



Consumer Safety and Health Network welcomes World Consumer Rights Day

Since its establishment by the United Nations in 1983, the World Consumer Rights Day is commemorated every March 15 in order to celebrate the rights of all consumers around the world. On the occasion of this important day, the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN), joins celebrations of consumers, as well as of agencies and institutions all over the world that safeguard their rights, particularly those that guarantee safe consumption, promoting consumers' health and welfare.

The CSHN is the main interdisciplinary inter-American specialized forum to promote, at the national and hemispheric levels, consumer protection through market surveillance on consumer product safety and its impact on people's health and welfare. It gathers in one space consumer protection, health and metrology agencies from OAS Member States in their common cause of ensuring the flow of higher quality products and fair competition of suppliers of harmless and reliable products.

Consumer protection is a priority for the OAS, embodied in the OAS Charter and reaffirmed by declarations of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas during the Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2004, and recently promoted by Member States through successive resolutions of the General Assembly.

Consumer Safety and Health Network members present during ICPHSO World Conference



CSHN members present during the ICPHSO 2014 annual training symposium in Orlando, Florida

Authorities of member countries of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) represented the region in the annual training symposium of the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO).

Founded in 1993, ICPHSO is an organization dedicated to create spaces for exchanging ideas and experiences on health and safety issues related to consumer products manufactured and commercialized in the global market. Its forums and seminars are recognized as the most important in the world, attracting the participation mostly of the private sector, but increasingly attracting a greater number of regulators and other key areas in the subject.

Officials of consumer protection agencies from Brazil, Colombia, the United States and Suriname, along with the CSHN technical secretariat represented by the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS), participated in a panel that focused on presenting how the CSHN is an effective mechanism for hemispheric cooperation on product safety. This has allowed to move forward at a fast pace on the creation and strengthening of national, sub-regional and hemispheric systems for surveillance of product safety with a multidisciplinary and inter-institutional approach, as well as on the harmonization of criteria and the construction of common language in the subject.

The panel described, in this framework, the recent progress that have been achieved in many member states in the region, as well as the impact that the subject comprises to the economic reality of the countries and the health of consumers.

Chile advances in promoting Consumer Safety and Health with Consumption Safety Manual



Consumer Safety and Health
Manual SERNAC

The National Consumer Service of Chile (SERNAC) recently published a Consumption Safety Manual, through which it seeks to present to consumers in a simple and educational manner the key aspects of their right to safety during consumption, as well as the responsibilities this involves.

The manual contains some safety considerations and recommendations to be applied by consumers when acquiring and using a determined range of goods and products, emphasizing the safeguard of the health and welfare of vulnerable groups such as children. All this with the aim of promoting responsible behaviors, both in consumers and companies, in order to avoid risks and damages to the health and physical integrity of consumers and bystanders alike. Consumer education is a key component within the framework of the Consumer Safety and Health Network.

More information (*Spanish only*)

Delegated organs of INMETRO create guidelines to strengthen the CSHN-Brazil in all the states of the country



Delegated organs of INMETRO participate in meeting 'Consumer Safety and Health Network in Debate'

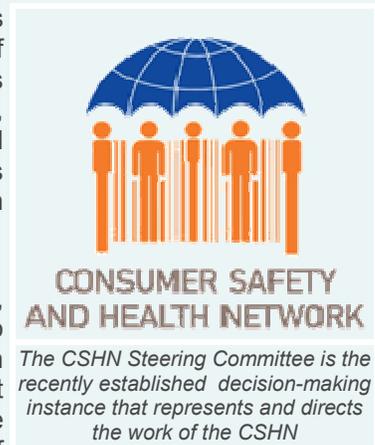
On February 17, leaders and members of the delegated organs of the National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology (INMETRO) participated in the meeting "Consumer Safety and Health Network in Debate" where 18 of the 26 states of Brazil were represented. The meeting was held in Salvador city, Brazil, and had, as its main objective, to create a framework for the participation of state organs in the conformation of local Consumer Safety and Health Networks and to define general guidelines on how these should be designed and operated, so that all of them follow the same guidelines and concepts. These general guidelines will be followed even by the authorities from states in which the networks have not been created yet for some reason.

More information

First virtual meeting of the CSHN Steering Committee

On February 19, the first meeting of the CSHN Interim Steering Committee was held. It was convened and chaired by the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property of Peru (INDECOPI), in its capacity as President, and had the participation of all its members. Additionally, the Secretariat for Legal Affairs and the Department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS) of the OAS participated in their capacity as CSHN Technical Secretariat, as well as officials from the Pan American Health Organization.

During the meeting, the latest progress of the CSHN to date was recapitulated, collaborative working methodologies were defined, and the next steps to strengthen the Network and make progress in the design of an Inter-American Rapid Alerts System (SIAR) for unsafe products were agreed. Importantly, it was possible to forge even closer ties with the responsible agencies on the subject in each of the countries of the Committee, all with the objective of achieving a more dynamic and accelerated work, which mainly benefit consumers in the region.



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The Consumer Safety and Health
Network (CSHN)
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