



“Who-is-who” in PROSAFE and EMARS



Austria

Introduction

Austria consists of nine provinces with a total area of approx. 84.000 sq km and a population of 8 million. The largest Austrian city is Vienna with about 1,65 million inhabitants.

Product Safety Legislation

- The **General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC)** has been implemented with the **Product Safety Act 2004** (“Produktsicherheitsgesetz 2004”), BGBl. (Federal Law Gazette) I Nr. 16/2004. The competence for this act rests with the Minister of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.
As intended by the GPSD the Product Safety Act covers consumer products which are not subject to specific laws or regulations in Austria.
- The **Toys Directive (88/378/EEC)** is implemented in the **Toys Regulation** (“Spielzeugverordnung”), BGBl. Nr. 823/1994 in the framework of the foodstuffs act (Minister of Health).
- A number of New Approach Directives has been implemented by regulations based on the Industrial Code, e.g. the **Personal Protective Equipment Directive (89/686/EEC)** (> **PSA-Sicherheitsverordnung, BGBl. Nr. 740/1996**), the **Machine Directive (98/37/EC)** (> **Maschinen-Sicherheitsverordnung, BGBl. Nr. 306/1994**) and the **Gas appliances Directive (90/396/EEC)** (> **Gasgeraete-Sicherheitsverordnung, BGBl.Nr. 430/1994**). These regulations are in the competence of the Minister of Economics and Labour.
- The Low Voltage Directive (73/23/EEC) is implemented with the Niederspannungsgeraeteverordnung 1995, BGBl. Nr. 51/1995 and the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive (89/336/EEC) with the Elektromagnetische Verträglichkeitsverordnung 1995, BGBl.Nr. 52/1995 (Minister of Economics and Labour).
- The Radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment (R&TTE) Directive (1999/5/EC) is in the competence of the Minister of Transport, Innovation and Technology.

The complete Austrian law can be found in the internet at www.ris.bka.gv.at

Market surveillance Practice

In general market surveillance in Austria is a task of the provinces governed by the “Landeshauptmann” who is subject to directions of the competent minister. For the enforcement of the GPSD designated officers (“Produktsicherheits-Aufsichtsorgane”) have to carry out inspections on the spot.

In some areas (low-voltage-products) market surveillance is done directly by the competent ministry.

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