

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



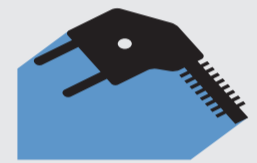
HAIR DRYERS
AND CURLERS



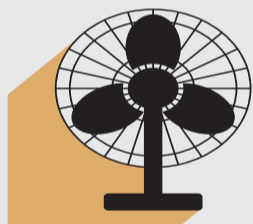
SMALL POWER TOOLS



TOASTERS AND GRILLS



BATTERY CHARGERS
AND ADAPTERS



ELECTRIC FANS



ROOM HEATERS



IRONS



LUMINAIRES

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

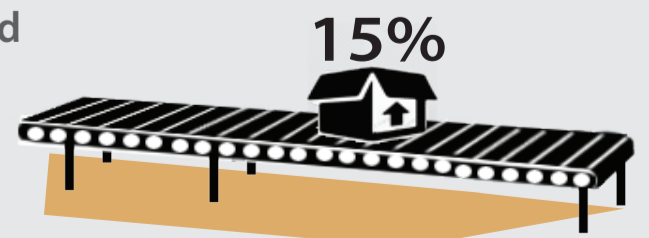
Product defects that can cause permanent injury, generate fires or severe electric shock.

GENERAL FINDINGS¹



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

PRODUCT SAFETY & COMPLIANCE IN EUROPE

Data from other sources

0.3% of products entering the EU are inspected by market surveillance authorities ¹

11 carbon monoxide detector models were recalled in 2017 from the European market due to the high-risk type: asphyxiation ²

Over 500 safety deficiencies were detected by inspections companies in Swedish playgrounds ³

92% of drones were found non-compliant with the requirements of the R&TTE directive ⁴

Estimated level of unsafe and non-compliant products sold on the EU markets: ⁵



40% of personal protective equipment

58% of electronics



32% of toys



47% of construction products



IFIA and CEOC are the international federations, representing the independent testing inspection and certification sector (TIC) globally. Together they represent the world's leading international testing, inspection and certification bodies active in over a hundred countries around the world with a combined turnover of roughly €25 Billion and a highly qualified work force of over 400.000 employees.

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

⁴ Report on the 7th Joint cross-border R&TTE Market Surveillance Campaign (2015): Remotely Piloted Aircraft System, adopted on 21 October 2015

⁵ European Commission Press release, Brussels, 19 December 2017 http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-5301_en.htm