



INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2015

Technical Secretariat of the Consumer Safety and Health Network

Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups Section – Department of Social Inclusion – Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

SECOND PHASE OF THE SIAR LAUNCHED: “A SYSTEM THAT SAVES LIVES”



The Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) publicly launched the second phase of implementation of the Inter-American Rapid Alerts System (SIAR for its acronym in Spanish) on March 6, in Lima, Peru, with which the public component of the SIAR is fully operational. The event was organized at the invitation of the Government of Peru through the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOPI for its acronym in Spanish).

The announcement was made by the Chairman of the Board of INDECOPI, Dr. Hebert Tassano, in his capacity of Vice-Chairman of the CSHN Steering Committee. Also, an electronically sent message by Dr. Juliana Pereira, National Secretary for Consumers of Brazil and current Chair of the CSHN Management Committee was heard. On behalf of the OAS General Secretariat and Technical Secretariat of the CSHN, intervened Dr. Evelyn Jacir de Lovo, Chief, Section for Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups of the Department of Social Inclusion.

Were present at the event representatives from consumer protection and competition agencies of 15 countries of the Americas (including all countries of the Management Committee) as well as representatives from Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia and Jordan as part of UNCTAD’s COMPAL program.

A system that saves lives. In his presentation, Dr. Tassano described the SIAR as "a system that saves lives," since it allows the identification and rapid communication of alerts on unsafe products and the risks involved within countries. In that vein, it was stressed that it is the first integrated hemispheric system for the easy and secure generation, management and sharing of information and alerts on consumer product safety, based on shared principles, general concepts and relevant terminology.

The SIAR contains detailed information on legislation and institutional frameworks on market surveillance on consumer product safety in the OAS Member States. It also contains relevant documentation on trainings, studies, directories, schedules, news and newsletters. Additionally, a country menu allows access to a country page, which facilitates the organization for each Member State's information in an orderly and efficient manner.

At the ceremony it was announced that from that moment the System was available in the four official languages of the Organization (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish); and features new access to "trends" with detailed analysis of the evolution of risky products reported in the portal; a tool for "custom reports" that allows users to analyze the data available in the system in complex ways; a "portfolio of good practices" for the communication and publication of successful experiences at country level; as well as a new tool for the management and subscription of periodic newsletters.

More than 200.000 consumers have benefited. On behalf of INDECOPI, the Director of the National Authority for Consumer Protection, Anahi Chavez presented the work done in Peru on safety alerts on risky products in recent years, highlighting the importance of Peru's participation in the hemispheric network to allow the detection of unsafe of such products and allow cooperation with relevant agencies in the region, which facilitated the design of the national alert system.

An example of the achievements in recent years, it was reported that following the new regulatory framework adopted in 2010 and the performance of INDECOPI in monitoring consumer product safety 209,784 consumers have been positively benefited in their rights in Peru.

More information: www.oas.org/rcss

CHILE AND MEXICO HELD THEIR FIRST BILATERAL MEETING ON CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY



Officials from the National Service for Consumers of Chile (SERNAC) and the Federal Attorney's Office for Consumer Protection of Mexico (PROFECO) exchanged experiences on the protection of consumer rights and consumer product safety during a 5-day meeting in Mexico.

The objective of the exchange is to improve the practices of monitoring and verification of products on the market in both countries as well as to raise the standards of protection and to prevent risks to consumers.

More information about the activity [through this link](#).

ARGENTINA TO HOLD SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING ON CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY



The Consumer Protection Direction of Argentina will host a sub-regional training workshop on consumer product safety in the City of Buenos Aires, in the framework of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN). The date of the activity will be announced shortly.

The objective of the training is to prepare competent national authorities to implement national consumer product safety systems. The activity seeks to strengthen the institutional capacity of relevant government agencies through the identification of common criteria for action by learning relevant concepts of risk assessment, processes and case studies, as well as the challenges and opportunities for the generation and dissemination of rapid alerts at the national level and its communication to the regional rapid alerts system at the OAS, while promoting a systemic, coordinated and interdisciplinary approach.

The participants at the Workshop will include, among other, numerous representatives of agencies with competences in the subject of Argentina and several CSHN counterparts from Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay, in order to promote a sub-regional dialogue on the subject and share best practices in establishing mechanisms for coordination on consumer product safety. Also, the Spanish Agency for Consumer, Food Security and Nutrition (AECOSAN) will contribute to the training in the framework of the memorandum of understanding it subscribed with the OAS to strengthen the work of the CSHN in the Americas.

MERCOSUR. In a [Joint Communication in December 2014](#), the Presidents of the States Parties of MERCOSUR had welcomed "the rapid realization of the pilot tests of the Inter-American Rapid Alerts System (SIAR) of the Organization of American States, implementing, thereby, an alert procedure for the removal of products and services considered potentially harmful or dangerous to consumers (recalls)."

**CSHN AND PARLATINO STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE IN
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY**



The Technical Secretariat of the CSHN and the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce of Colombia held a working meeting with the Chair of the Commission of Public Services and Consumer Protection of the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), Congressman Jaime Delgado of Peru.

The purpose of the meeting was to advance in the coordination of activities in areas of common concern between the CSHN and PARLATINO, following the interest stated by both forums during the latest session of the Commission of PARLATINO in Panama and the latest meeting of the CSHN Management Committee in Washington, D.C., respectively. The issues highlighted by both forums as those of common interest are the identification of gaps in Latin American legislation regarding consumer product safety and assessing the need for a model law that serves as a reference on the subject in the Americas.

In that sense, the Commission decided to hold its annual meeting in Cartagena during the same days that the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Plenary of the CSHN will take place (1 to 4 September 2015) in order to make it possible the celebration of a working meeting between the two forums during the same week, aimed at starting a working dialogue that seeks to explore areas of common interest relating to consumer product safety and consumer welfare.



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