

PROSAFE Joint Action
**Seamless surveillance by
close cooperation**



Brussels, 31st October 2013

News from PROSAFE

Promising Cooperation between the Chinese Export Control Authorities and the European Product Safety Control Authorities to Improve the Safety of Consumer Products

September marked the shift from the first to the second stage of a successful cooperation between the Chinese export control authorities and the European product safety control authorities aiming at increasing consumer confidence in the safety of products and facilitating the trade between Europe and China. This cooperation is now entering its next stage, which features a pilot project that will test how the cooperation can be implemented in practice.

Ten European Member States, led by the Netherlands, have worked actively with the General Administration of Quality, Supervision and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China since January 2012. The purpose has been to explore the scope for cooperation between European and Chinese authorities to implement a so-called "seamless surveillance" scheme where the authorities target measures against unsafe products at the point in the supply chain where the impact is most effective. The overall aim is that the European and Chinese authorities establish a closed-loop system for intergovernmental cooperation on "seamless supervision" to control the entire supply chain from the manufacturer to the consumer thereby improving the safety of products.

The main content of the first stage has been an exchange visit of experts, to familiarise themselves with each other's procedures. A group of European experts visited China in October-November 2012 and had fruitful discussions with colleagues from both AQSIQ in Beijing and the inspection authorities in Shenzhen and Shanghai. Later on, in April 2013, a group of Chinese experts visited the Netherlands and the harbour of Rotterdam. They learned about the enforcement of product safety requirements in the Netherlands, and were informed of surveillance procedures in a number of other European countries. The first stage finished when the two parties met in Beijing in August 2013 to finalise the reports from the two visits and to evaluate the cooperation up to that point.

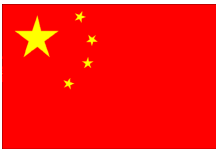
During that meeting, the two parties confirmed their willingness to continue the cooperation and agreed to start the next stage, which will feature a trial of the practical cooperation between the Chinese and the European authorities. This will include the establishing of three working groups that will exchange experience on the organisation of testing of toys, compare test results from laboratories in order to learn from each other and to discuss means for exchanging data between authorities.

The end goal is that the European and Chinese authorities will deepen their cooperation and establish mutual trust in their respective control systems, which, it is anticipated, will result in higher consumer confidence in the safety of products.

Contact Person:

Project Leader Marijn Colijn

Email: marijn.colijn@nvwa.nl



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Background information

This information is issued by PROSAFE, the 10 participating authorities in the Joint Market Surveillance Action on China - JA China and the General Administration of Quality, Supervision and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China.

The Action is coordinated by PROSAFE (Product Safety), a non-profit organisation that brings together market surveillance officers from all over Europe and across the world. Visit www.prosafe.org to learn more.

On this website you will also find more information about Joint Action 2011, the EMARS project and the other Joint Actions coordinated by PROSAFE. Explore the links to "Projects" in the left-hand column.

Disclaimer

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The newsletter reflects only the views of the author. The European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.