

Strengthening national capacity for product safety: Delivery Plan 2018-19

Office for Product Safety and Standards

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

OFFICE FOR PRODUCT SAFETY AND STANDARDS – STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITY DELIVERY PLAN 2018

Strategic Objective	Function	Action	When
Analyse	Intelligence	Create an ongoing partnership with stakeholders to facilitate data and intelligence sharing, including GAIN membership.	Commenced
		Prepare the first national Strategic Assessment to inform intelligence led prioritisation for action.	March 2019
		Work with ROSPA and public health bodies to improve injury data collection.	December 2018
	Scientific and Technical Advice	Publish the Strategic Research Programme to set priorities for research investment.	August 2018
		Develop tools and guidance to help businesses and local authorities improve risk assessment.	December 2018
		Develop a peer review service to support local authorities producing and validating risk assessments.	March 2019
	Evidence	Use behavioural science to understand how best to impact consumer, retailer and producer behaviour in issues of recall, safety messages and safer goods.	Research programme commissioned July 2018
Inform		Use data and analytics to design new and effective communications tools for consumers, using evidence of the	March 2019

	Consumer engagement	effectiveness of interventions and how consumers behave in real world situations.		
		Strengthen collaborations with stakeholder groups and consumer bodies.	June 2018	
		Support collaborative media and awareness consumer campaigns about specific hazards and calls to action.	Ongoing	
		Work with the Intellectual Property Office to publicise the potential safety hazards of counterfeit goods.	January 2019	
	Industry engagement	Review guidance on GOV.UK to ensure it is accessible and aids understanding, and produce new guidance on any identified issues.	January 2019	
		We will work with the Departmental for International Trade to ensure that online information for importers regarding safety of goods is clear.	January 2019	
	Standards	Encourage greater diversity in standards committee membership.	March 2019	
		Review evidence where existing standards are insufficient.	Ongoing	
	Enforce	Primary Authority	Support local authorities in forming Primary Authority partnerships with importers, distributors and retailers to improve confidence, certainty and safety outcomes.	March 2019
			Provide Supporting Regulator capability to support Primary Authority partnerships, providing technical expertise – particularly on novel or contentious issues.	Ongoing with the first piece of advice published by July 2018

		Publish a process for local authorities to request technical support from the Office.	December 2018
		Work with white goods manufacturers, gaining assurance that their compliance systems are robust and that they are implementing the recall Code.	October 2018
	Borders	Increase support for local authority led teams at ports, borders and points of entry.	March 2019
		Provide investment in strategic points of entry to ensure access to specialist enforcement equipment and facilities.	March 2019
	Enforcement	<p>Carry out risk-led and targeted enforcement activity to tackle non-compliance, working with National Trading Standards, local authorities and other enforcement authorities where appropriate. For example, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A review of the product compliance and recall systems in place at a range of white goods manufacturers supplying to the UK market. - Fulfilment houses that may not be complying with their legal obligations. 	March 2019
	Incident Management	Establish a national incident management team for product safety incidents.	Fully operational by September 2018
		Publish incident management plan including guidance and protocols, setting out our approach to incident classification and collaboration with local authorities and other bodies.	September 2018

Build	Capability	Establish Trading Standards Co-ordination Unit to lead engagement with local authorities.	June 2018
		Work with the Chartered Trading Standards Institute to assess skills and knowledge on product safety and develop training materials to support capability building for local authorities.	October 2018
	Collaboration and networks	Be an active member of international regulatory networks, including the OECD, to ensure that the UK can learn from international comparators and remain world leading in own approach to safety.	Current and ongoing
	Policy and Implementation	Carry out Post Implementation Review of toy safety and cosmetics regulations, and periodic review of General Product Safety Regulations.	March 2019
		To ensure the 49 Directives that Safety & Standards has responsibility for are moved from EU into UK law, via Statutory Instruments, addressing any inoperabilities, making them workable with UK law for day one of exit.	March 2019
	Digital and technology	Develop new digital systems for use by Safety and Standards, local authorities and other market surveillance authorities to share data and information about product risks and receive rapid alert notifications.	Phase 1 March 2019
		Develop a central hub to enable consumers to access reliable information about recalled products and receive alerts of registered products.	November 2019

		Carry out initial improvements to Product Recall site to improve ease of finding information.	June 2018
	Testing	Map external test house capability, and identify any gaps, to inform development of Safety and Standards in-house test capability.	July 2018
		Begin market surveillance testing programme in partnership with local authorities.	July 2018
		Develop new partnerships with accredited test houses to ensure sufficient testing capability in the system, with rigour and independence.	November 2019