European Commission

CASP | Coordinated Activities on the Safety of Products

CASP 2025
Final Report

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List of abbreviations

ANEC	European Association for the Coordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation
CASP	Coordinated Activities on the Safety of Products
EC	European Commission
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EN	European standard
EU	European Union
GPSR	General Product Safety Regulation 2023/988
HA	Horizontal activity
MSA	Market surveillance authority
PFAS	Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulation 2019/1021
PSA	Product-specific activity
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Regulation 1907/2006
XRF	X-ray fluorescence

Executive summary

Overview of CASP 2025 and its activities

General description

The Coordinated Activities on the Safety of Products (CASP) project fosters cooperation between market surveillance authorities (MSAs) from EU and EFTA countries to ensure the safety of products sold in the Single Market.

The primary objective of CASP is to ensure a safe Single Market by equipping MSAs with the tools to jointly test products placed on the market, assess the risks they pose and formulate common positions and procedures for market surveillance. Additionally, CASP aims to facilitate discussions and establish a meaningful exchange of ideas to develop common approaches, methodologies, practical tools and guidelines. CASP contributes to creating greater awareness about product safety among economic operators and consumers through an engaging communication strategy about its activities and results.

Description of the activities

The CASP project brings together MSAs to collaborate based on their priorities. Every year, CASP encompasses a range of activities, grouped into Product-specific activities (PSAs) and Horizontal activities (HAs). Three activities took place under CASP 2025: two PSAs and one HA. PSA 1 focused on testing products sampled on the MSAs' national markets for **chemicals**. PSA 2 focused on re-testing **child bicycle seats**, following testing of this product category under CASP 2019. In the HA, participants discussed the potential mental health risks of new technology products and identified approaches to best address MSAs' challenges in assessing these risks.

Product-specific activities	Horizontal Activities
PSA 1 – Chemicals	HA – Mental health risks
PSA 2 – Child bicycle seats (re-testing)	

Main results and conclusions of CASP 2025

Product-specific activities

Across the two PSAs, participating MSAs collected 156 products: 128 samples were tested under PSA 1, and 25[1] under PSA 2. Sampling was carried out using methodologies tailored to each product category and followed an agreed distribution among the participating authorities. While the approaches varied slightly, MSAs generally applied a risk-based sampling method.

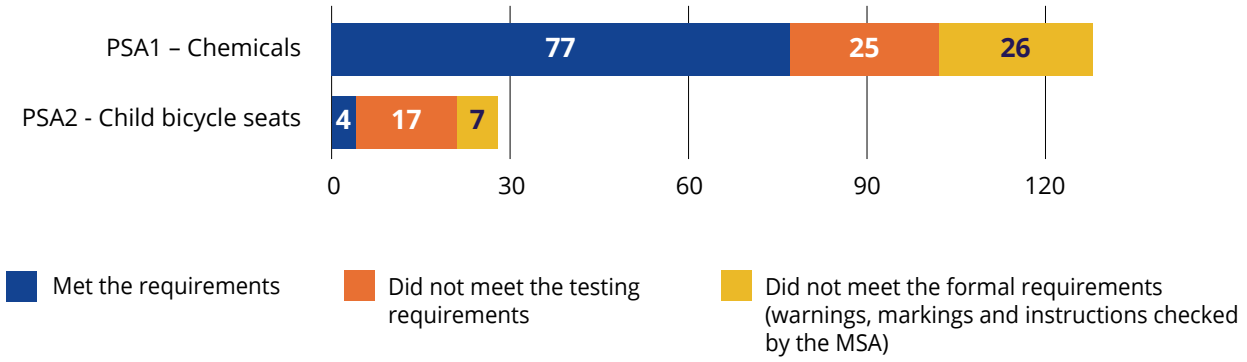
For both PSAs, laboratory testing was carried out in accredited laboratories in accordance with a testing plan jointly agreed by the MSAs. In addition to the laboratory tests, the MSAs performed checks on warnings, markings and instructions in their national language(s).

[1] For three samples, checks on warnings, markings and instructions were carried out; however, laboratory testing could not be performed on these samples as they were lost during shipment.

Where failures were identified, MSAs implemented corrective measures, primarily aimed at removing from the market products that pose risks to consumers' health and safety. The final results do not offer a statistically robust representation of the European Single Market.

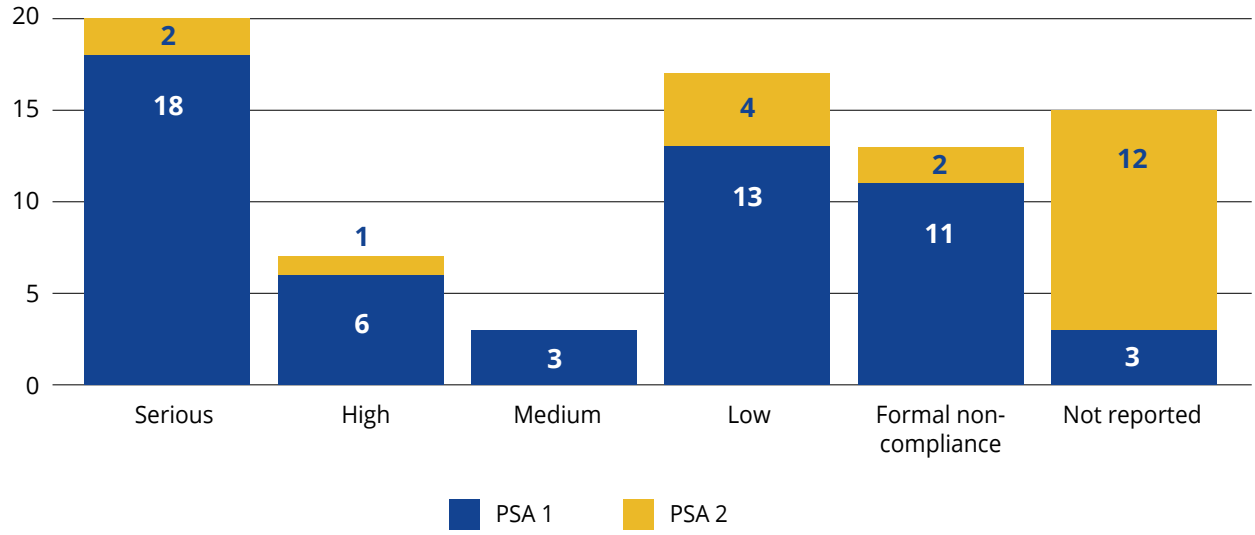
The graph below illustrates the overall results for each PSA.

Figure 1: Overall test results, including checks on warnings, markings, and instructions (N=156)



For samples that did not meet the requirements, MSAs carried out risk assessments to evaluate the potential harm to end consumers and the likelihood of its occurrence. Joint risk assessments are a key element of the PSA laboratory meetings, enabling MSAs to align their approaches and discuss complex cases. These meetings also provided an opportunity to report on and agree the corrective measures to be implemented.

Figure 2: Overview of risks levels for samples that did not meet the requirements (N=75)[2]



[2] Until 28.4.2026 (included).

Table 1: Summary of corrective measures taken per PSA

Type of measures	PSA1	PSA2	TOTAL
Recall of the product from end users	6	1	7
Withdrawal of the product from the market	10	4	14
Ban on the sale of the product	10	0	10
Destruction of the product	6	0	6
Stop of sales	2	0	2
Removal of the product listing by the online marketplace/webshop	5	1	6
Sanctions against the economic operator	0	3	3
Requesting the economic operator to change/improve the product	3	5	8
Requesting the economic operator to mark the product with appropriate warnings	0	3	3
Informed responsible MSA	2	0	2
Other	18[3]	3	21
TOTAL	62	20	82

Following the actions triggered by the two testing campaigns, 12 Safety Gate notifications were issued for PSA 1 – Chemicals and two for PSA 2 – Child bicycle seats.

Horizontal activities

Horizontal activities in CASP serve as a knowledge-exchange platform for MSAs, allowing them to address challenges, share perspectives and best practices and develop solutions. In CASP 2025, one horizontal activity took place focusing on addressing the **mental health risks** of new technology products. The deliverable developed throughout this activity is a concept paper offering evidence and recommendations to support MSAs in assessing these risks and enhancing the effectiveness of market surveillance of new technology products.

[3] Measures categories 'other' did not fall within the other categories. In both PSAs, they mainly concerned requests by MSAs for economic operators to make minor changes to the information accompanying the product and to the information available online, following checks on warnings, markings and instructions. For several PSA 1 measures indicated as 'other', the MSAs did not provide further information.

Main recommendations

Based on the discussions among MSAs during the project and the outcomes of the activities, a comprehensive set of recommendations was developed for each PSA, targeting economic operators and consumers. The complete version of these recommendations can be found at the end of this report and in the dedicated activity reports.

	PSA 1 - Chemicals	PSA 2 – Child bicycle seats (retesting)
For consumers	Recent testing has shown that some waterproof children's clothing and some plastics and waterproof materials like shower curtains contain hazardous chemicals such as PFAS. Some "bohemian-looking" jewellery could contain lead and cadmium which can harm your health, damage kidneys and bones, and even cause cancer.	Before purchase, ensure the child bicycle seat fits your bike, clearly displays the maximum height and weight of the child and is equipped with essential safety features such as shoulder straps, footrests and foot straps. Inspect your child's bicycle seat regularly, particularly the seat attachment as weather and frequent use can loosen parts or damage components, which may affect safety.
For economic operators	If you manufacture, distribute or import a product into the EU, it must meet legal safety requirements before being placed on the market. In addition to other EU legislation, the components and substances in your products may fall under REACH and must comply with its requirements.	Ensure that your child bicycle seat includes the required restraint systems.

CASP 2025 Project

Description of CASP 2025 and its activities

CASP 2025 is the sixth annual edition of the CASP programme. CASP encompasses two distinct types of activities:

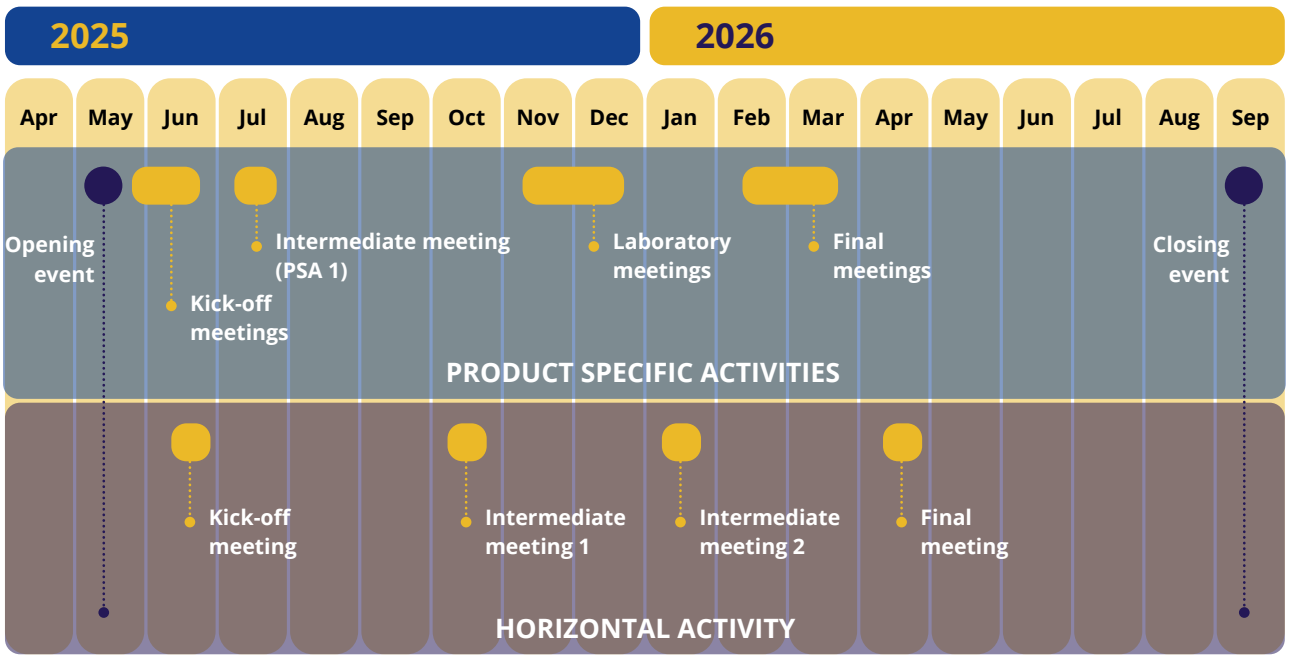
- **Product-specific activities**: Participants test jointly selected products, sampled from their national markets, in accredited laboratories in the EU/EFTA, adhering to commonly agreed testing criteria. CASP 2025 also incorporates a re-testing initiative. Re-testing initiatives repeat large-scale market surveillance activities (in this case, CASP 2019: Child bicycle seats) for products which previously had high failure rates and which resulted in many Safety Gate notifications;
- **Horizontal activities**: Participants collaborate to address complex challenges faced by MSAs across the EU/EFTA. The outcomes of the HAs typically include guidance documents or concept papers, as well as tools that are co-developed throughout the activity to support the establishment of harmonised approaches to common MSA challenges.

Before the start of CASP 2025, the European Commission consulted MSAs to identify their interests and priorities. Based on this input, the MSAs selected a range of product-specific activities and one horizontal activity, ensuring alignment with their market surveillance objectives.

Product-specific activities	Horizontal Activities
PSA1 – Chemicals	HA – Mental health risks
PSA2 – Child bicycle seats (re-testing)	

The timeline of the CASP 2025 project meetings and events is presented in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Timeline of CASP 2025



Participating MSAs

A total of 26 authorities from 18 EU Member States participated in CASP 2025. The participating authorities per activity are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Participating MSAs[4]

Country	MSA	PSA1	PSA2	HA
Belgium	Federal Public Service Economy - Directorate General Quality and Safety		x	x
	Federal Environment Inspectorate	x		
Croatia	State Inspectorate	x	x	
Cyprus	Department of Labour Inspection			x
Czechia	Ministry of Industry and Trade			x
	Czech Trade Inspection Authority		x	
Denmark	Danish Safety Technology Authority			x
Estonia	Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority			x
France	General Directorate for Competition, Consumer Protection and Fraud Control	x	x	x
Germany	State Directory of Saxony	x*	x*	x
	Government of Upper Bavaria - Trade Supervisory Office		x	x
	Labour Inspectorate State of Bremen		x*	
	Tübingen Regional Council		x	
Hungary	Ministry for National Economy			x
	National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection	x*	x*	
Ireland	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission			x
Italy	Pistoia-Prato Chamber of Commerce	x*		x
	Torino Chamber of Commerce		x	
Latvia	Consumer Rights Protection Centre	x		x
Lithuania	State Consumer Rights Protection Authority	x*		x
Luxembourg	Environment agency Luxembourg	x*		
Malta	Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority	x	x	x
Slovenia	Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia			x
Spain	Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030		x	x
	Inspection Service SOIVRE	x*		
Sweden	Swedish Chemicals Agency	x		

[4] The authorities indicated with an asterisk (*) were testing-only participants. They participated in the testing process, but were not involved in activity meetings, discussions and decision-making processes.

Product-specific activities

Chemicals

Unlike previous PSAs, PSA 1 – Chemicals did not focus on a specific product type. It targeted consumer products with a higher likelihood of containing regulated or restricted chemicals, considering factors such as material composition, intended use and potential consumer exposure, particularly for children. This activity applied a risk-based approach to testing, focusing on chemical hazards rather than on a predefined product group. Five product categories were selected for this activity:

- Cheap consumer articles made of plastic;
- Children's products made with textile parts;
- Children's products made of plastic;
- Cheap jewellery;
- Children's clothing and footwear.

Testing criteria

Testing was conducted in line with EU chemical legislation, primarily based on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation and on Article 3 and Annex I of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation. The testing plan also incorporated European and international standards setting out validated analytical methods, including EN 17681 1:2025 for per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in textiles and coated products, ISO 14362 1:2017 for certain azocolourants in textile components, and EN 1811:2023 for nickel release in cheap jewellery.

Test results

Out of 128 samples tested, 25 (20%) did not meet the requirements of the testing plan. Additionally, 33 samples (26%) did not meet the requirements for markings, warnings and instructions in the MSAs' national language(s).

Figure 4: Overall test results (excluding check[5] of warnings, markings and product information) (N=128)

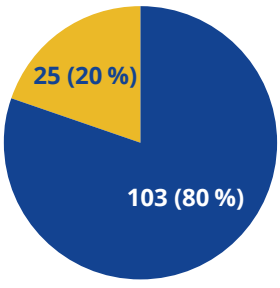
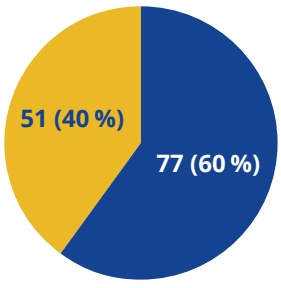


Figure 5: Overall test results (including MSAs' checks of warnings, markings and product information) (N=128)



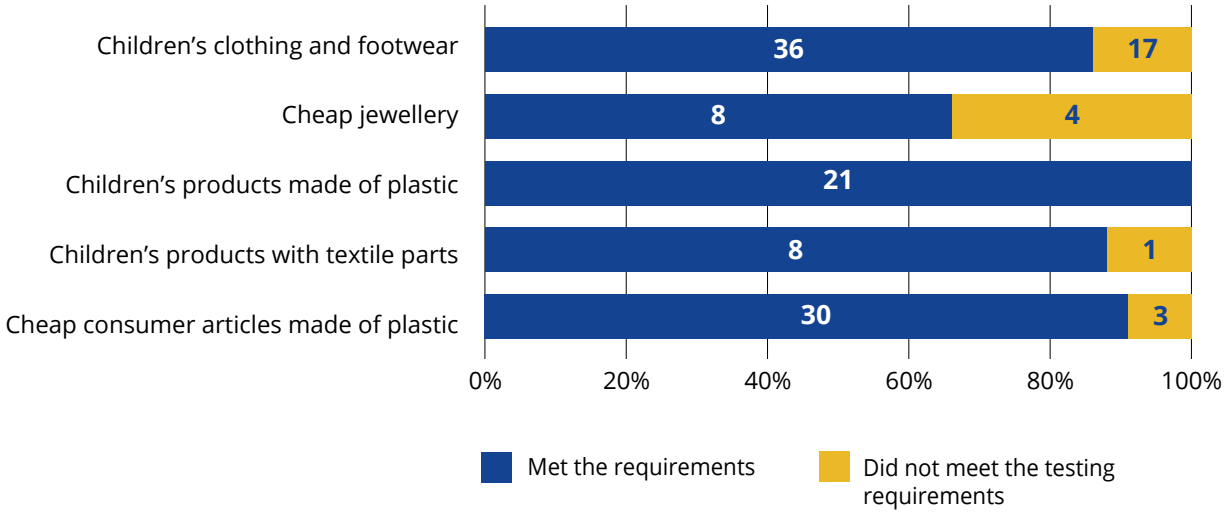
Met the requirements

Did not meet the requirements

[5] MSAs checked markings, warnings and instructions on their samples based on the checklist prepared by the technical expert.

The non-compliance rate across the five product categories varied significantly. Figure 6 shows the test results by product category.

Figure 6: Test results by product category



Chemical non-compliance was mainly linked to PFAS-related substances in waterproof or coated textile products, particularly children's clothing and footwear, as well as to cheap jewellery exceeding the permissible REACH levels of cadmium, lead and nickel.

Risks levels and measures taken

Based on the test results, the MSAs performed risk assessments and decided on corrective measures. In total, 18 samples were evaluated as posing a serious risk, 6 as high risk, and 13 as posing a low risk. As a result of this activity, MSAs issued 12 Safety Gate notifications.

Child bicycle seats (re-testing)

Child bicycle seats are consumer products, either mounted on the front or rear, designed to transport young children on bicycles. Because these seats are used by very vulnerable passengers, ensuring their safety is critical. This product was also tested during the CASP 2019 project.

The activity covered both front and rear child bicycle seats. The scope included back seats for a maximum weight of 15 kg (A15), back seats for a maximum weight of 22 kg (A22) and front seats for a maximum weight of 15 kg (C15).

Testing criteria

This was a retesting activity applying the same testing criteria as CASP 2019, with the aim of enabling large-scale market surveillance of products with a high incidence of non-compliance. The testing plan for this activity included tests based on **EN 14344:2022**.

Compared to CASP 2019, the only change concerned the application of the updated EN 14344:2022 standard, replacing the 2004 version. The revised standard introduced new and updated requirements, including strangulation risks, flammability and product labelling, as well as additional or revised test provisions.

Test results

Out of the 25 samples tested, 17 (68%) did not meet the testing requirements. Additionally, 22 samples did not meet the requirements for markings, warnings and instructions in the MSAs' national language(s).

Failures were mainly linked to restraint systems, mechanical strength and durability, edges and protrusions, lateral protections and foot retention systems. Clause 8.3.1 (edges and protrusions) showed the highest failure rate, with 44% of samples failing the test. In addition, five samples failed a substantial number of requirements, each failing between 13 and 16 clauses of the testing plan.

Figure 7: Overall test results (excluding checks on warnings, markings and instructions) (N=25)

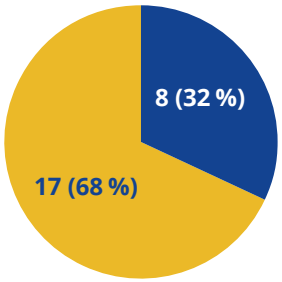
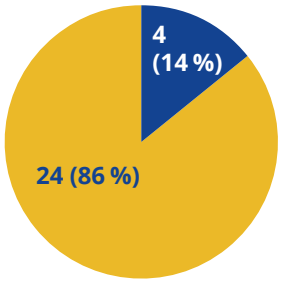


Figure 8: Overall test results (including checks on warnings, markings and instructions) (N=28[6])



Met the requirements

Did not meet the requirements

Risk levels and measures taken

Based on the test results, the MSAs performed risk assessments and decided on corrective measures. In total, two samples were evaluated as posing a serious risk, one a high risk, three a medium risk, and four as low risk. Following the actions triggered by this testing campaign, Safety Gate notifications were issued for two child bicycle seats.

[6] For three samples, checks on warnings, markings and instructions were carried out; however, laboratory testing could not be performed on these samples as they were lost during shipment.

Horizontal activities

Mental health risks

Context and scope

The General Product Safety Regulation (GPSR), which entered into application on 13 December 2024, requires consumer products to be safe before being made available on the market. It explicitly covers risks to consumers' physical and mental health. However, given the novelty and complexity of mental health-related harms, MSAs face challenges in assessing them. These risks are often less visible, may develop cumulatively over time, and are highly dependent on individual user contexts and usage patterns.

The mental health risks HA aimed to gather key legal, scientific and case-study evidence to support the development of a comprehensive approach to this evolving area of product safety and provide MSAs with a reference point for mental health risk assessments of new technology products.

Process

The activity followed a four-stage process, starting with preparatory work to narrow the scope of the activity and its objectives. The second stage involved the identification and definition of new technology products and mental health risks, based on input from a wide range of actors, including legal experts and academics. During the third stage, the intermediate meetings focused on possible risk assessment approaches and mitigation tools. The fourth stage focused on fine-tuning and finalising the concept paper.

Results

The outcome of the HA was a concept paper on the mental health risks of new technology products. The six chapters are briefly described below.

Chapter	Focus
1. Introduction	Background information, context and main challenges faced by MSAs.
2. Legal context	Legal definitions of products and risks and intersection of the GPSR with other regulations.
3. Scientific background	Summary and evaluation of existing scientific evidence linking specific design features and usage patterns with adverse mental health outcomes.
4. Risk assessment approaches and aspects for MSAs	Recommended approaches and instruments MSAs can use as a starting point for mental health risk assessments.
5. Insights from economic operators	Review of case studies of suicides and homicides linked to the use of new technology products and recommendations for economic operators to minimise mental health risks during the design phase of products.
6. Conclusions	Main conclusions and objectives of the paper.

Conclusions

General conclusions

A total of 26 authorities from 18 EU Member States combined their market surveillance efforts to enhance the safety of products placed on the European market by:

- Sampling 156 products in their respective markets and sending them for testing to jointly selected accredited laboratories within the EU;
- Analysing the outcomes of the tests, jointly assessing the risks identified and determining the appropriate corrective measures for non-compliant products that pose health and safety risks to consumers;
- Submitting 14 notifications on Safety Gate;
- Co-developing a concept paper to address key horizontal topics related to the mental health risks of new technology products.

Product-specific activities

Out of 153 products tested, 42 did not comply with at least one of the requirements outlined in the testing plans. Of these, 20 were classified as posing serious risks, seven were deemed high risk, three medium risk and 17 low risk.

Based on the results of the risk assessments, MSAs implemented appropriate measures. 14 Safety Gate notifications were issued to ensure that the information is shared with other MSAs, consumers and economic operators.

The joint risk assessment exercises carried out within the two PSAs provided valuable hands-on opportunities for MSAs to align their approaches to handling non-compliant products. These sessions facilitated the exchange of ideas and best practices and helped clarify doubts regarding risk assessment processes. The open dialogue during the activities supported a more harmonised understanding among MSAs, ultimately strengthening the overall effectiveness of market surveillance activities.

Horizontal activity

Collaboration among MSAs across the EU/EFTA countries is essential to address common challenges in market surveillance. In CASP 2025, the horizontal activity (HA) focused on fostering cooperation between authorities to identify harmonised approaches to addressing the mental health risks associated with rapid developments in new technology products.

The activity aimed to identify the key challenges MSAs face in assessing the mental health risks of new technology products and develop recommendations to address them. It focused on gathering evidence and expertise from different areas of knowledge and bringing these together in a concept paper, intended as a building block on which future guidance can be developed and adapted to the changing landscape. The activity also sought to identify possible approaches that MSAs can reference when assessing mental health risks, and highlighted recommendations for economic operators to focus on the elimination and mitigation of risks during the design phase.

Recommendations

The following recommendations draw on the results of the testing process and the discussions among the participating MSAs, with additional support from ANEC, which contributed to the drafting of these recommendations.

For consumers

PSA 1 – Chemicals

- Recent testing has shown that some plastics and waterproof materials, including shower curtains and waterproof children's clothing, contain hazardous chemicals such as PFAS. You can avoid these chemicals by choosing alternative textiles treated with natural waxes or non-fluorinated finishes.
- Do you wear fashion jewellery every day? Some items can release harmful metals such as lead or nickel when worn. Long-term exposure can damage your health, and nickel may trigger lifelong allergies.

PSA 2 – Child bicycle seats

- Thinking of buying a child bicycle seat? Make sure it has shoulder straps, foot rests and foot straps – if it is missing any of these it could be unsafe.
- Make sure a user manual is available so you can check that the seat fits your bike.
- Inspect your child's bicycle seat regularly, particularly the seat attachment. Weather and frequent use can affect its safety.

General

- **Purchase from reputable sources**: Buy from trustworthy retailers and brands that clearly identify the manufacturer and distributor. Avoid unknown or unreliable online marketplaces.
- **Check product safety information**: Before purchasing, verify that the product has clear manufacturer or importer contact details in the EU. This helps you report issues or defects.
- **Follow safe usage practices**: Use products as intended, such as ensuring children wear helmets and shoulder straps when using bicycle seats and avoid sleeping with fashion jewellery on. Stop using products immediately if they are recalled or cause allergic reactions.
- **Check before you buy**: Consult the EU's Safety Gate to see if the product you are buying (with the same batch number and/or product code) has been identified as dangerous. If unsure, contact the manufacturer.
- **Report safety issues**: Did you know that you can report safety issues or accidents with your product to your consumer protection authority? Visit the Consumer Safety Gateway

For economic operators

PSA 1 – Chemicals

- The updated PFAS testing method in EN 17681-1: 2025 is more rigorous than the previous version. It might have significant compliance implications, as it might detect more non-compliance than the previous version.
- Know your supplier and your products. Choose and verify your suppliers carefully. If in doubt, request additional testing and proof of product compliance. As a voluntary measure, you may request confirmation of compliance and data about the article and its components from within the supply chain.
- Use X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis to detect lead, cadmium and nickel. This quick and effective method can help distributors and sellers ensure product compliance.

PSA 2 – Child bicycle seats

- Ensure that your child bicycle seat includes the required restraint systems.
- Do not show unsafe use of child bicycle seats in advertisements – such as a child without shoulder straps or a helmet, or an unsupervised child.
- Implement appropriate measures to minimise exposure to sharp objects like screws.
- Did you know that there's a new version of the EN 14344 standard? The 2022 version includes new risks that were not covered by the 2004 one. Check the latest standard to ensure your products are compliant, as it would give presumption of conformity with the legislation.

General

- **Understand and comply with legal obligations**: Ensure all products meet applicable safety requirements, including the GPSR and relevant chemical regulations such as REACH and POPs.
- **Monitor product safety proactively**: Regularly assess products for compliance with safety standards and address risks promptly. Stay updated on changes to EU legislation and standards, such as the updated EN 17681-1:2025 for PFAS testing and EN 14344:2022 for child bicycle seats.
- **Ensure safe marketing and sales practices**: Avoid advertising unsafe product use and comply with GPSR requirements for distance sales and online marketplaces, including responsibilities under Articles 19 and 22.
- **Manage recalls effectively**: When issuing a recall notice, you must comply with the GPSR. Article 36 specifies the elements that the recall notice must include. It is recommended using the European Commission's template for a recall notice for consistency. Closely monitor the recall's impact and adapt your approach if needed. Inform consumers to stop using the product immediately and how to return the products to you.
- **Seek guidance when needed**: Contact national market surveillance authorities or helpdesks for support and clarification on legal obligations.

For standardisation organisations

PSA 1 – Chemicals

- The EN 1811 standard states that three samples of an item should be tested for nickel release, whenever possible. Provision should be made for testing a single item when more are not available.

PSA 2 – Child bicycle seats

- EN 14344:2022 allows the attachment of a C15 front seat for a child up to 15 kg to the front steering geometry of the bicycle. This can potentially affect the steering mechanism and frontal direction of travel, which may lead to injuries for both the child and the rider.
- Clause 8.3.1 of EN 14344:2022 should be reviewed in light of the previous Clause 6.2 of EN 14344:2004. The 2022 revision replaces objectively verifiable requirements on sharp or rough edges with a largely subjective assessment. In addition, the distinction introduced between such requirements between inside and outside the protected volume appears insufficiently justified and may benefit from further clarification or simplification.
- Clause 9.2.2.2 (Instructions for Use) of EN 14344:2022 should be amended to explicitly address the potential impact of children's clothing on the performance of restraint systems. In particular, the standard should acknowledge that additional clothing layers commonly worn in colder conditions may affect the correct adjustment and effectiveness of the restraint system. Appropriate guidance to manufacturers and users should be provided.

DS-01-26-104-EN-C

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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Publications Office
of the European Union

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2026
ISBN 978-92-68-40384-6
doi:10.2838/4304427