

Note of the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety – Wednesday 14th December 2016

1. This was the second meeting of the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety, under the Chairmanship of Neil Gibbins. Since the first meeting, Citizens Advice has joined the Group.

Attendees:

Neil Gibbins, Former Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Devon and Somerset (**Chair**)

Steve Brunige, British Standards Institution, (BSI)

Philip Buckle, Electrical Safety First, (ESF)

Kate Corby, Baker McKenzie LLP

Sian Lewis, Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances (AMDEA)

Wendy Phillips, British Toy and Hobby Association (BTHA)

Guy Pratt, Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO)

Charlie Pugsley, the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA)

Professor G. J. Rodgers, Brunel University London

Errol Taylor, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)

Daniel VandenBurg, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Melanie Wiseman, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT)

Apologies:

David Bolton, British Retail Consortium (BRC)

Leon Livermore, Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI)

Jonathan O'Neil, Fire Protection Association (FPA)

Mark Shepherd, Association of British Insurers (ABI)

2. Meeting content

The Chair thanked members of the Group for their active involvement in discussions and willingness to share views, experiences and data demonstrating their continued commitment and enthusiasm for the challenge set by the Minister.

Since the first meeting the Chair, and BEIS, have been involved in a series of bilateral meetings with members of the Working Group and other stakeholders not represented on the group to build the evidence base and develop recommendations.

Dialogue has primarily focused on providing information to answer the six questions posed by the Ministers; what each considers as a strong and effective

recall process should look like, and what they each consider are the priorities for action etc., all of which is contributing to the evidence base which will be included in a report to the Minister.

The Chair committed to giving his **initial view of the emerging priorities and recommendations** being developed by the Group to the Minister before Christmas. In particular, the Group focussed their thinking around:

- Government resource at a national level to co-ordinate product safety recalls and enforcement.
- The role of primary authority partnerships with manufacturers of white goods to support product safety and effective corrective action/recalls.
- The potential benefits of a single Code of Practice on managing effective correction action (including recalls).
- The important role AMDEA's 'Register My Appliance' scheme can play in ensuring consumer awareness of issues, and the role of Government, members of the Group and other stakeholders in actively promoting it
- The potential value of insights into consumer behaviour as a means of increasing their participation in corrective actions and general consumer safety.

3. Outputs

The Chair will feed back emerging recommendations to the Minister before Christmas. Work to develop a full set of recommendations and written report continues and the Chair will continue to meet with and seek out stakeholder views to include in this review.

The next meeting of the Group will be scheduled for early February 2017.

The final set of recommendations and report to the Minister is expected in the early part of 2017.