Working Party on Consumer Product Safety

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL PORTAL ON PRODUCT RECALLS

19 October 2012

Attached is a draft agenda for the official launch of the global portal on product recalls, to be held on 19 October 2012. It will start at 10:00, at the Charlemagne Building; rue de la Loi 170, 1040 Brussels - the "Schuman" area.

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DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL PORTAL ON PRODUCT RECALLS

1. The official launch of the GlobalRecalls portal will take place on 19 October 2012, at the Charlemagne Building; rue de la Loi 170, 1040 Brussels - the "Schuman" area. It is being held as part of the EU’s International Consumer Product Safety Week. Please note that registration to the event is necessary at: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fmi/scic/OECD12/start.php. The event is open to interested stakeholders. It is foreseen to provide a webcast and interpretation in English, French and Spanish. Any queries can be directed to the OECD secretariat: Ewelina.Marek@oecd.org.

10:00-10:05 Opening of the stakeholder meeting by Ms. Ruth MACKAY, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Consumer Product Safety

10:05-10:10 Remarks by Mrs. Paola TESTORI COGGI, Director General of the EC Directorate General for Health & Consumers

10:10-10:15 Remarks by Mr. Rintaro TAMAKI, Deputy Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

10:15-10:20 Remarks by Ms. Inez TENENBAUM, Chairman of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission

10:20-10:35 Presentation of the GlobalRecalls portal by the OECD secretariat

10:35-11:00 Questions and comments from the audience
2. The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to develop and improve policies and address challenges to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It provides a forum for governments and other stakeholders to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. Governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

3. In response to concerns that emerged in the area of consumer product safety during the 2007 “summer of recalls,” the Committee on Consumer Policy launched an initiative to examine what was occurring and what could be done to enhance co-operation. The work culminated in a decision to establish a Working Party on Consumer Product Safety at the OECD in 2010. The aim of the working party is to bring stakeholders together to:

- Identify safety issues at an early point;
- Explore ways to address safety concerns more effectively;
- Provide a robust platform for sharing information on practices and policy developments, so that responses to emerging issues can be dealt with more efficiently and effectively.

4. The working party is now implementing a ten-point action plan, which includes the development of Internet-based solutions to facilitate real-time and borderless communication. Further information on the working party is available at: www.oecd.org/sti/consumerpolicy/productsafety.

About the OECD global portal on product recalls

5. In 2010, the working party began work on enhancing information sharing on product safety issues across borders, focusing on product recalls. It has created a global portal on product recalls (also called the GlobalRecalls portal), which will be launched on 19 October. This unique web platform enables jurisdictions to upload their product recalls information onto a single platform, in a timely and multilingual fashion.

6. The portal is expected to provide benefits for governments, businesses and consumers alike. Users will be able to access information provided by countries in the language of their choice, which will greatly enhance transparency, on a global basis. This could help to increase the speed and efficiency of enforcement actions, where needed. Moreover, the mapping of products to a common taxonomy will assist users in identifying problems occurring with the same or closely related products. More broadly, the portal is expected to help promote more effective responses to product safety concerns across jurisdictions, which will benefit businesses. This, in turn, should improve product safety in general, thereby lowering the scope of problems and the associated costs of addressing any harm. A similar OECD portal on chemicals is
saving governments and industry an estimated EUR 150 million annually. The information, which will be available to the public, will also help consumers make more informed purchasing decisions.

7. Moreover, use of the industry-based taxonomy could have a significant impact on inspection costs. For instance, in the United States it is estimated that adoption of the product taxonomy could reduce the volume of imported toy products subject to examination by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), by 75%, resulting in savings of USD 16.8 million for toy importers and USD 775 000 in cost savings for the CPSC over five years.¹

¹ ITDS Product Information Committee The business case for using e-commerce data to manage product admission at international borders: guidance for government agencies and interested supply chain and trade companies, 2011.