

# JAHARP2020-3 Newsletter (second edition)

22 Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) from 21 European countries work jointly to keep European consumers safe

Geographical Scope of JAHARP2020-3



22 Market Surveillance Authorities from 21 European Member States

Our goal: the safety of your products

JAHARP2020-3 performed documentary checks and tests on consumer products to assess safety and compliance with European legislation. By May 2023, we will have checked and tested 31 gas-fired space heaters and 120 USB chargers and follow-up measures against all non-compliant products will be finalised. JAHARP2020-3 has also developed a harmonised approach to market surveillance of large TPE (tanks) for the transport of class 2 gases.

# JAHARP2020-3

Joint Market Surveillance Action 3 on HARmonised Products 2020

<h2 style="margin: 0;">INSPECTION &amp; TESTING RESULTS</h2>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Administrative Checks &amp; Tests on 2 Product Groups &amp; Development of a Harmonised Approach on Large TPE for transport of class 2 gasses</h3>	<p>Co-funded by the European Union</p>
<h4 style="margin: 0;">Gas-fired space heaters</h4>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">Large TPE for the transport of class 2 gasses</h4>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">USB Chargers</h4>
<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>■ Compliance ■ Non-Compliance</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>SCREENING BY MSAS AND LABORATORY RESULTS SO FAR</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>out of the <b>44</b> products screened by MSAs, <b>77%</b> had administrative non-compliances</li> <li>out of the <b>31</b> products tested and examined in the laboratory, <b>81%</b> present administrative non-compliances and <b>71%</b> present technical non-compliances</li> </ul> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>ADVICE FOR CONSUMERS AND KEY TAKEAWAYS</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> The CE mark should mention the ID number of the Notified Body</li> <li> Ensure that the castors of your fuelless space heater are lockable so that it will not move to combustible material by accident</li> <li> Make sure that the product has warning translated in your language</li> <li> The overall non-compliance level seems high - especially if considering that the involvement of Notified Bodies is mandatory for type-examination and product control</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>STUDY VISIT TO SLOVENIA</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Study visit to a manufacturer in Slovenia to build up the harmonized approach</p> </div> <p>The participants could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Examine a large tanker being constructed and installed on a road trailer</li> <li> Assist to an inspection of a new vehicle-mounted tank carried out by a Notified Body</li> <li> Various discussions with the manufacturer and the Notified Body, which led to...             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>validation of project flow diagram of the conformity assessment procedures</li> <li>analysis of technical files on the products under construction</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>TOWARDS AN HARMONISED COMMON APPROACH...</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> The group is currently discussing lesson learned to develop a harmonised approach to be shared with the TPED ADCO</li> <li> Training undertaken by experts and visits to manufacturers seemed effective to develop a harmonised approach for large and complex products</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Compliance ■ Non-Compliance</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>LABORATORY RESULTS</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>120</b> USB Chargers sampled, <b>74%</b> resulted non-compliant, at times for several reasons:</li> <li>Examples of non-compliances:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>71</b> failed flammability testing</li> <li><b>52</b> do not comply with test clauses in EN62368-1</li> <li><b>31</b> have serious defects</li> </ul> </li> <li>Further nonconformities detected:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>insufficient insulation for transformers and capacitors</li> <li>Internal clearance and creepage distances below the limits</li> <li>Undersized EU plug pins</li> <li>Missing product markings</li> </ul> </li> <li>Final steps:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk assessment</li> <li>Evaluation of the technical documentation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>KEY TAKEAWAY AND CONSUMER ADVICE</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Check the presence of product marking</li> <li> Monitor the EU Safety Gate alerts on a regular basis</li> <li> Be sure of the compatibility with your device</li> <li> Try not to charge your devices overnight or when you are not home</li> </ul>

The [JAHARP2020-3](#) is a 24-month pan-European Triplet Project co-funded by the European Union (EU). Its strategic objective is threefold: (i) to raise the level of market surveillance; (ii) to facilitate the application of the Market Surveillance Regulation (EU) 2019/1020; and (iii) to increase the capability of the European MSAs. The project is coordinated by [PROSAFE - The Product Safety Forum of Europe](#).

**Caution!** The results described stem from samples of products from the markets in the participating countries. As in most market surveillance activities, the results represent the targeted efforts that MSAs undertake to identify unsafe products. This means that the detected noncompliance rate does not present a statistically valid picture of the situation of the whole market. Tests were undertaken at accredited laboratories and focussed on those safety requirements that have the largest impact on consumer safety.

## Project results per working group

### Gas-fired space heaters



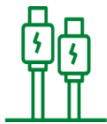
After screening **44 gas-fired space heaters**, the participating MSAs selected **31 models** and sent them for testing to an accredited test laboratory. The most updated results suggest that **25** of the **31 appliances exhibited administrative non-compliances**, including marking errors or errors in the user instructions. Furthermore, **technical nonconformities were found in 22 of the 31 tested models** so far. These include hot surfaces exceeding the temperature limits, wrong flame behaviour (i.e., flames taking a long time to ignite in the burner), non-lockable castors in case of flueless heaters, and products not extinguishing when the level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the room exceeds the limit.

### Large TPE for the transport of class 2 gases



In the last phase of this capacity-building activity, the group organised a **study visit to a manufacturer** of road tankers in Slovenia in January 2023 and witnessed **the last stages of the inspection of a new vehicle-mounted tank by a Notified Body** (i.e., an air-tightness test). Discussion with the representatives of the manufacturer and the Notified Body enabled the participants to validate the flow diagram of the conformity assessment procedures of the project and to examine the technical files relating to the products under construction. The group is now consolidating the lessons of these activities with a view to developing a harmonised approach that will be made available to all TPED ADCO members.

### USB Chargers



Laboratory testing is completed for all **120 USB chargers** sampled by the participating MSAs. **Nonconformities have been identified in 89 (74%) of the products checked**. These include missing product markings, undersized EU plug pins, internal clearance and creepage distances well below the limits permitted, and insufficient electrical insulation for transformers and capacitors. Furthermore, **71 of the products (59%) failed flammability testing** implying inadequate protection against the spread of fire (i.e., faulty fire enclosures or fire barriers). Out of the 120 products, **52 (43%) had multiple nonconformities** against test clauses in EN 62368-1. Overall, **tests revealed serious defects for 31 USB chargers (26%)**. Risk assessment, the evaluation of the technical documentation, and enforcement actions are underway.

## Consumer advice and key takeaways



- Check the CE mark. It must mention the 4-digit ID number of the Notified Body involved in the production control.
- If you want to buy a flueless space heater, look for a model where the castors are lockable to avoid that the heater slides towards combustible material while operating.
- Check that the product comes with warnings in your own language.
- Non-compliance levels are high even if Notified Bodies should be part of type-examination and production controls
- Training serviced by technical experts and hands-on exchanges with manufacturers proved to be useful to develop a harmonised approach to market surveillance for large and complex products.
- Check that your USB charger plugs in easily and ensure correct product markings and compatibility with your device(s); check the EU Safety Gate alerts for dangerous products regularly; where possible, avoid charging devices overnight or when leaving your home.
- Although USB chargers are now commonplace, they seem to continue to pose electric shock and fire risks.
- The sampling process was effective: MSAs were successful in identifying unsafe products from online descriptions.

## Communication and Outreach

PROSAFE's web portal [www.prosafe.org](http://www.prosafe.org) and social media ([Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) provide progress updates to the public, also via infographics and visuals. The status of the activities was also communicated in other forms, e.g., presentations at the TPED AdCo group on 10 June 2021, the LVD AdCo group on 16 Nov. 2021, the GA AdCo group meetings on 21 April 2021 and 15 June 2022, as well as at the PROSAFE General Assembly on 31 May 2022.

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**Disclaimer!** This Newsletter is part of the joint action JAHARP2020-3, which receives Funding from the European Union in the framework of the Action entitled "EU support to joint market surveillance actions for non-food products". The content of this web page represents the views of the author only and it is his sole responsibility. It cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for the use that may be made of the information it contains.