of the heavy workload in dealing with the 2012 cases, the campaign planned for 2013 (work gloves) was postponed until 2014. Those types of PPE are very common and are used both by private consumers and in the workplace. In inspecting the products, every effort is

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made to obtain as representative a picture of the market as possible and to inspect both the retail and the specialist technical trades.

Since that work is done with a limited team of market surveillance inspectors for that field, we are satisfied with the results. Dealing with a case (obtaining documents, inspection, conducting a risk assessment and contacts with the operators concerned, who do not necessarily agree with our findings, inputting data into databases, etc.) is time-consuming. It is not unusual for that to take several months. If the manufacturer exercises its right to a second opinion it can even take longer, since the laboratories concerned are then involved in the discussion.

The dialogue with economic operators is objective and constructive, as is shown by the high percentage of corrective measures undertaken voluntarily by operators after contact with our inspectors.

Cooperation with customs and preventive blocking of non-compliant PPE at the border could be stepped up.

**FPS Economy – DG Economic Inspection E7**

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints				
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition				
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	7 (not including RAPEX)	9 (not including RAPEX)	179	100
3.1	number of reactive inspections	n.a.	n.a.	96	97
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	7	9	83	3
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs				
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories				
4.2	physical checks of products				
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance				
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")				

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
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		2010	2011	2012	2013
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities			17 warnings	
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties				
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate				

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

No information

***Bulgaria***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	4	9	2	-
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	233	1155	163	890
3.1	number of reactive inspections	19	797	37	94
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	214	358	126	796
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs <sup>1</sup>	86	203	144	49
4	Number of inspections based on:	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
4.2	physical checks of products	233	1155	163	890
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				

<sup>1</sup> Products in sectors 4, 7, 8, 9, 18 and 19 were reported cumulatively because there was no requirement to report them separately during the relevant period. For this reason, the above numbers were not added to the numbers listed in points 3 and 4.2 of the table.

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		2010	2011	2012	2013
5.1	finding of non-compliance	85	658	117	141
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	80	302	53	124
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	1	6	5	15
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	9	7	4	42
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

The results of checks conducted on personal protective equipment during the reporting period were made available to the public through the media and information published on the website of the State Agency for Metrological and Technical Supervision (DAMTN).

With a view to improving consumers' and economic operators' knowledge of personal protective equipment and facilitating the achievement of compliance, DAMTN has published all the materials relating to suspended products, photos and detailed descriptions of cases of non-compliance identified.

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	653 072	649 252	650 465	608 490
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (% age of total national budget)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	75	75	75	75
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	25	25	25	25

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Personal protective equipment (PPE) produced in Bulgaria accounts for no more than 15 % of the quantities placed on the market. This is mainly protective clothing, and only occasionally belongs to the third category. In Bulgaria there are no experts capable of assessing the conformity of these products, which is a significant problem for their manufacturers. The products are imported predominantly from China and only occasionally from other countries. The percentage of PPEs supplied by EU-based economic operators has been increasing.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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As a result of the ever greater cooperation with customs authorities, the number of PPEs without conformity marking has significantly decreased.

***Czech Republic***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	-	-	6	13
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	-	-	1	5
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	395	504	408	276
3.1	number of reactive inspections	46	155	114	70
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	349	349	294	206
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	-	-	-	-
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	-	-	-	-
4.2	physical checks of products	395	504	408	276
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	201	220	175	143
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	-	-	-	-
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	-	-	-	-
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	201	211	178	119
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	2	2	2	2

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
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		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (% age of total national budget)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	See sector 1	See sector 1	See sector 1	See sector 1
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	See sector 1	See sector 1	See sector 1	See sector 1

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

The Czech Trade Inspection Authority inspects manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers and distributors of personal protective equipment in the Czech Republic to determine whether it meets all technical requirements laid down by relevant applicable legislation.

In 2011–2013, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority participated in the international PROSAFE surveillance action for protective clothing – high visibility warning clothing for non-professional use and warning accessories for non-professional use.

The Czech Trade Inspection Authority works closely with other national bodies and other EU Member States' surveillance authorities in the field of personal protective equipment, as well as with notified bodies. The Czech Trade Inspection Authority regularly attends meetings of the PPE ADCO international working group. In its work, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority also provides on-demand information to consumers and manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers and distributors of personal protective equipment in Czech Republic.

Problems that the Czech Trade Inspection Authority encounters most frequently in the market surveillance of personal protective equipment in the Czech Republic:

- A product is classified as personal protective equipment by the manufacturer. However, there are many products on the market which meet the definition of personal protective equipment, but which the manufacturer has not defined as such. In other words, the product need not meet the requirements of harmonised standards, e.g. dry gloves designed as dry-suit accessories for underwater use by divers, where the user breathes underwater and the suit prevents the water from entering the breathing apparatus (i.e. category-two personal protective equipment), have not been given the CE marking and have not been PPE-classified by the manufacturer.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
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***Denmark***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	5	5	4	2
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	6	3	2	2
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	28	58	22	21
3.1	number of reactive inspections	13	20	8	7
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	15	38	14	14
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	0	0	0	0
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	0	0	0	0
4.2	physical checks of products <sup>2</sup>	21	38	20	9
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	19	19	18	7
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	14	12	12	5
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	0	4	4	0
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	0	0	0	0
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	0	0	0	0

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

In addition to its control activities, the Danish Working Environment Authority has responded to some enquiries from economic operators concerning the rules and standards. A number of information meetings aimed at economic operators have also been held.

Owing to the replacement of colleagues in areas covered by the Danish Transport Authority in 2012, this sticks out as a 'dead' period. Many of the activities from 2011 were also being dealt with well into 2012, so there was some use of resources.

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<sup>2</sup> Danish Transport Authority: usually equal to point 3 minus RAPEX cases, which are not subjected to physical or other checks, since this is done by the reporting authority.

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**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	201 000	220 000	198 800	200 500
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (% age of total national budget)	0.00029%	0.00032%	0.00028%	0.00029%
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	1.80	1.90	1.80	1.80
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	1.20	1.30	1.20	1.20

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Danish Working Environment Authority:

During this period, the Danish Working Environment Authority has conducted proactive inspections in relation to welding gloves, chemical gloves, flotation vests/buoyancy equipment, and high-visibility clothing. A number of reactive cases have also been handled as the result of complaints, Rapex notifications, etc.

The impact of the market surveillance varies somewhat, depending on the product area:

- The initiative relating to welding gloves have had a good impact. The Danish Working Environment Authority became aware that there were gloves on the market that had not been type-tested. An information letter was written to all known suppliers, who largely stopped marketing the products in question (approximately 50-60 product types) on a voluntary basis. The letter was subsequently followed up with control visits. There are a limited number of suppliers that supply welding gloves for professional use, and it was therefore possible to achieve a great impact on the market.
- The initiative relating to buoyancy equipment has had a limited impact. The market is characterised by many small importers and distributors who sell directly to individuals and sports clubs, and individual suppliers have small volumes. The products are often imported from China. A case against one supplier has therefore had a very limited impact on the whole.

It takes some time to investigate Rapex notifications, but we do not often find the products in the Danish market. Market surveillance in this area is impeded by the fact that there are false documents from China. A very nice EC type-test certificate is supplied with them, but the product is not consistent with the type-tested product. It is rarely possible to see this during a visual inspection, and it would be expensive to test a large number of products where there is no specific suspicion of non-compliance.

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In addition to this, the Danish Working Environment Authority would like to remark that documents from China often appear to be misleading to suppliers who are unfamiliar with them, even if there are no false/illegal documents. Test certificates are often called ‘Certificate of conformity’, which the suppliers confuse with a proper Declaration of Conformity, so they believe that everything is in order.

Danish Transport Authority:

In general, the Danish Transport Authority has come to have a sharper focus on the area of personal protective equipment, and we have started to work together with the Danish Working Environment Authority, with which we share this sector.

Fortunately, this is not an area characterised by accidents or consumer complaints, but it is an area (primarily in relation to reflector products) characterised by grey areas and large quantities of cheap products from third countries, so there is a need for more information regarding the rules and pitfalls for the retail trade.

<i><b>Germany</b></i>
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**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

No information

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

No information

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
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***Estonia***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

<b>Surveillance activities in numbers</b>	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total number of inspections	421	390	295	337
Number of notices sent by the Tax and Customs Board	6	9	13	18
Total number of products inspected <sup>3</sup>	477	337	448	406
Number of products tested	26	31	0	0

<b>Results of surveillance activities</b>	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of non-compliant products <sup>4</sup>	28	15	20	41
Number of products presenting a serious risk <sup>5</sup>	0	10	0	0

<b>Measures applied<sup>6</sup></b>	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of memos	7	1	0	0
Number of orders	1	5	12	12
Number of penalty payments and total amount	0	0	0	0
Number of substitutive enforcements	0	0	0	0
Number of misdemeanour procedures	0	0	0	0
Fines imposed as part of a misdemeanour procedure	0	0	0	0

<b>Products withdrawn from the market</b>	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total number of products withdrawn from the market	16	14	18	8

<sup>3</sup> Only the total number of products inspected by the Health Board is available. For the Consumer Protection Board, only data from 2011 are available – the total number of products inspected was 1 755.

<sup>4</sup> For the Consumer Protection Board, only the number of non-compliant products out of the products tested is available.

<sup>5</sup> The Labour Inspectorate does not maintain any records.

<sup>6</sup> For the Consumer Protection Board, only the number of memos is available.

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Number of products recalled from consumers	0	5	0	0
Number of voluntary measures taken by economic operators	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

In the period under review, the Labour Inspectorate has not carried out any joint projects on market surveillance with other authorities, but cooperation has started with the Consumer Protection Board. Joint surveillance is conducted at retail traders of personal protective equipment with an aim to harmonise the requirements imposed on distributors of products, improve the exchange of information between authorities and make the surveillance sample more efficient.

In 2011, the Labour Inspectorate organised a national ad hoc inspection of personal protective equipment in the working environment of 200 companies, where employees used personal protective equipment. The inspection involved, inter alia, checking the existence of labelling on personal protective equipment, its conformity with the requirements and the existence of user manuals. Nonconformities concerning labelling on personal protective equipment used were detected in five companies. When an infringement was established, this was followed by finding out the distributor of the personal protective equipment.

In 2012, the Consumer Protection Board participated in the Baltic Sea cooperation project (Baltic Sea Market Surveillance Network – Continuation of Cooperation with Customs Authorities) within which the Board cooperated with the Tax and Customs Board in respect of inspecting the conformity of sunglasses with the requirements. The aim of the project was to make cooperation with the customs more efficient and improve it, as well as to exchange information.

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

No information

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
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***Ireland***

**National Consumer Agency<sup>7</sup>**

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	8	5	16	3
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	-	-	-	-
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	8	5	16	3
3.1	number of reactive inspections	See 3.3 below	See 3.3 below	See 3.3 below	See 3.3 below
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	-	1 (not limited to PPE)	3 (not limited to PPE)	9 (not limited to PPE)
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
4.2	physical checks of products	n.a.	Representative items from customs consignments were visually and physically checked		
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	n.a.	1 customs consignment	3 customs consignment & RSA high Vis vests	9 customs consignment
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

<sup>7</sup> The Agency is unable to provide detailed statistical information in relation to enforcement activities as detailed in this section as the data relating to complaints, investigations and inspections is not recorded by the Agency in a comparable format and the Agency is not in a position to devote to detailed statistical analysis of this data at this time.

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		2010	2011	2012	2013
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	n.a.	1 customs consignment not limited to PPE	3 customs consignment destroyed (not limited to PPE) and RSA high-vis vests recalled from consumers & destroyed by manufacturer	9 customs consignment destroyed (not limited to PPE)
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	0	0	0	0

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

The National Consumer hosts and operates 2 websites as follows:

1. Agency Corporate focused Website – <http://corporate.nca.ie/eng/>. This website provided information and guidance relating to business and corporate product safety issues including information on the role of the Agency as Ireland's market surveillance authority for safety of products covered by the EU Directives, product safety guidelines and responsibilities for businesses and related Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), links to specific sectoral information, RAPEX weekly summary reports, Product Safety recalls, Press Releases and links to relevant the Irish legislation containing the transposed legislation.
2. General consumer focused website at <http://www.consumerhelp.ie/> with information on the role of the Agency as Ireland's market surveillance authority for safety of products covered by the EU Directives, enforcement of product safety legislation, investigation of complaints about unsafe products alerting consumers about unsafe products by posting product recalls and RAPEX notifications detailing all product recalls that have taken place in the European Union and general information for consumers.

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

The National Consumer Agency (NCA) is the statutory body established by the Irish Government in to enforce consumer law and promote consumer rights with responsibility for market surveillance in respect of the safety of a wide range of non-food consumer products. Our role in relation to product safety includes enforcing product safety legislation, investigating complaints about unsafe products, carrying out surveillance activities, alerting consumers about unsafe products, advising manufacturers,

Information on activities in other product sectors can be find on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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suppliers, retailers and their representative bodies about their responsibilities and managing Ireland's input to the EU product safety rapid alert system, RAPEX

National Consumer Agency has prepared and submitted to the Commission the National Sector Specific Market Surveillance Programme 2010 -2011 and the National Sector Specific Market Surveillance Programme 2012 – 2013.

2010 – Market Surveillance of Swimming Armbands - the Agency carried out a market surveillance of Swimming Armbands to determine compliance with the relevant standard and the Personal Protective Equipment Directive. Six Authorised Officers visited 34 outlets and purchased 49 sets of armbands for subsequent examination. A variety of technical issues became apparent and were taken up by the Agency at EU level with a view to seeking a uniform approach by member states.

2012 – Market Surveillance of Hurling Helmets - In 2012 the Agency carried out an investigation into the safety of hurling helmets to ensure that they complied with the requirements of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Directive which involved engagement with all the major manufacturers and suppliers of hurling helmets in Ireland and also with the Gaelic Athletic Association authorities. The Agency investigation concluded that all sizes and models of helmets sold by the companies did comply with the relevant safety requirements. However during the investigation it came to the Agency's attention that in some cases faceguards were being "customised" either directly by players or on their behalf, by removing some of the protective bars in order to improve the field of vision and the Agency communicated with the relevant manufacturers and suppliers of these faceguards to ensure that all hurling helmet components complied with the requirements of the PPE Directive and had the CE mark, which attests that it conforms to the PPE Directive.

In early 2012 the Agency was informed by the Road Safety Authority (RSA) of a safety issue with high visibility vests which they had distributed free of charge to consumers in Ireland. The vests were independently tested on behalf of the RSA and failed to meet the minimum retro-reflective requirements of the relevant standards. At that time, the RSA had distributed in excess of 200,000 vests, with a further 150,000 remaining in stock. Following a comprehensive investigation, which included consultation with the European Commission, independent experts and other market surveillance authorities in Europe, the Agency concluded that the vests did not comply with the basic health and safety requirements of the PPE directive. In the circumstances, the supplier company voluntarily agreed to destroy 150,000 vests in stock. In addition, the Chinese manufacturer informed the Agency that it had changed its supplier of retro-reflective tape, that it has undertaken to make significant changes to its production process and commissioned an independent audit of the company and a replacement programme for the vests already distributed was implemented in 2013.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)



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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

**Health & Safety Authority**

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints				
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	0	0	0	0
3.	Number of inspections (total number)			21	
3.1	number of reactive inspections				
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections			21	
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs			0	
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories				
4.2	physical checks of products			21	
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance			4	
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")				
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities			4	
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties			0	
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate				

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

Guidance on PPE on HSA website including reference to CE marking. In 2013 Ireland launched a RAPEX alert on a brand of lifejacket following a voluntary recall by the manufacturer.

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

The priority for the HSA during this period has been to ensure the provision and use of PPE at the workplace.

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Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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There is concern over supply of “nuisance” dust masks which are not CE marked and could be worn in the mistaken belief about level of protection provided. Ireland has raised this issue at the PPE ADCO Committee.

***Greece***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	-	-	-	-
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	-	-	-	-
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	10	19	26	42
3.1	number of reactive inspections	2	2	1	1
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	2	3	3	4
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	-	-	1	1
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	1	-	-	-
4.2	physical checks of products	-	-	-	-
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	7	5	3	2
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators (“voluntary measures”)	6	3	3	2
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	-	1	-	-
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	-	1	-	-
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	-	-	-	-

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

- Creation of an implementation guide for PPE (posted on the General Secretariat for Industry's website).
- Information circulars relating to PPE are sent to stakeholders and posted on the General Secretariat for Industry's website.
- Training of officials by Customs.
- Training of inspectors for the register of inspectors in the context of market surveillance.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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Individual update on developments is given to those checked during the department's on-the-spot inspections.

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	The annual budget for resources and training related to the General Secretariat for Industry's entire market surveillance operation (for this purpose rows 7.1 and 7.2 have not been completed, which exclusively relate to PPE)			
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (%age of total national budget)				
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	2	2	2	2
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	5	5	5	5

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

During the period 2010-2013, 97 on-the spot checks of PPE (around 270 products inspected) were performed on a vast number of business operators (manufacturers, importers and distributors). The majority of on-the-spot checks were carried out on distributors, and priority is given to the checking of importers (repeated checks are carried out on Greece's main importers in order to ensure the highest possible quality of imports into the country). Checks were carried out on a small number of manufacturers because there are not many PPE manufacturers in Greece. A much smaller number of checks, mainly as part of a training exercise, were carried out by the department in customs offices/entry points of products into Greece (in cooperation with Customs).

Note that while the number of checks performed is gradually increasing (10 checks in 2010, 19 in 2011, 26 in 2012 and 42 in 2013), the number of cases of non-compliance is decreasing (7 in 2010, 5 in 2011, 3 in 2012 and 2 in 2013), which leads to the conclusion that market surveillance checks have contributed significantly to achieving the desired result of removing non-compliant products from the market.

In the first few months after the start of operation of the Directorate's inspection teams, the market in general has been normalised as far as compliance with PPE safety standards is concerned, especially in the higher risk categories (e.g. Categories II, III). There is increasing compliance with the requirements of the Directive concerning markings, etc. and there was no reason for imposing a fine in the cases inspected. Minor problems (e.g. translations into Greek, etc.) continue to be observed in PPE Category I (low risk category). With a view to aligning with other EU Member States' practices of imposing sanctions, the Directorate brought these findings to the attention of the European PPE Working Group at the meetings it attends in Brussels, from which it emerged that no sanctions

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
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procedure was recommended in the cases in question. Fines were not imposed in these cases, but bans on the movement of products were put into effect and products destroyed.

The Directorate is continuing to check PPE within the time frame and is also extending checks to new PPE categories. The Directorate also provides advisory services on these subjects to other State departments/bodies, as happened recently with Customs.

***Spain***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

No information

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

No information

***France***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	32	4	20	4
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	12	2	4	1
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	391	992	533	460
3.1	number of reactive inspections	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	number of products tested	122	156	48	42

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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		2010	2011	2012	2013
4.2	physical checks of products	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	54	190	149	63
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	4	11	24	25
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	2	10	2	10
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	400 000	1 000 000	600 000	400 000
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	6	12	10	6
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	5	11	9	5

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

No information

*Croatia*

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

No information

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

No information

<i>Italy</i>
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**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	6	78	39	18
3.1	number of reactive inspections	0	0	1	0
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	6	78	38	18
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	2	9	2	5
4.2	physical checks of products	6	78	39	18
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	3	18	2	7
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

The performance of market surveillance activities is often hampered by the lack of traceability information and by the serious lack of - especially financial - resources. These budgetary constraints have limited the number of pro-active inspections.

*Cyprus*

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints				
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition				
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	19	8	44	12
3.1	number of reactive inspections				
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections				
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs				
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories				
4.2	physical checks of products				
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance				
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")				
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities				
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties				
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate				

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Market surveillance is carried out proactively on the basis of a national initiative, as set out in the national market surveillance programme for personal protective equipment, including initiatives implemented by the AdCo Working Group for conducting campaigns aiming to ensure the uniform application of the relevant legislation in the Member States. Moreover, following posts on RAPEX or other European information networks, investigations are carried out on specific establishments or importers that may be placing defective personal protective equipment on the market.

Due to the extensive use of certain types of personal protective equipment (e.g. sunglasses and swimming goggles), there is frequent contact with the customs authorities about the checks on personal protective equipment of this type which is imported into Cyprus. Furthermore, the departments of the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism that are responsible for the protection and rights of consumers, forward any complaints relating to personal protective equipment that are not exclusively work-related. Moreover, the fact that the Department of Labour Inspection has access to workplaces allows for carrying out on-the-spot checks for personal protective equipment that is placed on the market and, subsequently, if a non-conformity is identified, contacting the manufacturer/importer/seller.

Market surveillance includes checking the markings affixed on the accompanying documentation and contacting notified bodies (as appropriate). Non-conforming products are withdrawn from the market or destroyed by the importer/seller on a voluntary basis.

There are no notified bodies in this sector in Cyprus.

***Latvia***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	108	43	87	74
3.1	number of reactive inspections	0	0	0	0
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	98	33	63	36
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	10	10	24	38
4	Number of inspections based on:				

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)



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		2010	2011	2012	2013
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	21	4	8	14
4.2	physical checks of products	108	43	87	74
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	51	21	29	35
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	41	10	8	11
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	10	11	21	24
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	9	7	23	1
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Administrative checks of goods, the compliance assessment procedure of which does not envisage the participation of a third party (for example, Category 1 personal protective equipment, etc.), fail to provide assurance of their compliance with the requirements. As a result of market surveillance, a conclusion has been drawn that, irrespective of the fact that no irregularities were found during the administrative checks (the goods have documents certifying their compliance, testing reports are available), the results of expertise show that more than half of these goods fail to meet the safety requirements.

***Lithuania***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

No information

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

No information

***Luxembourg***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

No information

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Surveillance was carried out sporadically in sales outlets. These inspections comprised visual inspections of labelling and the documentation provided. In 2011, a campaign was launched to check high visibility vests and other attire, including laboratory tests. Findings: Around 60% of products were not compliant, in terms of either their labelling or their documentation. The market is developing at a very fast pace and, in most cases, the products were no longer being placed on the market by the manufacturers. The other manufacturers took corrective measures.

***Hungary***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	7	7	3	2
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	0	0	0	0
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	298	233	109	87
3.1	number of reactive inspections	11	53	23	25

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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		2010	2011	2012	2013
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	285	176	83	50
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	2	4	3	12
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	0	7	0	0
4.2	physical checks of products	359	262	111	135
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	209	69	15	49
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	1	2	2	1
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	194	70	15	49
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	172	56	10	0
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	0	0	0	0

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

In its communication activities, the NFH gives priority to communicating product safety information to the consumers and economic operators. The Authority continuously publishes news, information and changes in legislation relating to market surveillance and individual product groups as well as dangerous products prohibited by the Authority on its website and Facebook account. In addition, news about the market surveillance activities of the Authority is regularly published in various media (national and local television and radio stations, Internet and written press), and information is provided about these in its official journal and newsletter. Furthermore, the Authority tries to draw the attention of the public to products posing a risk with laboratory open days, roadshows and campaigns.

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	37 894	62 807	55 789	55 087
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (% age of total national budget)	0.0001	0.000127	0.0001	0.0001
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	4	4	3	4
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	2	2	2	2

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

The NFH:

The purpose of the official inspections was to verify the existence and conformity in content of the labels and purchase information brochures belonging to personal protective equipment used by a wide range of consumers, with special regard to warning notices referring to the safe use of the products, and to filter out any inadequately certified personal protective equipment, which may not meet certain safety considerations, from commercial distribution.

The lack of any information provided by the manufacturer or its unavailability in Hungarian was general problems associated with the fulfilment of the individual safety requirements of the protective equipment inspected. The inspectors complained about conformity regarding the content of information brochures in a very high number in the case of protective gloves and reflective vests, while the complaint ratio was lower in this respect in the case of individual protective equipment worn during skiing. In the case of protective equipment used for leisure activities, the missing information, such as warning notices relating to the limits of protection and information referring to the importance of storage conditions and maintenance inspections, draws the attention of consumers to the hazards of circumstances affecting the level of protection and safe use, therefore, the provision of such information would be very important.

In the case of ski goggles, laboratory tests showed that the products sampled met the safety requirements and, while being used, they did not pose a hazard to the health and safety of users. In the case of sunglasses, the laboratory tests for UV protection and Ni dissolution performed year after year showed good results also in respect of sunglasses, similar to those of ski goggles.

The tests threw light on the fact that the product group reviewed was well regulated by statutory regulations and standard specifications, but such provisions and specifications were not sufficiently known among those engaged in commercial activities. With the change of consumer habits, increasing focus will be placed on personal safety, therefore, it is expected that the market of the products inspected will pick up in the future. Considering all the above and due to the high complaint ratio found in the area of meeting the individual requirements, it will be warranted to carry out new inspections of certain groups of these products also in the coming years.

Directorate for Industrial Safety and Labour of the National Labour Office (the 'NMH MMI')

On the basis of what was set out in the general part, in the case of the non-conformity of individual protective equipment 'intended for targeted economic use', pursuant to Act XCIII of 1993 on industrial safety ('Act XCIII of 1993'), the industrial safety authority suspended the use of individual protective equipment used during the performance of organised work. As a market surveillance measure, the industrial safety authority provided information to the consumer protection authority (KPIR alarm), and did not order withdrawal from distribution, recall from distribution, etc.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

The industrial safety inspectorate initiated an alarm regarding a restrictive or prohibitive measure taken in the case of a product found during the inspection at a workplace conducted by industrial safety inspectors and not conforming to the safety requirements on one occasion via the National General Inspectorate for Industrial Safety (the ‘OMMF’) in the period between 2010 and 2013. The use of an objected piece of individual protective equipment was suspended immediately because the ear muffs did not have the conformity markings and information brochure specified in Decree No 18 of 3 December 2008 of the Minister of Welfare and Labour. The protective equipment did not have a CE marking, a EC declaration of conformity or a CE type certificate, its protective ability could not be identified, and no user manual was provided with it either.

***Malta***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of investigations (total number)	71	44	64	51
1.1	%age of investigations prompted by complaints	6	5	5	2
1.2	%age of investigations prompted by accidents or incidents	1	0	2	0
1.3	%age of self-initiated inspections	87	90	83	90
1.4	%age of investigations prompted by information from other Member State authorities (e.g. via RAPEX notifications)	6	5	10	8
2	Number of inspections resulting in:				
2.1	finding of non-compliance	62	39	56	45
2.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators (“voluntary measures”)	5	3	4	5
2.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	4	2	4	1

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

Information on activities in other product sectors can be find on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

A large percentage of PPEs placed on the market in Malta were found to be compliant during inspections. Hence these product groups are not given a higher priority than their continued surveillance, responding to complaints and inspections when carrying out market monitoring of other products.

<i>Netherlands</i>
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**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

No information

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Proactive surveillance of personal protective equipment has been suspended since 2009 on the basis of a risk analysis prompted by budgetary constraints. Up to 2009 there were regular projects for specific groups of equipment which involved raising compliance to an acceptable level. Reactive surveillance does, however, take place on the basis of consumer complaints, RAPEX notifications and safeguard measures by other Member States. Based on the findings from this reactive surveillance, there is as yet no reason to include this product group in proactive surveillance again if no extra resources are made available for this purpose.

During the 2010-2013 period, the I-SZW took part in various ADCOs: Machinery, Personal Protective Equipment, ATEX, Pressure Equipment and Lifts. The I-SZW's contribution to these ADCOs is specifically addressed. During the period from 1 January 2010 to 1 January 2013, the I-SZW acted as chair together with Denmark. The I-SZW also took part in the working group on market surveillance working methods for Personal Protective Equipment. During the 2010–2013 period, almost 100 notifications were processed. These were mainly reports of possible non-conforming machines and, in some cases, non-conforming personal protective equipment (PPE). The I-SZW performed its surveillance task reactively mainly in response to alerts from the Netherlands and abroad. The focus was placed on the following target groups: machine modifiers, personal protective equipment manufacturers and machinery assemblers.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

***Austria***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period<sup>8</sup>**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	0	0	0	0
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	0	1	0	0
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	26	49	55	79
3.1	number of reactive inspections	26	49	55	67
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	0	0	0	0
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	0	0	0	0
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	0	1	0	1
4.2	physical checks of products	1	1	1	1
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance				
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	1	1	6	4
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	0	0	0	0
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	0	0	0	0
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	0	0	0	0

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

Since 2003, a close cross-border cooperation has existed between the Austrian federal province of Tyrol and the German federal state of Bavaria in the area of market surveillance. Alternating round table talks on product safety have taken place, allowing representatives from industry, consumer protection, and the relevant authorities (particularly customs authorities) from both countries to share information and to consult on issues relating to product safety law.

06/05/2010: 8. Round table talks in Wildbad Kreuth, Bavaria

26/05/2011: 9. Round table talks on product safety, Innsbruck, Tyrol

05/06/2013: 10. Round table talks in Wildbad Kreuth, Bavaria

<sup>8</sup> Data from Vienna, Upper Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Tyrol and Vorarlberg (71% of the Austrian population).

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

13/06/2013: Presentation given to the Tyrol Chamber of Commerce, Quality Management Working Group, on the subject of 'Product Safety – The Legal Foundations and Purpose of Market Surveillance'.

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

No information

***Poland***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	10	58	70	44
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	628	583	581	459
3.1	number of reactive inspections	27	65	86	39
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	437	496	468	390
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	40	30	61	70
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	10	1	10	16
4.2	physical checks of products	628	583	581	459
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	188	135	226	142
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	231	222	313	206
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	10	0	3	4
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	5	1	0	0
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	3	9	2	1

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)



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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Controls of personal protective equipment were carried out by the Trade Inspectorate, by the National Labour Inspectorate, and by the State Mining Authority. In the years 2010 – 2013 controls covered 4011 products, challenging 1178 of them. Controls covered, among other things, protective clothing (warning vests, sets of wrist-pads, elbow-pads, and knee-pads), protective gloves, eye protection devices for welders, hearing protection devices, sunglasses, protective helmets, alpine equipment, and protective accessories connected with football.

The most frequent cases of non-compliance identified in this area concerned incorrect marking, instructions and warnings. Lack of appropriate information and warnings may lead to personal protective equipment being used in ways not in accordance with its intended use. This is sometimes dangerous in view of their specific function, i.e. the protection of health and safety of their users. Operators placing in the market challenged products were allowed to take voluntary action to rectify the problems. In the majority of cases the operators undertook corrective actions eliminating the non-compliances found (during checks or immediately after they were completed).

As a reason for irregularities they often indicated frequent amendments to the harmonised standards. This meant increased costs for the manufacturers. Thus, they frequently used old packaging and labels which contained out-of-date markings and warnings. During such controls there was also a problem of obtaining documents necessary to carry out checks, i.e. the EC type-examination certificates or declarations of conformity. To justify the refusal of making such documents available, operators indicated the need to protect business secrets. The results of controls carried out in the last few years indicate that the checks had an impact on reducing the number of irregularities in that area. However, in view of the diversity of personal protective equipment present on the market and continuous emergence of new types, cyclical controls must continue. It also appears necessary to organise practical training for inspectors on personal protective equipment. Funds available for laboratory testing of personal protective equipment should be increased in view of the fact that during inspection or organoleptic tests it is often impossible to detect irregularities.

***Portugal***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	0	0	0	0

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	0	0	0	0
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	61	1	24	124
3.1	number of reactive inspections	7	1	1	80
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	54	0	23	44
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	Please see document from Tax Authority			
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	0	0	6	0
4.2	physical checks of products	201	0	310	1487
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	15	0	0	13
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	0	0	0	0
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	11	0	0	9
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	0	0	0	0

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

The ASAE participated in seminars promoted by an association representing the sector where clarifications were given on the implementation of legislation.

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

The ASAE participated in a joint action called Joint Action 2010 'Visibility Clothing and Accessories' organised by PROSAFE (Product Safety Forum of Europe) and supported by the European Commission. During this action, it collected three samples of jackets for non-professional use and three samples of accessories. However, in Portugal, there are virtually no personnel protection equipment (PPE) manufacturers and the number of importers is not significant, therefore Inspection actions related to distributors and retailers. The infringements detected related to the lack of labelling in Portuguese, the absence of a CE marking, lack of an EC declaration of conformity, and the refusal of economic operators to submit documentation, information requested by the market-surveillance authority.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

***Romania***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	0	0	0	0
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	0	0	0	0
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	187	239	398	355
3.1	number of reactive inspections	2	3	0	2
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	185	236	398	353
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	0	0	0	0
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	0	0	0	0
4.2	physical checks of products	187	239	398	355
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	16	21	17	11
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	0	0	0	0
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	16	21	17	11
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	16	21	17	11
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	0	0	0	0

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

No information

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

***Slovenia***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	0	0	0	0
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	0	0	0	0
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	153	125	161	189
3.1	number of reactive inspections	3	1	4	0
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	138	113	149	185
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	12	11	8	4
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	10	7	8	16
4.2	physical checks of products	367	423	308	315
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	31	37	46	37
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	14	33	44	33
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	17	4	2	4
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	54	37	62	42
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	0	0	0	0

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	9 600	13 020	8 160	14 640
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (% age of total national budget)				
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)				

Information on activities in other product sectors can be find on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)				

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

The Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia is a body within the Ministry of Economic Development and, among other products, is responsible for market surveillance activities with regard to personal protection equipment on the market under PPE Directive 89/686/EEC, and carries out surveillance of equipment of this type on the market in accordance with its plan of work. Reports on the findings of inspections are published on the inspectorate's website [www.tirs.si](http://www.tirs.si) and, for information, as additional clarifications for personal protection equipment in the replies to questions in this field.

Provision of information to consumers also took place between 2010 and 2013. In 2012 the inspectorate held an open day and to this end presented the operation of the inspectorate as a whole and drew up additional clarifications including for the field of personal protection equipment. Participants included consumers, manufacturers, suppliers and distributors in Slovenia, the standardisation authority, the PPE laboratory, the retailers' chamber and others. The open day was reported on by journalists from newspapers and some television stations in Slovenia, whose reports on the presentation reached the general public.

In 2013 the Market Inspectorate began the first focused and coordinated administrative form of inspection in the PPE sector along with the inspectorates responsible for controls by virtue of their competence with regard to controls of PPE in use. Before implementation of this action it informed the other competent authorities about the implementation of PPE surveillance activities and the individual checklists used by the inspectorates during inspections. The participants in the presentation and coordinated controls are: The Labour Inspectorate (a body within the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities), the Inspectorate for Protection Against Natural and Other Disasters (a body within the Ministry of Defence), the Energy and Mining Inspection Service (part of the Transport, Energy and Spatial Planning Inspectorate) and the Public Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices, which oversees personal protective equipment classified as medical devices.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

***Slovak Republic***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	0	0	0	0
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	9 / 6	16 / 5	17 / 4	9 / 4
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	255	689	426	161
3.1	number of reactive inspections	6	63	22	54
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	249	626	404	95
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	6	37	17	30
4.2	physical checks of products	249	652	409	131
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	n.a. 126	n.a. 230	n.a. 421	n.a. 92
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	n.a. 32	n.a. 43	n.a. 41	n.a. 40
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	0	0	0	0

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

On its website, the Trade Inspectorate also publishes all demonstrably dangerous products found on the Slovak market, as well as all dangerous products detected elsewhere in the EU and processed in the RAPEX system. The inspection results of all inspection actions, information on the principles of Trade Inspectorate inspections, FAQs, sectoral programmes, guidelines or alerts to the most common negative findings for both businesses and consumers are posted on the website. In response to changes or amendments to the law, the Trade Inspectorate holds presentations for businesses in cooperation with the Slovak Chamber of Commerce. It uses all communication channels in its contact with businesses – personal interaction at working meetings, correspondence, email or the telephone. The

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

National Labour Inspectorate publishes information on educational activities, new regulations, guidelines, etc., on its website at [www.nip.sk](http://www.nip.sk).

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (% age of total national budget)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	25	25	25	25

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Surveillance of the personal protective equipment market is carried out by the Slovak Trade Inspectorate and National Labour Inspectorate. The Trade Inspectorate focuses on inspections of personal protective equipment intended for consumers. In the reporting period, neither of these institutions recorded financial resources especially allocated to market surveillance to the extent of Directive 89/686/EEC. Row 9 only provides an estimate Trade Inspectorate inspectors in full-time equivalent units who also carried out inspections of personal protective equipment intended for consumers.

The Trade Inspectorate carries out the market surveillance only of personal protective equipment intended for consumers which is sold directly in the retail network and used by consumers, for example, in sport, recreation and other leisure activities, work at home, in the garden, in a workshop, etc. This is reflected in its inspection actions, focusing solely on types of personal protective equipment available on the market. The range of personal protective equipment subject to Trade Inspectorate inspections is supplied by only a handful or no manufacturers in Slovakia. Therefore, inspections are mainly conducted at sellers and distributors, or importers from third countries, in particular as regards the range of sunglasses and protective gloves. The National Labour Inspectorate inspects personal protective equipment used at work which is designed to protect users in the production process, i.e. for employees, entrepreneurs, etc. It conducts these inspections as part of its checks on occupational health and safety. The National Labour Inspectorate did not keep records of the required data in the reporting period.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)

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**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

***Finland***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	10	14	12	15
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition	3	1	0	0
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	192	165	203	171
3.1	number of reactive inspections	11	24	19	35
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	36	72	81	22
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs	0	0	0	0
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	33	32	48	36
4.2	physical checks of products	381	138	212	357
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	265	152	130	96
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	30	20	13	14
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities	4	16	32	22
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties	0	0	0	0
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate	0	0	0	0

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency Tukes publishes press releases and the results of market surveillance activities and other remarks it has made while carrying out the market surveillance. During 2010-2013, in total 5 press releases (0-3 each year) were published based on the Personal Protective Equipment Directive. Tukes also informs the consumers, businesses and other stakeholders about changes in legislation or safety requirements. When necessary, training and lectures are provided for associations, schools and other stakeholders. Tukes also gives guidance to consumers, businesses, and other stakeholders by answering their questions via phone and email. Tukes is also active in social media and uses its channels to spread the information on the dangerous products, risks, project results and other issues. Tukes constantly looks for new ways to inform the public and the stakeholders about safety issues.

Information on activities in other product sectors can be found on the webpage of the Commission:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/building-blocks/market-surveillance/organisation/index_en.htm)



**Report on the Member States reviews and assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities for the 2010-2013 period pursuant to Article 18(6) of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008**

**Sector 4 Personal Protective Equipment**

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	195 000	220 000	180 000	195 000
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (% age of total national budget)	0.0004	0.0004	0.0003	0.0004
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	3.7	4.2	3.7	3.7
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	2	2.2	1.8	2

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Market surveillance programs have been carried out as planned. Programs include 1-2 current projects (topics vary yearly). Despite the relative small resources Tukes has been effective and 26 recalls and 32 withdrawals have been done during 2010-2013.

***Sweden***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
1.	Number of product related accidents / user complaints	5	2	2	9
2.	Number of substantiated complaints by industry concerning unfair competition		4	10	5
3.	Number of inspections (total number)	90	58	82	56
3.1	number of reactive inspections	5	10	28	23
3.2	number of self-initiated inspections	85	48	54	35
3.3	number of inspections prompted by the customs				
4	Number of inspections based on:				
4.1	tests performed in laboratories	60	24	12	11
4.2	physical checks of products	13	7	25	7
5	Number of inspections resulting in:				
5.1	finding of non-compliance	35	33	58	112

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		2010	2011	2012	2013
5.2	corrective actions taken by economic operators ("voluntary measures")	10	18	38	98
5.3	restrictive measures taken by market surveillance authorities			1	3
5.4	application of sanctions/penalties				1
6	Number of inspections where other Member States were invited to collaborate				

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

The Swedish Work Environment Authority and Swedish Consumer Agency websites contain information on personal protective equipment intended for economic operators, employers, users and consumers. The information intended for economic operators is based on personal protective equipment and mainly explains regulations and market surveillance. The information intended for users is mainly based on use. The websites link to each other. Both authorities receive direct contact from economic operators, employers and users and collaborate to ensure that the questions go to the right department at the right authority. The authorities have carried out work to some extent to provide information for the various target groups. In this context, information material has been produced and work has been reported and communicated via press releases, seminars and targeted mailings, for example.

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

		2010	2011	2012	2013
7.1	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in nominal terms (€)	153 800	209 700	218 800	174 700
7.2	Budget available to market surveillance authorities in relative terms (% age of total national budget)				
8	Staff available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)	3	3.3	3.3	3.3
9	Number of inspectors available to market surveillance authorities (full-time equivalent units)				

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

Market surveillance of personal protective equipment for private use is mainly focused on surveillance of product groups where any deficiencies can cause serious injuries, in combination with product groups where there are indications of widespread lack of compliance with the regulations. The question of whether lack of compliance leads to distortion of competition is also taken into account when products for supervision are selected, although that does not primarily determine the

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priority. Surveillance takes place both in the form of laboratory tests, which are always carried out by accredited laboratories, usually appointed bodies, and document checks. The extent of the deficiencies identified during testing varies widely from one product group to another, whereas extensive formal deficiencies were identified during document checks in virtually all product groups. The Swedish Consumer Agency's assessment is that the deficiencies are greater for products for the retail market than for products for professional use. However, there are no statistics on this, but the collaboration with the Swedish Work Environment Authority and the other Nordic countries indicates that this is the case. There may be several reasons for this, but the lack of harmonised standards for a significantly larger number of retail products probably plays a part. With regard to personal protective equipment for professional use, the Swedish Work Environment Authority considers that there are too few reports on faulty equipment from work environment inspectors. The overall assessment is that the scope of market surveillance is not sufficient to deal with the high proportion of non-compliant products in the area. Unfortunately, there is no data on the number of traders of different types operating in Sweden, but in most market surveillance cases the manufacturer is not Swedish. The Swedish Consumer Agency's view is that cases where the same product is brought into the country by a very large number of independent traders are on the increase (when there is no primary distributor, general agent or similar in Sweden) and this, when it occurs, severely hampers work to remove a dangerous product from the market.

***United Kingdom***

**A. Review of market surveillance activities in the sector**

**Information on enforcement activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period**

No information

**Information on communication activities carried out in the 2010-2013 period (optional)**

No information

**Information on resources (subject to availability)**

No information

**B. Assessment of the functioning of market surveillance activities in the sector**

HSE have enforcement responsibility for this Directive. Generally, HSE's activities are not based on industries or sectors – but is a risk- based approach identifying machinery/equipment where there is a known or suspected problems, or based on information received about particular products (e.g. PPE (face masks)). The enforcement of legislation covering workplace goods is undertaken by the HSE Product Safety Team which has created a network of 'virtual' product safety teams across Great Britain. These teams involve product safety specialists who take the lead on product supply issues that

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arise from the initial findings of other inspectors who carry out more general responsibilities working across business. Because of the migration of professional goods towards the consumer, HSE and Local Authorities co-operate, particularly in areas such as Personal Protective Equipment.

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