Product Accident Information -Serious Product Accident Reporting and Disclosure Scheme-

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Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry JAPAN
Outline of regulations for product safety in Japan

Pre-market regulation

- Electrical appliances and materials
- Town gas equipment
- LPG equipment
- General consumer products

Post market measures

- Sampling Test
- On-site inspection
- Serious product Accidents Reporting and Disclosure System
- Order for product recalls and withdrawals from the market

4 regulations for product safety
Administrative Enforcement

Order for Improvement
- Violation of the technical regulation-compliance obligations

Prohibition on Labeling (Stopping shipment and sale)
- Violation of technical regulations-compliance obligations
- Violation of the order for improvement

Hazard Prevention Order
- Products without appropriate labeling
- Products in violation of relevant standards
Outline of regulations for product safety in Japan

Pre-market regulation

4 regulations for product safety
- Electrical appliances and materials
- Town gas equipment
- LPG equipment
- General consumer products

Principle
Using international standards as a basis for technical regulations
Performance-based regulations (Electrical appliances and materials)
Conformity assessment procedures based on product category
- Self-declaration of conformity
- Third-party conformity Assessment
  Registering foreign CABs as well as domestic CABs
  Recognizing voluntary arrangements between laboratories/certification bodies (including International laboratory accreditation scheme)
Government-to-Government MRA
Outline of regulations for product safety in Japan

Regulated Consumer Products

- 116 specified items
- 341 non-specified items

Regulated Consumer Products

- 4 specified items
- 6 non-specified items

- Laser pointer
- Plastic lighter with firing rod
Outline of regulations for product safety in Japan

Regulated LPG Products
- 7 specified items
- 9 non-specified items

Regulated Gas Products
- 4 specified items
- 4 non-specified items
Post Market Measures

Post market measures

- Sampling Test
- On-site inspection
- Serious product Accidents Reporting and Disclosure System
- Order for product recalls and withdrawals from the market

Sampling Test

One regulated product unit purchased by METI

Sampling Test to confirm compliance with the regulation

Executing Administrative Enforcement if necessary
Supplier must report accidents to Government within ten days

The name & type of product, a detailed account of the accident, the quantity of the products etc.

Publication of accidents by the Government (CAA)

CAA (Consumer Affairs Agency)

Disclosure of accident information (800 cases)

METI manages and endorses the counter measures of suppliers based on the investigation results

NITE: Investigates/analyzes the Accident Cause
NITE (National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)
Serious Product Accident Reporting and Disclosure System

The research agency, NITE investigates the cause of product accidents under METI’s order.

The results are widely disseminated through public information activities of NITE.

Investigation by NITE Press release by NITE
Serious Product Accident Reporting and Disclosure System

Example of serious product related accident outcome

- Death
- Serious/fatal injury or disease for which treatment requires no less than 30 days
- Fire
- Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Physical disability/ after affects of injury
Non-Serious Product Accident Reporting to NITE

Stakeholders
Suppliers
Consumer Affairs Centers
Local Fire and Police Departments

Example of Non-Serious Product Accidents
- Near-misses
- Close-call incidents
- Injury
- Burns to humans or surroundings
- Release of smoke
- Fire
- Abnormal heating of the product interior not leading to external fire

Disclosure of accident information (2000 cases) quarterly

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)
Example Measures Taken Under the Product Safety Policy

2005  The hazard prevention order for room heaters
2006  The hazard prevention order for single-source gas-powered water heaters


2009  Introduction of The Long-term Use Product Safety System (labeling and Inspection)

2009  Establishment of Consumer Affairs Agency
2012  Establishment of Consumer Safety Investigation Commission
Example Measures Taken Under the Product Safety Policy

Analyzing Product Accident Information

- Analysis of the Investigation results

Executing administrative Enforcement
  The recall of the products etc.

Amending technical regulations

Specifying products
  Lighter
  Gas cooking stove
  Oil space heaters/stoves

Deregulation
  Baseball helmets
  Roller-skates
Trends of Serious Product Accidents

Number of reports


Others

Electrical appliance

Oil-combustive

Gas appliance

Number of reports