

# Consumer Product Safety: Self-certification vs third-party testing and certification



Results of the 2012-2016 market studies

# Considerations

Does the current presence of non-compliant products on the market reflect the level of consumer protection we consider sufficient for European citizens?

In EU environmental policies, we have moved from post-market surveillance to pre-market surveillance, to address problems at the source. Why are we ok with addressing safety when dangerous products are already in consumers' hands, rather than preventing non conformities at the source?

# The Idea



Testing self-declared and third party certified products purchased on the open market and comparing their compliance with relevant rules and regulations.

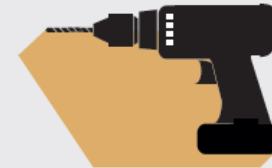
# The Products



HAIR DRYERS  
AND CURLERS



ELECTRIC FANS



SMALL POWER TOOLS



TOASTERS AND GRILLS



LUMINAIRES



ROOM HEATERS



BATTERIES



IRONS

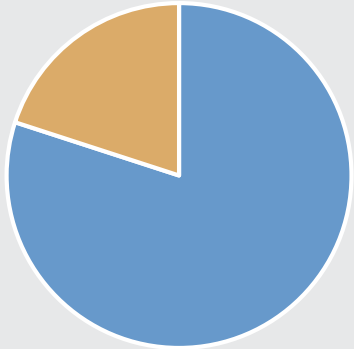


BATTERY CHARGERS  
AND ADAPTERS

# Results

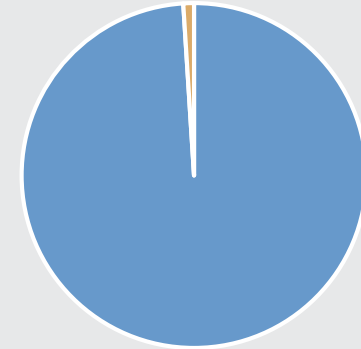
Self-declared product compliance

**16%** dangerous faults

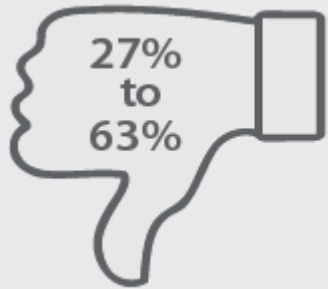


Third party certified product compliance

**< 1%** dangerous faults



# Additional insights



Certification first-time  
submittal rejection rate  
for not meeting safety  
requirements

**0.3%** of products entering the EU are  
inspected by market surveillance authorities

# Additional insights



12,000 Number of house fires caused in the years 2011-2014 in the UK due to faulty home products



87% of tablet PCs sourced from the market in Germany and The Netherlands were not in compliance

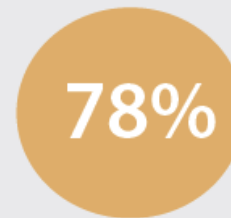
69% of products tested were not in compliance with the R&TTE directive



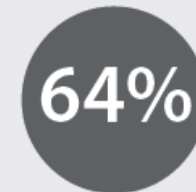
92  

of drones tested were not in compliance

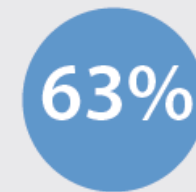
## PROSAFE Joint Actions



of lighting chains not in compliance



of sunbeds with too high radiation



of bicycle helmets not in compliance

# Considerations

1. Does the current presence of non-compliant products on the market reflect the level of consumer protection we consider sufficient for European citizens?
2. In EU environmental policies, we have moved from post-market surveillance to pre-market surveillance, to address problems at the source. Why are we ok with safety being address once in consumer's hands rather than at the source?
3. What role can accredited, independent third parties play to make a difference in reducing risk, increasing safety?
4. Because compliance is mandatory, what role can the TIC sector play in easing market access, level the playing field, and helping manufacturers put compliant products on the market?
5. How should the TIC sector work with civil society, government and industry, bringing our science and independence to the table, to reduce the risks faced by consumers in the marketplace?



THANK YOU

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