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## Developments on product safety in the EU

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## Developments on product safety in the EU

**The New General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC)**  
 -in force since 15 January 2004

**For consumer products not regulated by specific legislation (exist for toys, electrical products, machinery, foodstuffs, cosmetics etc)**

- Product safety requirements

**For (nearly) all consumer products:**

- Safety management requirements for producers and distributors
- Market surveillance obligations for Member States
- RAPEX-system

Guidance document on SANCO website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/cons\\_safe/prod\\_safe/other\\_EU/cons\\_prod\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/cons_safe/prod_safe/other_EU/cons_prod_en.htm)

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## Developments on product safety in the EU

**Safety management requirements for producers and distributors**

- Monitor and follow up safety
- Traceability
- Take appropriate actions
- Notify authorities

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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**Notification duty for producers and distributors**

- Knowing or ought to know product placed on the market poses risk to the consumer
- Notify all Member States where the product has been placed on the market
- Exceptions, form and guidance in Guidelines published on DG SANCO website.
- IT application for notifications available autumn 2006

Guidance document on SANCO website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/consumers/cons\\_safe/prod\\_safe/gpsd/guidelines\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/consumers/cons_safe/prod_safe/gpsd/guidelines_en.htm)

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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**Follow-up actions on community level:**

- Control of transposition
- New RAPEX-system
- Network set-up
- Consultations on standards and consumer participation
- Guidance documents
- Better transparency

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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**Decisions on new obligatory requirements**

- CR-lighters

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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**Rapid Alerts (RAPEX) in 2005**

- Notifications from Member States on measures ordered by authorities or voluntary measures by business concerning consumer products causing a serious risk
- Excludes: foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, medical devices.

Link: Overviews of RAPEX notifications:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/dgs/health\\_consumer/dyna/rapex/rapex\\_archives.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/rapex/rapex_archives.cfm)

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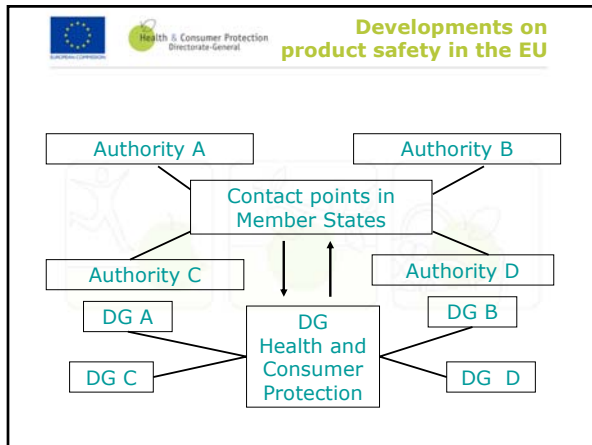
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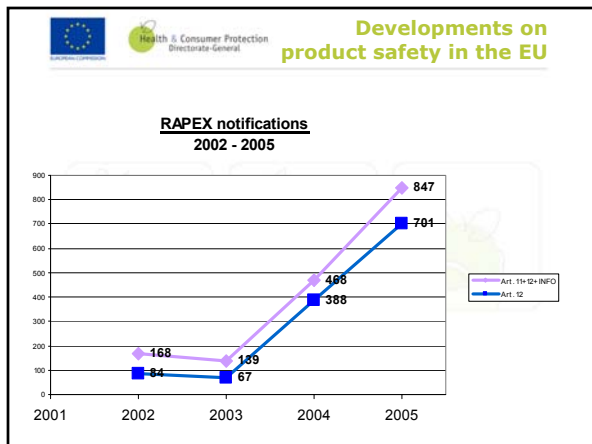
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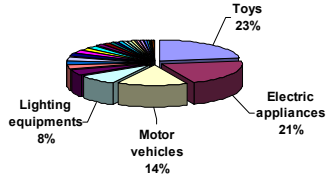
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**Categories of products notified under Article 12  
(1st January - 31th August 2006)**




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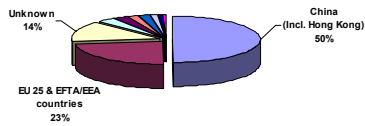
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**Origin of the products notified under Article 12  
(1st January - 31th August 2006)**




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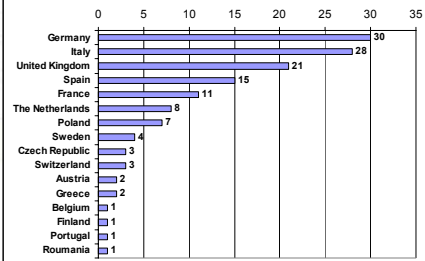
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**Origin of the products notified under Article 12  
in  
EU 25 & EFTA/EEA and Acceding countries  
(1st January - 31th August 2006)**




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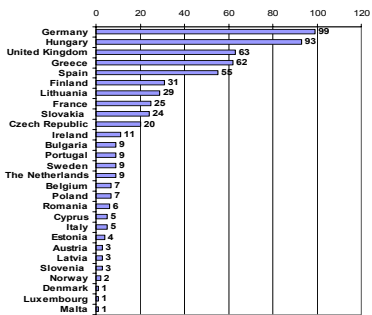
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**Article 12 notifications by Member State (1st January - 31th August 2006)**



[1] We have taken account only the notifications validated by the Commission and consequently transmitted to Member state

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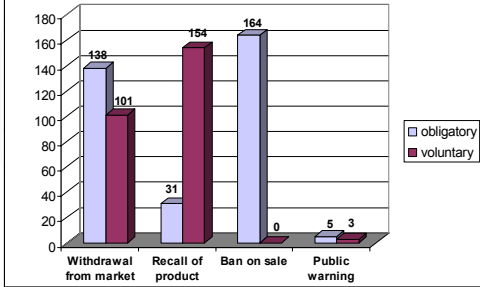
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**Measures adopted for Article 12 notifications (1st January - 31th August 2006)**




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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**Member States co-operation**

- Network
- Joint actions
- IT-systems for communication between Member States - ICSMS
- Best practice market surveillance project - PROSAFE




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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**International co-operation**

- USA – CPSC
- China – AQSIQ
- ICPSC
- Follow up on non compliances (RAPEX)
- Training and information for manufacturers
- Emerging risks
- International standardisation – ISO/COPOLCO

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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**Reviews**

- General principles for sector legislation (New Approach)
- Application of GPSD
- Risk assessment guidelines
- Injury data collection
- ChemRisk

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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**The future...**

- Developed enforcement co-operation and customs control
- Business monitoring and follow up
- Mandatory product specific technical requirements under GPSD

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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**Guidance documents:**

- Borderline to sectoral directives
- Business notification duty
- RAPEX operation

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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

**« Product safety in Europe – A guide to corrective action including recalls »**

- Consensus document representing best practice
- Available on Commission website

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**Developments on product safety in the EU**

- <http://ec.europa.eu/comm/consumers/>

➤ Consumer safety:  
Products and Services

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