



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains
Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Systems

Aerosol Dispensers Directive Evaluation – Background document

As part of the European Commission's Better Regulation Agenda, it seeks to listen more closely to citizens and stakeholders through more frequent and effective consultation. This includes providing an opportunity through a public consultation for all interested parties to express their views on key elements of evaluations of policies or legislation.

Aerosol dispensers are safe and easy to use products which are resource efficient and cost effective. Aerosol dispensers offer a wide range of products from mass-market goods such as cosmetic and household products, to specific aerosol products dedicated for industrial or medical purposes.

An aerosol dispenser is a pressurised device composed of a container, an actuator (button), a valve, a propellant and the active components (content). The container, which may be manufactured from metal, plastic or glass, holds the propellant and active components (content or product). Within the container, the propellant exerts pressure on the product. When the actuator is pressed by the user, the pressure from the propellant will force the product out of the container creating an aerosol spray or foam.

The Aerosol Dispensers Directive (ADD) (75/324/EEC) is one of the oldest EU legislations related to product safety. The directive was adopted in 1975 harmonising the divergent national legislations in force at that time in order to create a genuine European market based on common requirements with regard to the safety.

The objective of the evaluation is to assess whether the Directive is meeting its objectives of guaranteeing free circulation of aerosol dispensers within the EU while ensuring a high degree of safety. Information will be collected from all stakeholders (economic operators and their associations, public authorities and consumers/users and their associations) via difference techniques such as interviews, a targeted consultation of economic operators and a public online consultation.

The public consultation is part of the overall evaluation process and no policy decisions have been taken at this stage. The final report of this evaluation will be made publicly available and the results will be discussed with all relevant stakeholders. It will provide crucial input to possible future policy initiatives in the field of aerosol dispensers legislation in the European Union.