



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION - MALTA



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MARKET SURVEILLANCE SIX-MONTHLY REPORT

During the period January – June 2010, the Malta Standards Authority in-line with the national market surveillance program has conducted on-site inspections in its quest to ensure that non-food products found on the market are safe and conform to legal requirements.

In the past six months, inspectors from the Malta Standards Authority have visited no less than 257 retail outlets, including shops, agent premises as well as market stalls, inspecting more than 1100 different products in the process. These products range from lifts to pesticides, from electrical appliances to machinery, and from children's clothing items to toys. During the inspections, 135 samples were elevated from the market for further testing, in-house as well as in accredited laboratories overseas. 18 non-food products were found to be unsafe and posed a serious risk to consumers. With the collaboration of the economic operators involved, these products were removed from the market as required by law. These products were also notified to the other European member states through the European Commission as required by European legislation.

The Malta Standards Authority was also very active on the communications side of operations. In fact, no less than 189 meetings were held with economic operators, including both one-to-one meetings as well as seminars which targeted specific interest groups of operators. Moreover, officers from the Authority participated in a number of media programs to advise both economic operators as well as consumers on the need of upholding product safety. Consumers and economic operators have also made 29 complaints during the past six months with the Authority to investigate issues related to product safety.

The Authority reminds economic operators and consumers to contact it through 23952000 or info@msa.org.mt should issues on product safety arise.

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