



## Inter-American Rapid Alerts System to be Launched Before the OAS Permanent Council



The Management Committee of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) has announced the formal launch of the CSHN's Inter-American Rapid Alert System (SIAR) on consumer product safety and its software tool, during the Organization of American States' (OAS) Permanent Council meeting that will take place on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the OAS headquarters, (corner of 17<sup>th</sup> St. and Constitution Ave. N.W. Washington D.C. 20006).

The authorities of the CHSN Management Committee will present the SIAR to the Member States and has invited all CHSN agencies, the CSHN Technical Secretariat (OAS), the OAS department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS), the Pan-American Health Organization, Consumers International and other agencies that support the CHSN to participate.

**The Permanent Council's session will start at 10AM and may be followed [via Webcast through this link](#).**

The previous day, December 9<sup>th</sup>, the CSHN Management Committee and the Working Group for the SIAR will hold a working at the OAS Headquarters alongside the OAS-CSHN Technical Secretariat, the OAS department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS), and the Pan-American Health Organization.

The CSHN Management Committee is composed by Brazil (Chair), Colombia, Peru (Vice- Chairs), Chile and Mexico (Members).

## Workshop on Consumer Product Safety and Risk Assessment for the Caribbean Finished Successfully



During December 3rd to 5th, 2014, a Regional Workshop on Consumer Product Safety and Risk Assessment has taken place in Paramaribo, Suriname, with the participation of the consumer protection and normalization authorities of the Caribbean countries. The Workshop was organized by the General Secretariat of the OAS, as the Technical Secretariat of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN), with the CARICOM Secretariat and the Government of Suriname, with the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The Minister of Industry and Trade of Suriname, Don Tosendjojo, welcomed the participants and stated that consumer product safety is an important issue because it helps to ensure consumer safety, while having a positive impact promote the free movement of products within the CARICOM. Meanwhile, during the opening ceremony, Dr. Rosilene Mendes dos Santos, on behalf of the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) of Brazil – Country that chairs the Management Committee of the CSHN- said the key success factor to guarantee consumer product safety in a globalized world is teamwork between countries; and that the SIAR is the necessary tool for rapid communication of information on dangerous products that enables a quick response Administrations. She further argued that cooperation between different agencies within countries is an essential factor for that purpose.

The activity provided consumer product safety authorities with training aiming at strengthening their capacities to detect and to assess unsafe products, and to take effective and timely measures to tackle the circulation of those products between the different markets in the Americas and communicate these measures in a fast way to the countries in the Continent.

The main subjects of the Workshop focused on the study of risk assessment issues, concepts and methods, in order to enhance national inter-agency network in the creation and sharing of information regarding unsafe consumer products that will ultimately be communicated by the Caribbean alerts system “CARREX” and the Inter-American Rapid Alerts System “SIAR”.

## The Latin American Parliament includes Consumer Product Safety in its Agenda



The Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), through its Committee on Public Services and Consumer and User Defense, has included the issue of consumer product safety in their agenda, during its extraordinary meeting on 3 December 2014, at the agency's headquarters in Panama.

In addition to addressing the issue of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN), the Commission will address "the human right to consumer protection and its regulation in the Constitutions of the Latin American Countries", the revision of the Framework Law on Consumer Law, the Framework Law on Water and reviewing consumer rights at FIFA shows.

The consideration of this important issue in the main Latin American legislative forum is in line with the hemispheric strategy that Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) promoted in the framework of the CSHN, aimed at promoting -at national and regional levels- consumer rights and welfare by strengthening States' capacity of market surveillance regarding product safety.

[Committee's Webpage \(Spanish\)](#).

## Consumer Protection Authorities in Central America and Dominican Republic Addressed Consumer Product Safety and Rapid Alerts



The Authorities of Consumer Protection in Central America and the Dominican Republic, which constitute the Central American Consumer Protection Council (CONCADECO) held its fifth regular meeting last Monday in San Salvador, El Salvador.

The President of the Consumer Protection Agency of El Salvador, Yanci Urbina, said at the meeting that the topic of a regional rapid alerts system on hazardous products was discussed; in particular the Inter-American Rapid Alert System and the proposed Technical Regulations on Rapid Alerts on Consumer Safety for Central America, in line with hemispheric strategy in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Ibero-American Forum of Governmental Consumer Protection Agencies (FIAGC).

[More information \(Spanish\).](#)

[Video \(Spanish\).](#)

## Ecuador Promotes Consumer Product Safety at Homes



The Ombudsman Office of Ecuador has launched the campaign "Responsible Consumption at the End of Year", which aims to create awareness among providers and consumers about the importance of using safe and good-quality products; being able to choose them freely with accurate and timely information; with emphasis in toys, appliances, and household utilities (in Spanish).

For more information, please visit the OAS Website at [www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)



Organization of American States

The Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN)  
[www.oas.org/rcss](http://www.oas.org/rcss)



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