



## EUROLAB Special Briefing

### Nearly 2500 dangerous products withdrawn from the EU market in 2014

On 23 March 2015, the European Commission published new figures, showing that in 2014, nearly 2500 products, ranging from toys to motor vehicles, were either stopped before they entered the EU or removed from markets because they were dangerous for EU consumers.

These findings are based on a new [2014 RAPEX Annual Report](#), which presents the main developments in product safety over the past year. It contains information on notifying and reacting countries, countries of origin and types of products subject to notification, risks posed and measures taken in 2014.

#### *...2014 main results*

**2014 Statistics show an increase in both the number of notifications and follow-up actions reported in the system.**

- The highest number ever of **2435 notifications** of which 2153 concerned products causing serious risk were registered in 2014. This represents an **increase of 3%** compared to last year.
- The number of registered **follow-up actions** also attained a record level with **2755** reactions on products posing a risk to health and safety of consumers, of which 2666 were identified as causing a serious risk. Motor vehicles represented the largest share of all these reactions (1 714).

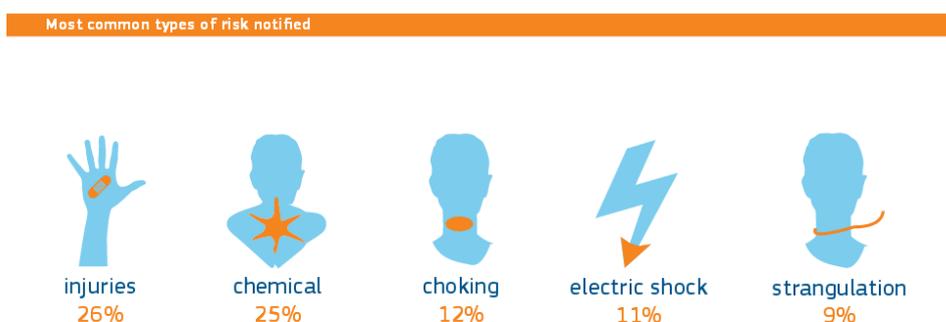
**The majority of dangerous products notified in the system came from outside the EU.** China (including Hong Kong) was indicated as a country of origin for 64% (1 501) of notified products, Turkey and the USA each accounted for 3% of the notified cases (66 and 60 respectively). The share of notifications on products made in the EU continues to steadily decrease from 27% of the cases in 2003 to 14% in 2014. The European Commission collaborates closely with China through the "Rapid alert system-CHINA" application to ensure that the Chinese authorities tackle any product safety issues on the ground.

**Level of market surveillance activities varies greatly among the member states.** The number of notifications is an indication of extremely uneven market surveillance in the EU. Most alerts about dangerous products come from Hungary (291). In second place comes Germany (273), followed by Spain (272), France (163) and Cyprus (151). This sequence shows already how differently measures are applied in the EU Member States.

The product categories most often notified, which accounted for 70% of all notifications were:



The five most frequently notified risk categories were:



### *... what is the Rapid Alert System for dangerous non-food products*

Established by the General Product Safety Directive (GPSD) in 2004, the Rapid Alert System ensures that information about dangerous non-food products withdrawn from the market and/or recalled anywhere in Europe is quickly circulated between Member States and the European Commission. It **does not cover** food, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, which are covered by other alert systems. Thirty-one countries (EU together with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) currently participate in the RAPEX network system.

### *...how does it work*

When a Member State detects on its own market a product that is unsafe, it submits this information to the Commission by posting a notification in the rapid alert system. The submitted notifications are then validated by the Commission and rapidly circulated to the participating countries. The latter search for the respective product on their markets and those countries that find it report back to the Commission through the system which follow-up action (ban/stop of sales, withdrawal, recall or import rejection by Customs authorities) they have taken.

For further information on the Rapid Alert System for dangerous non-food products in 2014 please follow the links: [Questions and answers](#) and [2014 Rapid Alert System data](#).

Should you have any comments or questions do not hesitate to contact the EUROLAB General Secretariat at [info@eurolab.org](mailto:info@eurolab.org)