

Electrical Safety First Product Safety Conference



**Why is intelligence so important
to product safety?**

Carol Garrett

National Trading Standards SPoC team

UK Facts and Figures

International Trade is worth
£700bn p.a. to the UK economy

Customer base

- Over 170,000 registered traders

Volumes

- Over 67 million import/export declarations per annum

Revenue

- £34.1 billion revenue of which:
- £24.8 billion import VAT
- £6.3 billion excise duties on imports
- £3 billion customs duties



CHIEF: Customs Handling of Import & Export Freight

- CHIEF is the current UK customs declaration processing system. It accepts 99.8% of import and export declarations electronically.
- Currently processes just over 78 million import and export declarations per annum.
- Calculates, and reports to our accounting systems, revenues totalling £34 billion per annum.
- Risk assesses all customs declarations against local and national profiles.
- Processes 350,000 plus OGD import/export licences per annum.
- Provides import and export data for the Office for National Statistics.



Why?

- to ensure the free circulation of safe and compliant products in the Single Market, in a way that
 - supports business and business growth
 - promotes consumer choice
 - provides adequate consumer protection
 - Maximises efficient use of available resources
- To that end legislation on consumer product safety should be:
 - proportionate, consistent and transparent
 - with only the minimum regulatory burdens required to achieve this goal.
- Risk based and intelligence led
 - Risks posed by products to end users
 - Assessment of detriment
 - Targeting products and economic operators identified as posing most serious risks



Role of intelligence

➤ Strategic assessment

- Accurate assessment of the situation, how that picture is changing now and how it may change in the future. By definition a longer term, high level look at the issues, also a forecast of likely developments.

➤ Tactical assessments

- Identification of the shorter term issues in an area which, with prompt action, can prevent a situation deteriorating or developing. To monitor progress on current business in the '*tactical menu*'

➤ Target profiles

- A detailed picture of the (potential) offender and his associates for subsequent action

➤ Problem profiles

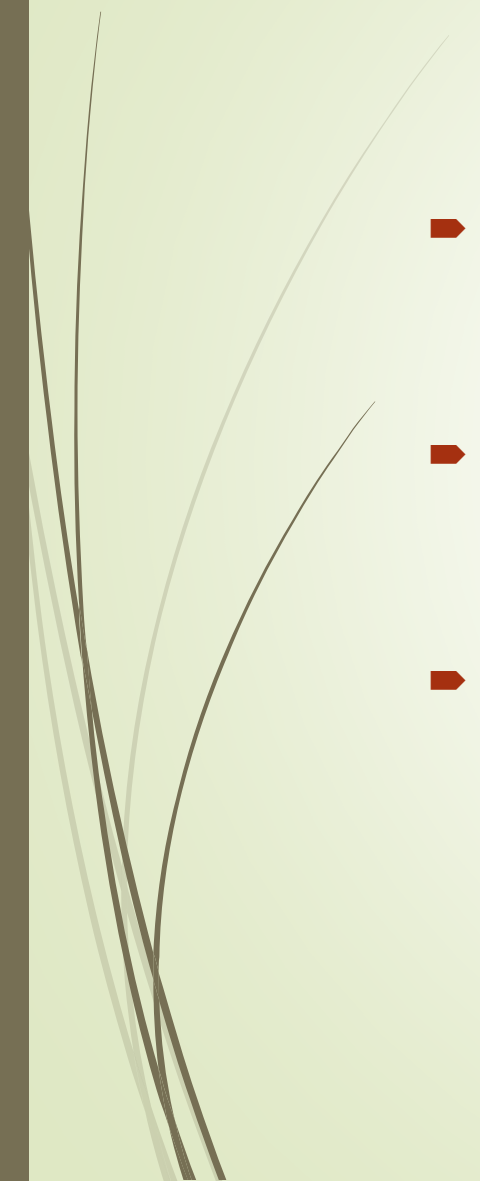
- Identification of established and emerging safety issues/trends/sectors

Case study – coordinated approach

- Aug 2014 company **prosecuted** for supply of unsafe/toys and electrical items
- January 2015 - company **prosecuted** for supply of counterfeit e liquids.
- Feb 2015 – **border intervention** -12 samples, 10 unsafe & 1 compliant. 4,150 unsafe products intercepted and destroyed
- May 2015 - company **prosecuted** for supply of unsafe electrical equipment & incorrectly labelled superglue.
- November 2015 - Company **prosecuted** for supply of unsafe dolls (border interception)
- December 2015 - **Referral** about hoverboards. Goods tested and failed. Goods signed over for destruction. Wanted to prosecute but could not establish chain of supply.
- January 2016 – **Intelligence** from TS regarding a doll with excess phthalates. TS taking own formal action against the company.
- August 2016 - **Complaint** regarding an unsafe charger. Enforcement action anticipated.
- Company moved premises – **SPoC border tracking!**



Intelligence sharing



- sharing of intelligence between private and public is essential to tackle the threat from product safety
- Intelligence is needed to identify OCG activity and individuals involved in this criminality
- to influence all law enforcement agencies to take action and to identify the most appropriate course of action and by whom



Thank you.

Carol Garrett

Carol.garrett@Suffolk.gov.uk

Tel: 07770 698004