



## Consumer Safety and Health Network Regional Workshop on SIAR and Risk Assessment



*Workshop in Washington D.C. from July 21<sup>st</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014*

The OAS Member States are working hard in the construction of an Inter-American Rapid Alerts System (SIAR for its name in Spanish). As part of that process, a regional workshop on risk assessment will be held from July 21<sup>st</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at the OAS in Washington, D.C. The program is divided in two sections: workshop on risk assessment and discussion on SIAR.

The main objective of the CSHN has been, since its inception, the development of SIAR for the generation and exchange of safety alerts for consumer products. To this end, actions have been implemented to build a "common language" on market surveillance for product safety in the region, particularly relating to the concept of risk, in order to progress substantively towards an integrated rapid information exchange system between national authorities for the safety of consumer (non-food or pharmaceutical) products.

In the last General Assembly of the OAS in Asunción, Paraguay, member states recognized the importance of ensuring consumer product safety by approving a work structure that guides and strengthens the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN).

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## International Awareness Week on Button Battery Safety

From June 16th to June 20th, 2014, the OECD led the International Awareness Week on Button Battery Safety. With the support of the OAS and the participation of countries from all over the world, including Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru and the USA, the campaign aimed to raise worldwide awareness on the risk and dangers posed by this battery present in a variety of products. The risks associated with button batteries were also addressed in Brussels on June 17, 2014 during International Product Safety Week.

The initiative helped to ensure that relevant authorities and other stakeholders take the necessary precautions to reduce the risk of injury and death among consumers using button batteries. Button batteries are about the size of a coin and can be found in TV remotes, calculators, hearings aid, etc. If button batteries are swallowed, they can cause significant injuries, or death. In order to prevent this problem, relevant authorities and businesses using button batteries in their products must take pro-active actions to enforce proper warnings, packaging and product design.

[Learn more](#)

## Brazilian Local Agencies train their officials in Consumer Safety and Health



The National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology (INMETRO), through the Office of Weights and Measures of Mato Grosso (MT-IPEM), held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the training of 15 professionals from various departments of the State Consumer Protection Agency and the Emergency Response Department of Cuiabá. According to the metrological agent of Ipem-MT responsible for Consumer Product Safety and Insurance in Mato Grosso, Suziane Marchioreto, the initiative expands on concepts important for all the agencies that are part of the State Network for Consumer Safety. "The action provides not only the integration of all the professionals related to consumer protection, health and safety products and metrology at the local level, but also the homogeneous performance in the work of all these agencies, increasing consumer protection in our state".

The training also addressed the use of the Information System of Consumer Product Accidents (SIAC), developed to register the reports of health professionals who identify victims of serious accidents associated to the use of consumer products. With the support of the Cuiabá Emergency Hospital and Ipen-MT, the SIAC was launched in January of 2014 as a pilot program in Mato Grosso.

[Learn more \(Portuguese\)](#)

## OAS invited to present in Brussels about Consumer Safety and Health Network

The OAS presented in Brussels on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Seminar on Joint International Market Surveillance Activities, organized by the Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe (PROSAFE), along various other well recognized national consumer safety agencies and international organizations. The Organization of American States was invited by PROSAFE to discuss, during the International Product Safety Week, the work of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN). The invitation to present at this prestigious forum comes to

recognize the efforts done by the member states in supporting, since 2009, the creation of the CSHN and the construction of an integrated Inter-American Rapid Alerts System (SIAR for its name in Spanish). The CSHN is recognized as the main inter-American forum to promote, at national and hemispheric level, the protection of the rights of consumers, monitoring the safety of consumer products and their impact on people's wellbeing.

## OAS meets with Catalan Consumer Agency

The Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) of the member states of the OAS has a strong relationship of support and cooperation with the Catalan Consumer Agency (ACC). The ACC has actively participated in the development of the CSHN sharing its own experience in this field and providing financial support for four graduate courses in consumer product safety taught by the Pompeu Fabra University. The director of the ACC, Mr. Alfons Conesa I Badiella, and his team met in June with Evelyn Jacir de Lovo from the Secretariat of Legal Affairs of the OAS to share information on the Catalan consumer product safety system, as well as some of the challenges and opportunities the agency has faced in this field. During this visit, the OAS and the Catalan agency also reviewed the Memorandum, soon to be signed by the two parties, that aims to strengthen cooperation in the following areas: training of professionals in the fields of consumer product safety, market surveillance systems, and draft of best practices in consumer product safety.



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The Consumer Safety  
and Health Network  
(CSHN)  
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