



**E·MAR·S**

Enhancing Market Surveillance  
through Best Practice

*A PROSAFE Project*

Supported by the European Commission,  
DG-SANCO, Consumer Affairs Directorate



# Work Package

3

## Best Practice Techniques

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## Why Market Surveillance?

- There is a growing understanding of Market Surveillance as an important tool to strengthen the inner market in EU.

## Objectives

- Increase free movement of goods in the EEA
- Ensure equal economical conditions for business
- Ensure only safe products to be placed on the market



## Why E-Mars Best Practices?

- Lack of transparency of market surveillance activities for consumers and business
- Need of a database with respect to access to and storage of documents dealing with market surveillance (strategies, procedures etc)
- Different practices related to performance and follow up of market surveillance; need of harmonization of procedures.
- Need of an informal forum for discussion of dangerous products (Rapid Advice Forums)
- Need for common methods for risk assessment



## Main objectives for work package 3:

- Formulation of a Guide on Best Practice Techniques based upon expertise and knowledge from member states and EEA countries
- Identification of training needs and recommendations on how training programmes may be developed for market surveillance inspectors, including specific use of screening equipment and tests on the spot.
- Identification of joint market surveillance projects in order to establish and utilize best practices in market surveillance.



## WP 3 actions: Questionnaires

Questionnaires regarding Market Surveillance Best Practices  
Disseminated to Member States in August 2006.

Questionnaires received from:

*AT, BE, DK, EE, FI, DE, GR, HU, LV*

*LT, MT, NO, RO, SI, ES, CH, NL*

- Interesting information supplied. In addition to annual reports there are reports on procedures for performance, training of inspectors, list of codes for the evaluation of defects, MS policies, guidelines for sampling, guides for information to consumers, use of information databases (Rapex).



## Training of inspectors

- Areas covered by the answering bodies: GPSD 16, LVD 13, Toys 12, PPE 11
- The average number of inspectors for the 4 areas covered by the Questionnaire is 10
- Inspectors have technical school or university degree, previous experience in industry or testing laboratories
- Basic entry training on laws and regulations, practical execution of inspections, how to react in critical situations, etc.
- Differences in the content and duration of the training
- Most of the countries highlight the need of having good ongoing training

**Proposal for a training programme for MS officers in all product fields.**



## Planning and performance of MS

- MS yearly plans are drawn up by some of the Member States
- Formal planning (projects) differs between Member States
- Several and different methods to assess defective products during inspection: documents analysis, visual and constructional check based upon standards, CE- mark (when relevant), basic tests (small parts, squeezing, cutting), picking samples to be sent to laboratories
- Basic tools are used: rulers, small parts cylinder, tool for gaps
- Most bodies use external accredited laboratories, only a few have their own laboratory
- In all cases of possibly dangerous products samples are picked and sent to fully equipped laboratories

**Similarities to be assessed and further developed if necessary**<sub>7</sub>



## The Questionnaires . . .

Some recommendations:

- Harmonise ongoing training of inspectors
- Harmonise procedures for planning, performing and reporting
- MS bodies and activity to be planned and organized according to ISO 9001 Quality management(proposal)
- Methods for and training programme on Risk Assessment
- Look into scientific research on MS programmes and MS activity evaluation
- To define a minimum "tool box" (with rulers, calipers, multimeter, test cylinder etc.) based on the safety requirements in respective directives.

*Need for basic principles-handbook on best practices*

## **PART III: The Handbook on Best Practice . . .**

- **Aim and Scope of the Handbook**
- **The organisational structure, planning of MS projects:**
- **Risk Management Techniques**
  - **Background for Market surveillance projects including identification of hazardous products or group of hazardous products**
  - **Project plan setup**
  - **Procedures for planning inspection programmes**
  - **Procedures for performing inspection and sample collection**
  - **Screening probes and techniques for testing on the spot**
  - **How to react towards the manufacture/importer**

## **PART III: The Handbook on Best Practice . . .**

### ➤ Risk assessment

- **Checking in the laboratories**
- **Testing procedures-notified bodies**

### ➤ Risk communication

- **Methods for communication with the public**
- **Procedures for contact with mass media**

### ➤ Follow up

- **Legal aspects; reference to regulations and standards**
- **Determination of legal actions; sales ban, withdrawal, recall**
- **Contact with importers and producers**

### ➤ Cross border surveillance activities



## EMars - Expected results

- Reduction in injuries and fatalities through a better monitoring system (reduction of dangerous products)
- Improving transparency towards consumers , business and other stakeholders through "Handbook on best practices".
- Improve collaboration between different stakeholders
- Improve information and knowledge on dangerous products
- Improve effectiveness of market surveillance with enforcement bodies through mutual Market Surveillance activities based on mutually developed and commonly recognized procedures

⇒ **Further actions:**

- ⇒ **Workshop – To be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March - London.**  
(Training programmes, rapid advice forum, inventory of handbook, MS plans for 2007)
- ⇒ **Handbook proposal by mid of April**
- ⇒ **Handbook to be presented at Prosafe meeting in May 2007**
- ⇒ **Handbook to be assessed through practical MS projects**  
(Low voltage MS project and Cigarette lighters project)
- ⇒ **Final documents to be presented Autumn 2008**



Thank You

For

Your Attention

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