



Caribbean States move forward in Consumer Product Safety



The Jamaican Minister of State of the Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce, Ms. Sharon Ffolkes-Abrahams (second from right), gave a warm welcome the participants and during her speech stressed the importance to promote the topic of consumer product safety in Jamaica and the Caribbean region

The Seventh Meeting on Consumer Affairs of the Caribbean Community was held during April 24 and 25 in Kingston, Jamaica. The meeting was convened by the CARICOM Secretariat with the objective of allowing CARICOM member states to advance and promote the Caribbean Rapid Alert System for Exchange of Information on Dangerous (Non-Food) Goods (CARREX).

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) was specially invited to discuss cooperation efforts and possible synergies between the CARREX, the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) and its Inter-American Rapid Alerts System. The CSHN is the main interdisciplinary inter-American technical forum to promote -at the national and hemispheric levels- consumer protection through the sharing of consumer product-safety information and the dissemination of best practices on public policy and regulations for consumer products. Recognizing the shared vision and the compatibility and complementarity of

the OAS and CARICOM's efforts, both Organizations are working closely to leverage possible synergies and collaborate in this relevant area of consumer protection.

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Brazil launches campaign on the importance of consumer product recalls from the market



During the seventh regular meeting with representatives of the National Consumer Protection System (SNDC) of Brazil, held on Thursday April 3, the National Secretariat for Consumers of the Ministry of Justice (Senacon/MJ) launched the video campaign "Market Recall: your right and manufacturer's obligation".

The campaign, designed together with the Permanent Study Group for Consumption Accidents (GEPAC), aims at educating consumers about the importance of following market recalls, emphasizing the obligation of the manufacturer to protect the safety of consumers. The video will be aired at Procon's customer care stations, websites and social networks.

The SNDC's meeting, which is composed by the Procons, the Ombudsman, the Public Ministry, civil organizations and special courts, is carried out every three months. During the meeting issues of interest to consumers are discussed and strategies are aligned for the correct performance of the National System.

During the meeting, several presentations were made, including subjects such as a study on loyalty programs by the Department of Consumer Protection and Defense (DPDC); the regulation of retail extended insurance warranties; the consumer protection actions being undertaken for the World Cup; and the accessibility for people with disabilities in the consumer market.

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

Chile invites to participate in public consult regarding safety regulation for children products

The National Service for the Consumer (SERNAC) of Chile invites the general public to participate in the public consultation organized by the Ministry of Health (MINSAL) regarding safety regulation for children products.

Modifications to the so-called "regulations for toys" extend coverage regarding safety requirements to be met by products categorized as toys, including childcare articles and those for use in schools, regulating the chemical, physical, mechanical and magnetic properties, as well as the labeling of these products in order to protect the

safety and health of children.

This regulation applies to all natural or legal persons, relating to or involved in the manufacture, distribution and sale in the domestic market for such products.

Learn more (*Spanish*)

Inter-American efforts to promote consumers' rights were presented to the International Law Association

The Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the OAS presented before the International Law Association's Committee of International Protection of Consumers the efforts that are currently being carried out by its Member States in the area of consumer rights. The purpose of the meeting was to survey the current instruments on the international protection of consumers and share the preliminary findings of the case studies on international organizations dealing with consumer protection.

During the panel presentation, an OAS representative described how the OAS Member States, based on the provisions of Charter of the OAS, Statements of Heads of State and Government of the region and successive resolutions of the General Assembly since 2009, have created the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN), as the main inter-American specialized interdisciplinary 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.

The OAS shares the inter-American experience in consumer product safety with African Nations

The Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the OAS took part in a Webinar on "Consumer Education Recent Success Stories and Cross Border Information Sharing Case Study" in the framework of the African Consumer Protection Dialogue. The event was organized by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's Office of International Affairs. The OECD Secretariat and the Government of Uganda also took part in the panel.

During the Webinar, the OAS, on behalf of the hemispheric Consumer Safety and Health Network, shared the Inter-American experience in the area of consumer product safety with the African Nations, with particular regard to the consumer product safety alerts portal (www.oas.org/rcss) and the ongoing design of an Inter-American Rapid Alert system for unsafe products.

OAS member states will participate in International Awareness Week on Button Batteries Safety

The International Awareness Week on Button Battery Safety is a collaborative effort led by the OECD Working Party on Consumer Product Safety and supported by the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN). This activity has been scheduled for the week of June 16 to 20, 2014, with the aim of having government agencies from participating countries spread information to consumers and/or producers (for one or more days) regarding the dangers of button batteries and how to prevent the risks of using them.

In this context, the CSHN will help to disseminate the activities and actions undertaken by its member states through relevant communication channels. Within the hemisphere, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru have confirmed the deployment of a media coverage action, online and/or through social networks; while Canada and the U.S. are currently confirming their respective initiatives.



Organization of
American States

The Consumer Safety
and Health Network
(CSHN)
www.oas.org/rcss



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