



NEWSLETTER: APRIL - JUNE 2015

Technical Secretariat – Consumer Safety and Health Network
Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups Section, Department of Social Inclusion
General Secretariat, Organization of American States
Washington D.C.

MASSIVE RECALL OF TAKATA AIRBAGS

On May 19th, 2015 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the United States sent an alert for the recall of Takata brand airbags due to defects in its inflators. These inflators are made with a repellent that can degrade with time and cause ruptures in the airbags. On the date of the recall 6 deaths were reported worldwide as a result of the defective air bags. It is estimated that Takata air bags were used in approximately 34 million vehicles, including vehicles of the following makes BMW, Chrysler, Daimler Trucks, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru, and Toyota.

OAS Member States and members of the Consumer Safety and Health Network, were immediately notified of the massive recall of Takata airbags; in this sense serving as focal point for the countries and its authorities thus, achieving cooperation of the countries in record time and facilitating the necessary information to be disseminated to all pertinent authorities at the national level.

For more information, please visit the CSHN Inter-American of Rapid Alert System SIAR (for its acronym in Spanish): www.oas.org/rcss

Additional information available at:

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/About+NHTSA/Press+Releases/DOT-action-on-takata-air-bag-defects>

<http://www.safercar.gov/rs/takata/index.html>

<http://www.wodi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchYesterdayRecall>

CSHN EFFECTIVE MECHANISM FOR HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION

OAS Member States and their corresponding government agencies collaborated once again in a hemispheric consumer product alert, which was made possible within the framework of the permanent collaboration that member states hold through the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) and its Inter-American Rapid Alert System (SIAR).

The starting point for the aforementioned alert occurred on June 3rd, 2015 when the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in conjunction with the consumer product safety authority of Canada (Health Canada), announced the recall of approximately 222,000 units of Apple wireless speakers “Beats Pill XL” and close to 11,000 in Canada, due to a fire hazard for excessive heating of the battery. Furthermore, a total of 8 accident reports were obtained, with one resulting in finger burns and other in damages to a consumer’s desk.

With the alert issued, and being that the product in question was found in the markets of many countries in the region, all corresponding agencies initiated actions to detect the circulation of this product within their respective jurisdictions, acting rapidly to warn consumers in order to recall the product and take it off the market; all of which was only possible as a result of the countries’ effective communication and work through the CSHN and SIAR.

Some the countries that took all necessary measures are: Peru, Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, and El Salvador.

The alert can be found in the CSHN’s Inter-American Rapid Alert System www.oas.org/rcss



SAVE THE DATE: CSHN UPCOMING ACTIVITIES - 2015

The Management Committee has confirmed activities dates relevant to the CSHN taking place in 2015, as follows:

- **August 5th to 7th** – Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: CSHN Workshop on Consumer Product Related-Injuries
- **September 2nd** – Cartagena de Indias, Colombia: Second Annual Ordinary Meeting / CSHN Plenary
- **September 3rd to 4th** - Cartagena de Indias, Colombia – “Academic Seminar: Consumer Products Safety: Risks, Responsibility and Reputation” organized by the Consumer Protection Delegation of the Colombian Superintendence of Industry and Commerce.
- **September 15th to 16th** – Cuzco, Peru: V International Consumer Protection Forum, co-organized by UNCTAD
- **September 17th to 18th** - Cuzco, Peru: FIAGC Annual meeting
- **November 18th to 21st** – Brasilia, Brazil: Consumers International World Congress
- **October 20th to 21st** - Billund, Denmark: ICHPSO 2015 International Symposium – "Building Toward Greater Alignment in Product Safety."

The CSHN activities calendar, along with the “Global Calendar” includes all relevant activities by other forums or organizations) is available at the CSHN website. [CSHN Website](http://www.oas.org/rcss)

CONSUMER SAFETY AND HEALTH NETWORK MAKES PRESENTATION IN ECUADOR

The Republic of Ecuador through its Superintendence for the Control of Market Power, and in compliance with the Organic Law of Regulation and Control of Power Market with socialization and promotion of the matter, relevant to various market actors, held the International Seminar titled “Seminar “Protection and Defense of Consumer Rights in the Market” from May 13th to 14th, 2015 in Ambato, Ecuador.

During the aforementioned Seminar, the Consumer Safety and Health Network Technical Secretariat (OAS) was invited to make a presentation via video-conference, where SIAR hemispheric developments were presented, regarding its goal of achieving a rapid and safe exchange of information through consumer product recalls, based on shared criteria on the principles, general concepts and relevant terminologies for regional recalls.

Presentation (In Spanish only): http://www.oas.org/es/sla/rcss/Documentos/SIAR_May2015_ECUADOR.pdf

TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT PRESENTS CSHN & SIAR PROGRESS BEFORE THE GENERAL COMMISSION

The OAS General Secretariat through the Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups Section of the Department for Social Inclusion, in its character as the CSHN Technical Secretariat, presented its report before the OAS Permanent Council’s General Commission in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 2830 (XLIV-O/14), which establishes the structure for the work to be performed by the CSHN.

The presentation took place on the April 23rd, 2015 session. To obtain a copy of the presentation please follow this link: http://www.oas.org/es/sla/rcss/Documentos/Informe_ST_2015.pdf

LUIS ALMAGRO ASSUMES POSITION AS NEW OAS SECRETARY GENERAL

With the slogan “More Rights for people in the Americas,” the former Uruguayan Foreign Minister, Luis Almagro, assumed his role as the new Secretary General to the Organization of American States (OAS) on May 26th, 2015 during a Protocolary Session of the Permanent Council at the organization’s headquarters in Washington D.C.

The speech of Secretary General Almagro’s appointment is available [here](#) and his biography is available [here](#).

For more information please visit the OAS website at www.oas.org



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