



E·MAR·S

**Enhancing Market Surveillance
through Best Practice**

A PROSAFE Project

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

Newsletter

Issue 4 – September 2007



A word from the EMARS Project Leader

As we reach the half-way stage of the project we are pleased to report that the project is very much on target. Considerable progress has been made to date as is evidenced by the reports in this edition of the newsletter. The vast majority of scheduled tasks have

been completed and a number of activities are in advance of the timelines laid down in the integrated work programme. In the few cases where scheduled tasks have not yet been carried out this is generally as a result of operational decisions based on the experience gained thus far and not due to any delays in the execution of the project itself. It is only natural in the execution of any large project such as EMARS that some tasks turn out not to be necessary and that other tasks are added as the project progresses. Similarly some re-scheduling of the tasks is also to be expected to accommodate the evolving demands of the project whilst respecting the overall timeframe, aims and objectives of the project and the deliverables to be produced at the end of it.

It is clear that a great deal of momentum has been generated this year in particular. The profile of the project has especially been raised considerably through the various outreach activities detailed in the newsletter, through the very successful workshop held in London in the spring and through the drafting of what we are pleased to report has been a successful application for a major joint action on cigarette lighters. WP3 meetings and core group meetings were held in the first week of July in conjunction with the progress meeting with the Commission and again in the first week of September to help ensure that the momentum will be maintained during the second half of 2007. We look forward to seeing in the autumn of this year the first draft of the best practice

handbook elements of which will be discussed at a two day workshop to be held in Brussels on the 29th and 30th of October.

To conclude these introductory remarks I would like to welcome Jan Deconinck who takes over as the Chairman of Prosafe.

Best wishes

Dirk Meijer, Prosafe Chairman

Registration for the autumn workshop has begun

The autumn EMARS Workshop will be held on the 29th and 30th of October in Brussels. The venue is the meeting rooms of the EFTA secretariat at 12-16 Rue Joseph II in Brussels. Issues to be addressed include joint actions, risk assessment, market surveillance plans, training and information exchange. Market surveillance officials are invited to attend both days. Other stakeholders are invited to attend on the 29th when they will have the opportunity to hear about the progress with the project to date. Please register by sending an e-mail to info@emars.eu. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

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A word from the Prosafe Chairman

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity as the new Prosafe chairman to share some thoughts with you on the EMARS-project and its implications for Prosafe.

I am convinced that the EMARS-project will kick-start a new era of co-operation at operational level in market surveillance in Europe. We already see the concrete fruits of this enhanced co-operation, not only in the deliverables that EMARS is obliged to produce, but also in many other ways such as:

- Prosafe being the contracting party for the joint action on cigarette lighters,
- creating an informal system for the exchange of officials;
- identifying market surveillance documents relevant to the joint action on playground equipment;
- active collaboration with different ADCOs and ICMS.

It is also clear that the new European regulation on market surveillance is very much focused on enhanced coordination and co-operation. Prosafe, through EMARS, is showing that it is a willing and able partner to meet these political aims and objectives.

For this reason at the next Prosafe meeting in Istanbul there will be a strong emphasis on dialogue and discussion concerning joint actions, annual plans, dangerous products, common testing and the new approach revision.

I hope to see you all there!

Best regards,

Jan Deconinck

News from Prosafe

Lighters Project

Prosafe has successfully applied for a joint action on cigarette lighters on behalf of thirteen member states. This joint action marks a first for Prosafe and for the European Commission

with an independent organisation coming forward and coordinating the activity on behalf of the participating member states. The joint action will provide a test bed for the best practices being identified in handbook being drafted within EMARS WP3 and serves as an indication of at least part of the way forward after the EMARS project formally completes its work at the end of 2008.

Exchange of Officials

The European Commission has launched a call for tender to fund exchanges between member states of market surveillance officials. Prosafe is acting as a matchmaker trying to coordinate authorities willing to receive exchange guests with officials from other member states. These exchanges help promote a better understanding and co-operation amongst member states.

Calendar of forthcoming meetings

- September 21st Prosafe Lighters Joint Action Meeting, Brussels
- September 28th EMARS WP3 Meeting, Brussels
- October 11th and 12th Market surveillance reform at the European Union: new challenges for EU member states and potential lessons for other countries UN-ECE MARS Group, Bratislava, Slovakia
- October 29th and 30th EMARS Workshop, Brussels
- November 5th – 7th UN-ECE WP.6 17th Session including International Seminar on Product Safety and Counterfeiting, Geneva
- November 26th and 28th Prosafe Meeting, Istanbul
- November 27th ICPSC, Istanbul

Other Market Surveillance News

Massive Recalls of Imported Goods

The recent months have seen a number of massive recalls of imported goods on both sides of the Atlantic. Mattel has recalled nearly twenty million toys due to lead paint and small magnets. Other major recalls this year have concerned laptop batteries, toothpaste and Christmas lights. These recalls have generated considerable political pressure at a time when the future direction of market surveillance is being shaped as a result of the revision of the New Approach. The crisis of confidence that the recalls are engendering will be addressed in a number of forthcoming initiatives on both sides of the Atlantic. These developments only

serve to further emphasize the relevance and timeliness of the EMARS project.

European Commission Response

The European Commission is responding vigorously to the recalls of toys imported from China. Commissioner Kuneva outlined a process for a two month review of toy safety controls at the Commission meeting at the end of August. The main elements of the process include meetings with major toy companies; meetings with the cabinets of a number of European Commissioners; meetings with the US authorities to co-ordinate activities in relation to consumer product safety and meetings with the European Parliament to discuss the implications of the current situation of the review of the New Approach. At the end of October the Chinese authorities are also due to make a substantial report of their enforcement actions within the framework of the EU China Rapex System. The Commission has also asked for feedback from the member states and is convening a special meeting of the GPSD committee in October to consider its response to the recent recalls and to identify ways to further enhance the market surveillance of toys.

Commissioner Kuneva has underlined that her priority now is the enforcement of consumer law. "In enforcement we are only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. The task now is to reinforce any parts of the chain where implementation or enforcement are not yet optimal." She said, "Member States and business must shoulder their full responsibilities with regard to the enforcement of consumer safety rules." She made it clear that if necessary she would take additional action at EU level to reinforce safety controls, "Should the risk require I will not hesitate to go further and use the full range of tools available under EU product law from checks to controls."

CPSC China Summit

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission hosted the second Biennial Sino-US Consumer product safety Summit in Washington on the 11th of September. The summit provided a platform for CPSC and AQSIQ, the Chinese General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine to discuss tackling the use of lead paint in toys and work plans for specific product categories within the framework of their co-operative agreement. The Chinese authorities agreed to take immediate action to eliminate the use of lead paint on Chinese manufactured toys exported to the US. Lead paint has been banned from

toys in the US since 1978. Work plans setting out a roadmap to improve the safety of toys, fireworks, cigarette lighters and electrical products were also agreed during the summit. The Chinese authorities also undertook to increase inspections in respect of products destined for the US and to help the US authorities tracing hazardous products to the manufacturer, distributor and exporter. The two countries agencies will review the plans effectiveness within one year to identify possible areas for improvement.

Chinese Authorities take action

In additions to the action the Chinese authorities are taking within the frameworks of their co-operative agreements with the US and the EU outlined above they have also taken direct action themselves to tighten safety controls. AQSIQ, (the Chinese Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine) has issued an emergency order requiring local authorities to strengthen inspection, supervision and quality certification of exporting toys. The main elements of the order include requiring exporting companies to provide passing test certificates for the paint used on their toys; the random testing of key issues such as small parts, paint coatings and stuffing; and toys destined for export have to be tested at the production site and inspected at the port of export. The local authority Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau in Guangdong province where most of the toy production is located have also issued their own order requiring careful review of the compliance declaration claiming conformity with the technical regulations and standards of the importing countries or China. The authority will verify if the toys being exported are accompanied with valid testing reports, which must be issued by a suitably accredited laboratory.

ANSI Seminar

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is sponsoring an open forum to develop recommendations and man Action Plan to help better protect consumers from imported goods that do not meet US standards for health and safety. The workshop entitled "Building Consumer Confidence" will be held on the 26th of September in Washington. The draft agenda is available online at www.ansi.org. There are to be three panel sessions examining industry case studies, trade issues and looking at what standards development organisations and conformity assessment bodies are doing to build consumer confidence in products that comply with standards.

Progress with the main deliverables

1. Knowledge Base

More than 300 documents have now been received and uploaded to WebEx. The peer review has started and a document describing the procedure has been drawn up. Over thirty documents have been reviewed.

The work package has looked into the issue of translating documents into English. It has been decided to try to use the Commission's machine translation. Access to the Knowledge Base has been given to the rest of the project participants and work has begun on making the Knowledge Base publicly accessible. Work has also begun to present the Knowledge Base to the ADCOs.

A meeting was organised between EMARS WP1 and the ICSMS board. Following the meeting a questionnaire on best practices in using ICSMS has been sent around to the ICSMS board members. 12 responses have been received. A summary report of the responses has been drafted.

Summary of deliverables produced in 2007

Memo on how to correct information in the Knowledge Base
Report of meeting with ICSMS
Questionnaire on ICSMS
Minutes from Teleconference February 8th
Overview of documents in Database as of 13th April
Overview of peer reviewers and their competences
Notes from discussions in Munich
Summary of responses on ICSMS
Questionnaire

Outlook for the rest of 2007

The following activities are foreseen for the rest of 2007:

- A number of cases have gone through the Rapid Advice Forum since April. The cases will be summarised in documents that will go into the Knowledge Base.
- The relations between the handbook and the Knowledge Base will be discussed in relation to Work Package 4 documents.
- The Knowledge Base will be presented to the Toys ADCO and the PPE ADCO.

- Efforts will be made to involve more people in the peer review.
- The peer review will continue with the rest of the collected documents.
- Activities will be undertaken to establish a note on best practices for quality control in market surveillance.
- Based on the input from the peer reviewers and the availability and quality of the machine translation all or most of the collected non-English documents will be translated.
- The English documents will be introduced in the Webex database together with the 100-word summary.
- Access to the Knowledge Base will be developed and implemented on the EMARS website.
- Public documents will be accessible from the EMARS Web-site. Documents restricted to market surveillance officials will be accessible through Webex.
- The Knowledge Base will also be developed as a portal providing access to other dynamic sources of information.

2. Rapid Advice System

The Rapid Advice Forum (RAF) became fully operational on February 1st, 2007.

A large pool of experts has been identified in 14 participating member states and Spain. There are separate lists of experts for each of the following four directives: GPSD, LVD, PPE and Toys.

Seven requests for advice have been treated according to the established procedures. A more informal way of gathering advice, also using the RAF, is currently being tested within the framework of the "Lighters-project". Over fifteen queries have been dealt with by way of this informal procedure. Still to be resolved is whether there needs to be two separate procedures; one formal procedure where the EMARS secretariat directs an enquiry sent in a standard form to a group of experts and another informal procedure where officials in the framework of a joint action or other project are encouraged to send queries round an established e-mail list of participants. In either case the added value EMARS can provide is to identify groups of experts to whom a specific query should be sent to and to capture the advice given afterwards. It may be possible that the two current parallel procedures converge into one where the user of the system chooses what degree of assistance they require from the EMARS secretariat but

ultimately the results of the query are captured by the EMARS secretariat for the Knowledge Base.

The Prosafe meetings, deliverables under WP2, continue to provide a platform for the exchange of information on dangerous products and emerging hazards.

Summary of deliverables produced in 2007

Prosafe meetings
Revised Overview of RAF Experts
Documentation for spring Prosafe meeting
Minutes of spring Prosafe meeting
RAF Procedure to introduce requests
RAF Case form
RAF Case reply form

Outlook for the rest of 2007

Further outreach is planned for the ADCOs and the GPSD committee to help promote the use of the RAF and to identify additional national experts.

Use of the RAF as an advice forum for specific joint action projects (such as lighters) will be encouraged.

Towards the end of 2007 an evaluation group will be established. This group will be charged with examining the experience gained in the first full year of the operation of the RAF (evaluation of the results and procedures and a study of the burden imposed on the participating experts).

3. Best Practice Techniques in Market Surveillance

After several consultations with the respective stakeholders held throughout these last few months as well as additional internal discussions between the work package core team members, the main contents and index of a book on best practice techniques in market surveillance have been outlined. The book will be published and launched some time during autumn 2008 as planned. This is intended to promote the adoption of best practices throughout the EU resulting in more consistent and effective market surveillance by all member states. It will reflect the information contained in the Knowledge Base and address a number of issues.

It will primarily focus its attention on market surveillance systems related particularly to non-food consumer products. The aim of this book is to try and assist policy makers, senior managers and practitioners within a given market surveillance system by documenting

the essential requirements needed for an effective surveillance system whilst also identifying best practice techniques in the various areas that are discussed and identified within the various chapters.

Thus, this book may serve as a guide and reference book for senior management to further enhance and develop their own surveillance strategies whilst at the same time it may also be used by market surveillance practitioners and inspectors as a handbook in order to improve their best practice techniques in a specific area.

The book will take into account the respective deliverables as indicated within part 4 of the section related to Work Package 3 (Inspection Programmes and Techniques) of Annex 4 of the grant agreement No17.020100.

The actual content will mainly be divided into a number of generic parts, each of which will contain various chapters within each of these parts. The main parts of the book are the following:

Part A - An Introduction
Part B – Risk Management
Part C – Risk Assessment (mainly the input from Work Package 4)
Part D – Risk Communication
Part E. – Cross-border Market Surveillance Activities
Part F – Conclusion
There will also be a number of informative annexes.

Further details are given below.

Progress to date

A first analysis of the results of the questionnaires sent to the countries participating in the project was collected in a draft report presented at the November 2006 meeting of Prosafe. The report, considering the comments received at the November meeting was made available to all the EMARS-Prosafe members in January 2007 by publishing it on the EMARS Webex. It is interesting to note that in addition to the participating countries, two countries outside of the financial scheme also responded to the questionnaire.

A presentation of the EMARS project made to the November meeting of the International Consumer Product Safety Caucus (ICPSC) in Brussels generated considerable interest in the book as well as the other deliverables to be produced in the scope of the project. As a result the members of the ICPSC undertook to complete a modified questionnaire and send

the completed questionnaires to EMARS at the beginning of 2007. The members of the ICPSC include Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea and the United States. Completed questionnaires from these jurisdictions will broaden the experience WP3 can draw on in identifying best practice. To date, three countries: Australia, Canada and Brazil have given their feedback by completing the questionnaire.

A special workshop was organised in London during March 2007 so as to ensure a wide consultation process with not only the project members themselves but also with various other Prosafe and ADCO members and other interested bodies. The main contents and index of the book have been finalised after taking into account all the comments made during this workshop.

Summary of deliverables produced in 2007

Table of contents of handbook
Report of workshop
Presentations from workshop
Work plan for drafting best practice handbook
Final report on Market Surveillance Best Practice
Report on market surveillance plans for 2007
Memo Prosafe Working Group: Close cooperation between (neighbouring) member states
Report of 16th May teleconference
Report of 30th May teleconference
Note from WP3 meeting in Munich
Application lighters project
Draft agenda for autumn workshop
Presentation on handbook and WP3 to ICPHSO/ICPSC in February

In addition, a questionnaire dealing with market surveillance plans for 2007 was launched in January 2007. This enquiry resulted in the number of MS activities totalling in more than 200 projects. This enquiry involved all Prosafe members. Replies were received from circa 20 participants. The aim of this questionnaire was to develop an overview on the present state of market surveillance, to establish possible collaboration between member states and finally to contribute to establishing joint projects.

Report on Market Surveillance practice - Summary of the situation

The questionnaire was sent out at the end of June 2006 and after some reminders the questionnaires were duly filled in and were received by November 15th 2006 from all the following countries participating in the Prosafe project: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Romania, Slovenia and the Netherlands. In addition Spain and Switzerland although not participating countries also returned the questionnaire completed.

Further documents have been supplied by some of the responding members together with questionnaires. They deal with: annual reports, list of codes for the evaluation of defects, market surveillance policies, guidelines for sampling, guides for consumers, etc.

Most of this supplementary info is in the language of the originating country

The following analysis carried out in the questionnaires resulted in collecting very interesting information that will be taken into account, as far as possible, when preparing the book on Best Practices in Market Surveillance.

In particular and in addition to the contents, some interesting issues were highlighted from the analysis of the questionnaires. They are listed as follows and will be further developed when drafting the handbook:

- Common rules for initial training of inspectors
- Harmonisation of on-going training
- ISO 9001 management could be an useful tool for MS bodies and surveillance programs
- "Tool box" (with rulers, calipers, millimetre, etc.) based on the specific directive/need
- Guide on Risk Assessment
- Definition and training on Risk Assessment criteria
- Common approach to Risk Communication
- Use of internet for training of Inspectors, MS programs, Risk Communication, exchange of information and data

All the information received has been synthesized in the **Report on Market Surveillance practice** that has been finalised as planned in the project. The **Report** was presented and discussed with the Commission in a verification meeting on February 22nd 2007

and presented to the participants in the UK Workshop in March 2007.

It is to be noted that there is considerable effort being put into the linkages with relevant ADCOs and on the specific joint market surveillance projects that are now running on cigarette lighters, portable luminaries and electrical extension cords. These items will be described in more detail later in the newsletter.

The book on Best practices on Market Surveillance

Summary of the situation

The draft index of the book was included in the **Report on Market Surveillance practice** that was presented to the Commission in a verification meeting on February 22nd 2007. The draft index was then presented to the EMARS participants in a workshop held in London on March 22nd 2007.

During the workshop in London the members attending the workshop commented on the draft index of the handbook.

The draft index was adapted based on the comments received and was then published on the EMARS Webex, giving all the Prosafe members the possibility to comment on it before April 15th.

The comments received were analysed and included in a further revision of the draft index that was sent for comment by the members of WP3 in a meeting held in Munich on May 8th. During this meeting the shape and format that the book would take, plus the various hard tools required to make it available were discussed. In particular the following decisions were taken:

- A) Type of book: 120-150 pages (60-75 sheets), Internal printed part 4+4 on "patinated" paper, opaque 170 g, cover cardboard like 4+0 + plasticized glossy, internal part sewed with reef thread, finished format 22,5cx29,7 cm
- B) We suggest that the handbook be produced in three different format types:
1. A paper handbook,
 2. A DVD with the same text as the paper handbook and hyperlinks on the documents that are referenced in the text (e.g. directives and their guidelines, basic standards, etc.)
 3. A "living" version uploaded on to the EMARS web-site and updated regularly.

A phone conference was held on May 15th. The main items discussed during the phone

conference were:

- the contents of the Handbook;
- the target audience
- the basic contents for each of the main chapters, in particular those non-related to the specific planning, execution and follow up of MS activities
- the selection of members from WP3 to be the main body responsible for drafting the different parts of the book. These contributions will then be collated by a single person responsible for assembling the various segments in a consistent and harmonised way and s/he will introduce the first draft of contents of the handbook.

In the meantime the WP3 members made their first contribution in drafting the basic contents of the more relevant chapters. The problems/questions arising from such an activity were discussed in a phone conference held on May 31st.

During the phone conference some significant decisions were taken:

- In order to make the title less restrictive and also based on comments and contributions received during the consultation process (Questionnaire + Workshop in London + public consultation after the workshop) the following title was agreed:
"Best Practice Techniques in Market Surveillance"

For the ease of understanding, we propose that all future internal communications refer to the document as 'the Book'.

- The draft index of the Book has been agreed and is listed as follows:

FOREWORD

PART A : INTRODUCTION

1. AIM AND SCOPE OF THE BOOK
2. THE EC LEGISLATIVE BASES FOR MARKET SURVEILLANCE
3. THE POLICY BEHIND MARKET SURVEILLANCE

PART B : RISK MANAGEMENT

4. THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE
5. MARKET SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES - THE PLANNING STAGE
6. MARKET SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES - THE IMPLEMENTATION STAGE
7. MARKET SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES - THE ANALYSIS (REVIEW) STAGE:
(RESULTS & FOLLOW-UP, INCLUDING ACTION NEEDED)

8. MARKET SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES - THE REPORTING STAGE.

PART C: RISK ASSESSMENT

PART D: RISK COMMUNICATION

- 10. FOLLOW-UP OF RISKS IDENTIFIED
- 11. ADDITIONAL PRACTICAL WAYS OF EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON RISK / PRODUCT KNOW HOW
- 12. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

PART E: CROSS-BORDER MARKET SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

- 13. THE MAIN EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN MARKET SURVEILLANCE
- 14. CROSS-BORDER INFORMATION SYSTEMS
- 15 OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS ON MARKET SURVEILLANCE
- 16. ADVANTAGES OF JOINT MARKET SURVEILLANCE PLANS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF JOINT PROJECTS
- 17. MARKET SURVEILLANCE AND CUSTOMS CONTROLS

PART F: CONCLUSION

ANNEXES

- ANNEX 1: The Cigarette lighters Project
- ANNEX 2: THE LVD-ADCO Project
- ANNEX 3: Generic Inspection Checklist
- ANNEX 4: The tool box (the basic checking and testing equipment to be used by market surveillance inspectors)

The main contents of the Book on Best MS practices techniques will be finalised in its first draft by September 2007 and will be presented to EMARS and Prosafe members in a workshop that will be held in autumn 2007.

Outlook for the second half of 2007

Further work on the book will continue once the inventory is concluded. A WP3 working meeting will take place on July 3rd focused on the text of the book. The people responsible for the different chapters have been appointed and there are several contributors to each of these chapters. During the Prosafe meeting in Munich in May 2007, volunteers were requested to join WP3 to assist with the contents of the book. This request will be repeated once some text is prepared. The first draft of the book will be presented and discussed in connection with the workshop in October 2007.

Joint projects - Summary of the situation.

WP3 intends to test the best practices it identifies in a series of joint projects. WP3 does not have the resources to carry out these projects in their entirety, rather it has funding to help kick-start some projects and provide the necessary resources to introduce the best practices into the projects and evaluate their practical effectiveness. During 2006 progress has been made in forging links with three joint projects: lighters, luminaires and extension cords.

The luminaires project and the extension cords project are being coordinated by the LVD-ADCO. EMARS established contacts earlier on in the process of developing the proposal for these projects (see also chapter 3.1)

In the first half of 2007 the bulk part of the coordination work with the lighters project was carried out by Torben Rahbek on a separate contract with the Commission, DG SANCO. Prosafe's contribution to the project has been the input of best practices in the procedures, forms, etc. that has been developed by Torben Rahbek.

Prosafe has taken an active part in the preparation of the application for a joint action on lighters. Prosafe undertook this task to use it as a platform for developing a best practice in organising joint market surveillance actions. (The largest part of the work in making an application for a joint action under GPSD article 10 is the development of a sparse idea for a project into a well-organised joint action whereas the application in itself is seen as a short and intense editorial process.)

The Lighters project has now been granted and a first kick-off meeting held on the 21st of September.

Lighters project – Deliverables produced in 2007

Input to documents developed under Torben Rahbek's contract with DG SANCO
Application for a joint action on lighters
Discussion documents outlining technical aspects of the joint action

In the playground equipment project proposed and applied for by Poland, EMARS will maintain close links with the project to enable fruitful transfers of information into different parts of the EMARS project.

Outlook for the rest of 2007

Work will continue on the lighters and extension cords projects and WP3 will actively promote other joint actions that could provide opportunities to test best practice. WP3 will be aided in this task by work that will be undertaken to identify national market surveillance programmes. Work will also continue on examining best practice in the training and recruitment of inspectors. EMARS will also track the developments made in the playground equipment project in order to gain examples of application of best practices to be included in the book.

4. Risk assessment handbook

WP4 has held two meetings in the reporting period. These were dedicated to developing the handbook and to analysing five cases: a folding chair, a luggage strap, socket outlet protectors, magnetic toys and a pyrotechnical fire extinguisher ball. The group has derived some observations from the analyses:

- In one meeting a case was assessed by a member who was unable to attend the meeting. The rest of the group could still understand the assessment perfectly well by the detailed scenarios and the calculations that had been used. This is taken as an indication that the method is becoming robust.
- The assessments have revealed a number of doubtful classifications in the injury table that has been proposed by WG IRAG.
- Probability related to behaviour is difficult to estimate. Probability related to physical factors (such as the area of an eye relative to the area of the front of a person) is easier to establish.
- Sensitivity analysis is important. Users should check a calculated probability with the formal category as well as with the closest category.
- It is difficult to decide how many scenarios are needed in an analysis. As a general rule, scenarios leading to serious injuries should always be analysed.
- The group found itself able to reuse data from former analyses, e.g. the probability of an object hitting the eye, which was used in the analysis of the hammer head case and again in the luggage strap case. It might be an idea to develop this idea further into a database with probabilities and other

data that are generally accepted. (The group notes that the ExpoFactors database in the Chemrisks toolbox has been developed for this purpose for chemical components and risks.)

- A special problem arises if the probability is low while the number of products is high. In such a case the resulting overall risk might be low but the number of accidents might still be high because of the large number of products.

The group has developed a summary report to be used for summarising the cases analysed. Such reports might go into the annexes of the handbook. Furthermore a best practice in reporting risk assessment to be used by the member states might be derived from the report.

A draft table of contents has been prepared and sent to EMARS WP3 to go into the handbook from the project. The group has discussed the first keywords that will form the basis for the chapters in the handbook.

Summary of deliverables produced in 2007

Draft table of contents
Draft introduction to risk assessment chapter in the handbook
Agenda meeting 19th March
Minutes meeting 19th March
Minutes of 18th December meeting
Report of candles test case
Report of folding chair test case
Report of luggage strap test case
Report for socket protectors test case
Report for magnetic toys test case
Report for pyrotechnical fire extinguisher ball test case
Procedures
Progress report, first quarter 2007
Agenda meeting 11th June
Minutes Meeting 11th June
Agenda Meeting 3rd September

Outlook for the rest of 2007

WP4 will continue to analyse test cases and to produce the contents of the handbook in cooperation with WP3. A common workshop will be held in which the complete draft handbook including the risk assessment chapter will be presented to a larger audience.

5. Strategy document

Work is not scheduled to start on the document until 2008. However in light of the ongoing

initiatives within the European Commission, for example, the revision of the New Approach, work has already begun on examining the role that EMARS and its deliverables can play together with other initiatives such as ICSMS in the market surveillance framework being proposed. A preliminary discussion was held at the core group meeting in July and will be followed up in the autumn workshop and Prosafe meeting. This work will help orientate the development of the strategy document in 2008.

6. Coordination and secretariat

Information infrastructure

The document management system on Webex continues to be developed and content added. The knowledge database has been amended to allow for the easy identification of documents that have been reviewed and those documents that continue best practices to be considered during the drafting of the best practice handbook. The number of member accounts has risen to nearly one hundred reaching the limit on the current hosting plan. We are currently examining how to add additional users either through buying additional user accounts or through the use of generic accounts. It has proven possible to operate a number of generic user accounts and still be able through appropriate distribution lists to include the users of generic accounts to be included in announcements and e-mail messaging.

Coordination of input from participating member states

The secretariat prepared a memo on national contributions to the project reminding national representatives of the different ways they can participate in the project. Some greater transparency of the contributions in kind being made will result from the peer review process and also the recording of contributions to the RAF. The secretariat in conjunction with the VWA will continue to monitor the reporting of days committed to the project.

Participation of countries not included in the financial scheme

A number of countries outside the financial scheme continue to make positive contributions to the project. In the past nine months Spain has committed to participate in the RAF submitting lists of names of appropriate experts. The UK has hosted the workshop held in London in the spring and contributed its expertise on training to the workshop and undertaken to take the lead on

developing the training strategy. Moreover the UK has committed to continue working with the project in the field of training. The UK has also made a contribution to the debate commencing on the development of the strategy document. Poland and Turkey are participating in a small working group on joint actions between neighbouring countries and a number of other countries are actively engaged in the development of proposals for joint actions. At the last Prosafe meeting some 22 countries were represented and 21 countries were represented at the London workshop.

Countries outside the financial scheme contributing to the project

Bulgaria	Spain
France	Switzerland
Iceland	Turkey
Ireland	United Kingdom
Poland	

Coordination between the different work packages

There are a number of practical examples of how the work packages are coordinating their activities. For example, we are striving to capture the information gained through the Rapid Advice Forum in the Knowledge Base. There is also an effort being made to systematically review the documents in the Knowledge Base for best practices that could be considered for inclusion in the Best Practice Handbook. The database for the Knowledge Base now allows documents to be identified that have been identified as containing such best practice. The availability of the Knowledge Base and guidance on how to identify documents within the database has formally been sent to the other project participants. Best practice already identified through the Knowledge Base also serves as the basis for one of the proposals for joint actions that have been developed as a result of the networking opportunities provided by the regular Prosafe meetings. Poland, which is not participating in the financial scheme of the EMARS project, has nevertheless taken the lead in developing a proposal for a joint action on playground equipment. Best practice from the Netherlands and Belgium will play an important role in that project and the Polish authorities have also been able to draw on the experience that has been built up within EMARS through the role that EMARS has played in the market surveillance of cigarette lighters.

Coordination with other relevant initiatives

The project continues to be coordinated with other initiatives. WP4 has been very active within the Commission's own IRAG group revising the Rapex risk assessment guidelines. The work of WP4 is also coordinated with the Eurosafe working group on risk assessment. A presentation of EMARS was made to the spring meetings of the ICPSC and ICPHSO. WP1 has held a meeting with ICSMS and a presentation on EMARS has been made to the ICSMS board. A number of presentations have also been made to the Commission ADCOs.

Summary of deliverables produced in 2007

Memo on national contributions
Memo on joint testing and regulatory co-operation
Presentation on development of strategy
Memo on structure and content of workshops and final conference

Outlook for the rest of 2007

The secretariat will continue to contribute to the execution of the project and to coordinate the activities of the different work packages and the contributions of the participating countries. The secretariat will attempt to reach out to more countries outside the financial scheme to encourage them to participate actively in the project.

7. Dissemination of the results of the project

A number of deliverables relate to the dissemination of the results of the project and the promotion of the project. These include a website, a database on 'Who's who', enforcement structures and procedures, body of knowledge and product fact sheets and guidelines and manuals. These tasks are being undertaken by Work Package 6.

Communications Strategy

A comprehensive communications strategy has been developed during 2006 and is now being implemented. Some of the individual components of the strategy include branding of the project; a website, a newsletter, outreach activities. Progress with these individual components is elaborated on below. A review of the communications strategy has now been carried out on the basis of the information gathered for the progress report presented to the European Commission in July.

Newsletter

There have now been three editions of the newsletter all of which are available on the web-site. The mailing list for the newsletter contains over 1000 e-mail addresses. The newsletter has generated some interest in the project with contact being made with the secretariat

Who's who

The Who's who is available on the Webex site and on the public EMARS web-site. There are individual country profiles. In addition there are links to the Prosafe membership and the list of RAPEX contact points maintained by the European Commission. The secretariat is actively pursuing the small number of missing country profiles and will add them as they are made available.

Workshop London March 2007

EMARS held its first workshop in the course of the project in London on March 22nd. The theme of the workshop was the development of the best practice handbook. The programme of the workshop was designed to bring participants up to date with information about the progress that has been made up until now within the work packages dealing with the workshop, primarily WP3 but also WP4 who are drafting the risk assessment module. The workshop also showcased a number of presentations of best practice and initiated a discussion of several issues that will be addressed in the final handbook. The meeting was attended by 41 participants from 21 different countries.

Other outreach activities

Representatives of the project have attended a number of meetings to present the project to external stakeholders. The approach in respect of regulatory committees such as the ADCOs and the GPSD committee has been to make a first presentation of the project generally and then to return with more specific presentations on other occasions. For example WP1 is seeking to present the Knowledge Base and WP2 the Rapid Advice Forum. A full list of meetings attended by the project is included in the annexes. A list of external stakeholders outwith the regulatory authorities has also been drawn up and individual meetings have been held with many of these stakeholders to engage them in further dialogue over the aims and objectives of the project. Other stakeholder events are being considered for the workshops to be held in the autumn of 2007 and spring of 2008.

Welcome to EMARS

EMARS TO DEVELOP TRAINING STRATEGY

Welcome to the web-site of the project EMARS, enhancing market surveillance through best practice. EMARS is being undertaken by Prosafe, the Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe with the generous financial support of the Directorate-General of Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission (DG-SANCO). Between now and the end of 2008 market surveillance officials from across Europe will be working together to identify best practice to improve the safety of non-food consumer products.

Considerable progress has been made in the project over the past months. Our recent mid-term progress report, our first annual report and our newsletter provide you with information about the work being carried out within the project. More detailed information on specific deliverables is available from pages linked on the right. You'll find information about our Rapid Advice Forum, the market surveillance of cigarette lighters and the results of the workshop we held in March to discuss our best practice handbook.

Most recently work has begun in the project on developing a training strategy. The UK Trading Standards Institute TSI has very many years experience of training and will take the lead with this task. Some background information on training can be found on the new training page linked on the right.

We will continue to develop the web-site throughout the project. If you would like any further information about EMARS please contact the EMARS secretariat. They can be reached at info@emars.eu

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- ◊ Training
- ◊ News
- ◊ Knowledge Base
- ◊ WP3 Workshop March 2007
- ◊ Cigarette Lighters
- ◊ Rapid Advice Forum
- ◊ European Commission
- ◊ EFTA
- ◊ EMARS Webex
- ◊ Prosafe
- ◊ Who's Who
- ◊ E-mail us!
- ◊ Search

Web-site

The web-site continues to be developed with more content being added to reflect progress in the project. There are now pages on the web-site devoted to the workshop held in the spring, the rapid advice forum, the market surveillance of cigarette lighters, the Who's who and training. Through Friday the 21st of September we had 5,482 PDF documents downloaded (three editions of the newsletter the first annual report and recent progress report); 312 word documents (procedural documents relating to the RAF); 1,055 PowerPoint files (the presentations from the workshop) and had 9,175 page requests in the period from 1st December 2006. On Google we appear as the third domain listed (fifth result overall listed). The web-site will continue to be developed as the public face of the project.

Summary of deliverables produced in 2007

Review of Communications Plan
Spring Workshop
Second and third editions of the newsletter
Who's who
Additional web-site content
Presentations to external stakeholders

Outlook for the rest of 2007

The secretariat will continue to implement the communications strategy. A number of further presentations are planned to ADCOs and other regulatory committees. The secretariat will follow up the meetings planned with external stakeholders and will develop a stakeholder component for the workshop in October. Further editions of the newsletter are planned for November and early in the New Year. The secretariat will also pursue those countries who have not yet contributed their national profiles to the Who's who.

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