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PRESS RELEASE
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How safe are the products we buy?

The independent third party conformity assessment industry (represented by IFIA) will share its findings and concerns over self-declarations of product safety at the ICPHSO Annual Meeting in Orlando

A Europe-wide study conducted by the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA) has revealed that nearly 80% of products tested* bearing the CE-mark through self-declaration of conformity (SDoC) did not comply with EU regulations. The survey also found that 16% of products showed safety-critical failures, resulting in a high risk of shock or fire. This compares to less than 1% for products with third-party certification.

The IFIA commissioned survey, conducted over the past five years by an independent testing agency unaffiliated with IFIA, evaluated the safety and compliance of a wide range of small household appliances on the market.

Hanane Taidi, Director General of IFIA said: “It is vital that consumers, manufacturers and regulators can have confidence that products sourced, produced and traded across the world are compliant with all required international and local safety regulations. We very much welcome the opportunity provided by the ICPHSO events to raise awareness of our concerns with the key stakeholders.”

Hanane Taidi added that IFIA welcomes the theme of this year’s ICPHSO conference "Evaluating and Managing Risk in Product Safety" as it will provide the opportunity to address the various possible solutions to reduce risks and provide higher levels of confidence.

For sensitive and high-risk products, a more robust approach that relies on independent third party, on either a mandatory or voluntary basis, should be taken as a complementary instrument to support an effective market surveillance system.

The testing, inspection and certification industry is committed to continuing to work with all stakeholders in the shared goal of ensuring that products placed on the market are safe, compliant and sustainable.



Note to editors

IFIA: Founded in 1982, IFIA – The International Federation of Inspection Agencies is the federation of organisations that provide inspection, testing and certification services internationally. With offices in Brussels, London and Washington, IFIA currently represents around 60 of the world’s leading international testing, inspection and certification bodies who have between them over 300,000 employees and a combined turnover of roughly €23 Billion.

* See attached infographics, high resolution pictures available upon request