OVERVIEW OF PRODUCT SAFETY
How safe are the products on the market?

THE TIC FEDERATIONS SURVEY

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 purpose of this market survey was to compare the regulatory compliance of certain categories of electrical consumer products available on the open market in both North America and Europe that were assessed by a first-party evaluation or an independent third-party conformity assessment body. This survey was done to have a better understanding of how the use of different conformity assessment approaches can lead to different compliance outcomes that affect consumer product safety.

The Methodology
537 products were selected off the shelves of national retailers across 2014-2016 from across Europe and North America. In order to assess the conformity of the products with legislative requirements, a series of safety tests were conducted at an accredited independent lab against established standards.

The Products

- Hair Dryers and Curlers
- Small Power Tools
- Toasters and Grills
- Electric Fans
- Room Heaters
- Irons
- Luminaires
- Battery Chargers and Adapters

The Results

Third party certified product compliance
< 1% dangerous faults
Non-compliance of 3rd party certified goods can occur when manufacturing procedures are changed without third party involvement. Regular audits help to reduce these occurrences. Non-compliant products are immediately reported to the certifier and manufacturer.

Self-declared product compliance
17% dangerous faults
Product defects that can cause permanent injury, generate fires or severe electric shock.

GENERAL FINDINGS

- Average rejection rate for first-time tests on products as they do not meet all safety requirements
- Non-conformities found during factory surveillance visits by certification body auditors

1. IFIA CIPC study
Estimated level of unsafe and non-compliant products sold on the EU markets:

- 0.3% of products entering the EU are inspected by market surveillance authorities
- Over 500 safety deficiencies were detected by inspections companies in Swedish playgrounds
- 11 carbon monoxide detector models were recalled in 2017 from the European market due to the high-risk type: asphyxiation
- 32% of toys
- 40% of personal protective equipment
- 47% of construction products
- 58% of electronics

Sources:
1 The Parliament Magazine, 14.08.2014
2 Rapid Alert System for dangerous non-food products, as of October 2017
3 Rapport 2016:15 Market surveillance of playground equipment, by Swedish Consumer Agency and the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning