



# CASP 2024

## High chairs

### Final activity report

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## List of abbreviations

<b>CASP</b>	Coordinated Activities on the Safety of Products
<b>DG JUST</b>	Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EFTA</b>	European Free Trade Agreement
<b>EN</b>	European Standard
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GPSR</b>	General Product Safety Regulation 2023/988
<b>IM</b>	Intermediate meeting
<b>MSA</b>	Market surveillance authority
<b>PSA</b>	Product-specific activity
<b>TSD</b>	Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC

## Executive summary

### Objectives

The overarching goal of the Coordinated Activity on the Safety of Products (CASP) project is to protect the health and safety of European consumers by supporting national authorities from EU/EFTA countries responsible for market

surveillance (MSAs) to better coordinate their activities. MSAs participate in joint sampling, testing and risk assessment of specific products during the CASP project.

### Product scope

High chairs are an essential childcare item which allow a young infant to be seated at an average table in an elevated

and restrained seat that is appropriately sized to the child.

## Main testing criteria and results

Each of the 60 samples was tested against the standard **EN 14988:2017+A1:2020**.

Out of the 60 high chairs tested, 48 (80 %) samples did not meet at least one of the requirements of the testing plan. Excluding the testing results of Clause 9 on

markings, 24 samples (40 %) did not meet at least one of the requirements of the testing plan.

Examination of the labelling – warnings, markings and instructions – performed by the MSAs showed that 38 of 60 samples did not meet the requirements.

## Conclusions

The testing campaign identified that the main issues were found in Clause 8.12: Stability and in Clause 8.9: Risk of falling. These failures present significant risks to young children, including potential falls from heights, or head/neck entrapment. As a result of this testing activity, MSAs issued 6<sup>1</sup> Safety Gate notifications. According

to risk assessments performed by the MSAs, 13 samples presented a serious risk, 1 a high risk, and 11 a low risk. The main measures taken for the products that did not meet the requirements are: 1 was recalled from end users, 9 were withdrawn from the market, and sales of 2 were banned.

## Key recommendations to stakeholders

### For consumers

- ▶ Before using the child's high chair, make sure it is stable and that your child, when applicable, can be safely buckled in.
- ▶ Don't let your child use a defective chair and report defects to the seller and consumer protection authorities.
- ▶ Look out for easily detachable small parts or gaps where their limbs could get trapped or injured.
- ▶ Don't let your child sleep in a high chair.
- ▶ Be aware of the risk of tilting when the child pushes their feet against the table.
- ▶ Always use the restraint system.

### For economic operators

- ▶ Consult the relevant standard to ensure that the gap between seat and tray complies with the standard.
- ▶ A new version of the standard has been published. Be aware of the new limits of certain elements.
- ▶ If you have trouble interpreting the applicable standard, you can contact your national standardisation body for assistance. Warnings and instructions have to be comprehensive, durable and easily visible.
- ▶ When selling products online, ensure that all necessary product information is available in the language of the country you are selling the product in.
- ▶ Be extra cautious to avoid detachable small parts that could cause choking.
- ▶ Check your products regularly to ensure they meet the essential safety requirements.

### Recommendations for standardisation organisations

- ▶ Some products are advertised for children up to six years old, but the standard only covers products for children up to age three. It should be clearly highlighted that the product can be used as a high chair up to three years, and then just as a chair up to six years.
- ▶ It would be advisable to ensure that photos on the samples are aligned with the product's usage instructions.
- ▶ Ensure the size of the lettering and the visibility of the information are adequate.
- ▶ Regarding Clause 8.12.2.6: Stability, clarification is needed on what constitutes a horizontal part of the high chair.

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<sup>1</sup> Until 19.03.2025 (included).



# Part I

## Overview of the activity

### Participating MSAs

		Country	MSA
1		Bulgaria	Commission for Consumer Protection
2		Croatia	State Inspectorate
3		Cyprus	Consumer Protection Service
4		Czechia	Czech Trade Inspection Authority
5		France	General Directorate for competition, consumer protection and fraud control
6		Germany	Competence Center Market Surveillance - Trade Supervisory Authority - Government of Upper Bavaria
7		Iceland	Housing and Construction Authority
8		Ireland	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
9		Lithuania	State Consumer Rights Protection Authority <sup>2</sup>
10		Malta	Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority
11		Portugal	Economic and Food Safety Authority

PSA 2 – High chairs is a coordinated activity with the Canadian MSA, Health Canada. The overarching goal of this coordinated activity is to share testing and risk

assessment approaches, final results, and inform each other about the respective communication campaigns.





### Product scope

High chairs can be used to feed the child and provide an integrated separate table component, or simply to seat the child at a table. Key features include the seat itself,

a restraint system through a lap bar or belts/straps, a footrest and the elevated portion of the chair to hold it. The final product scope of the activity is shown in Table 1.

<sup>2</sup> MSAs can participate in the CASP project in the testing-only modality. Testing-only participants are allowed to participate in testing, but are not involved in the discussions and decision-making, and do not take part in the activity meetings.

**Table 1: Product scope**

Product category	Photo	Remarks
Traditional high chairs		Focus on affordable products, high chairs made from a variety of materials and featuring odd shapes.
High chairs with folding element		
High chairs with a dual function as toys or swings		High chairs with a dual function as toys or swings, tested only according to EN 14988:2017+A1:2020. If the swing included toy elements, the toy was excluded.
High chairs with a table and which can be separated		

High chairs can carry serious risk due to mechanical and chemical issues, which is amplified by the vulnerability of the intended users. The high chair must be safe for the

child to sit in, with an effective restraint system. Small openings, detachable section and small parts present risks of injury to the child.

## Testing criteria

The testing plan for this activity encompasses mechanical and chemical tests according to EN 14988:2017+A1:2020. Mechanical tests (Clauses 8.1 to 8.12, Clause 9) were

conducted on all samples, while chemical tests (Clause 6) were carried out on 22 samples from four MSAs<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> CY, FR, MT, PT

# Sampling and testing

## Sampling distribution

The sampling by the MSAs was based on the sample distribution agreed during the intermediate meeting (IM). MSAs purchased 60 samples, both online and from

physical stores. A total of 41 foldable and 19 non-foldable high chairs were collected.

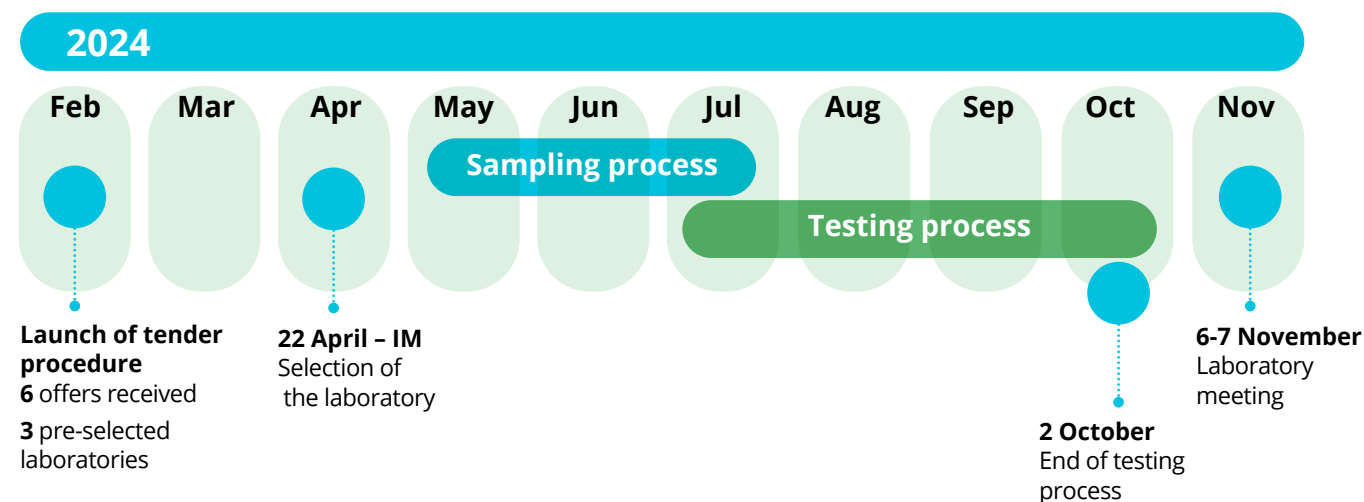
## Testing process

The testing laboratory for this activity was selected through a tender procedure. The tender specifications were sent to 18 EU/EFTA laboratories identified through the project team's engagement strategy. Each laboratory was requested to submit an offer, including pricing details, proof of certification, relevant expert experience and test report templates. Six laboratories submitted offers before the deadline. Based on the completeness and competitiveness of the offers, three were pre-selected and invited to an interview.

During the IM, the MSAs were presented with comparative analyses of the technical quality and financial aspects of the pre-selected offers. The MSAs selected the laboratory that was awarded the highest number of final points based on the quality and price of their offer.

Following the selection of the laboratory, MSAs were given two months to collect the samples and send them to the laboratory.

**Figure 1: Timeline of the sampling and testing process**



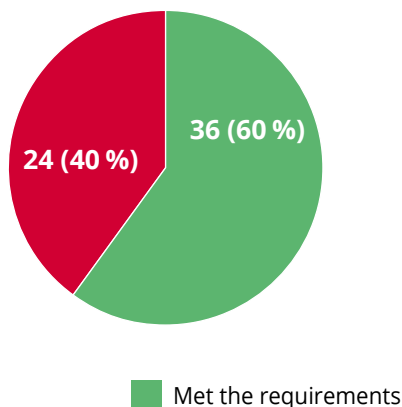


## Test results

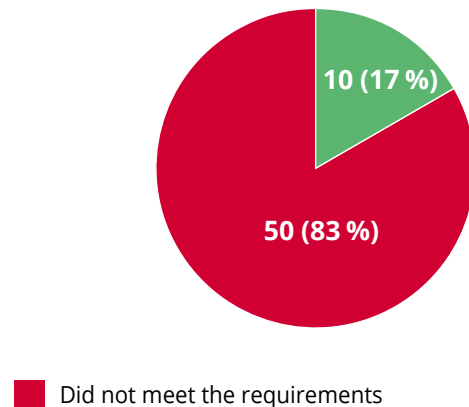
### Overview of the test results and main findings

A total of 24 (40 %) of 60 samples did not meet all the requirements outlined in the testing plan, excluding the results of Clause 9 on markings.

**Figure 2: Overall test results (excluding Clause 9 results) (N=60)**



**Figure 3: Overall test results (including warnings, markings and instructions) (N=60)**



The MSAs performed checks on warnings, markings and instructions in their national language(s). In total, 38 (63 %) out of 60 samples did not meet the requirements. The most common non-compliance issues were:

- ▶ purchase information is not available at the point of sale containing the information listed in Clause 9.4;
- ▶ missing or incorrect graphical symbol marking (Clause 9.2.1);
- ▶ instructions header is missing the warning 'Important, read carefully and keep for future reference' in letters not less than 5mm high (Clause 9.3).

If we consider both the tests performed by the laboratory and the warnings, markings and instructions checks performed by the MSAs, a total of 50 (83 %) samples did not meet at least one of the requirements.

All 22 samples that included chemical testing in their testing plan met the requirements of EN 14988:1:2017 + A1:2020 Clause 6: Migration of certain elements. However, in July 2024, a new amendment (EN 14988:1:2017 + A1:2020 + A2:2024) introduced changes to Clause 6.

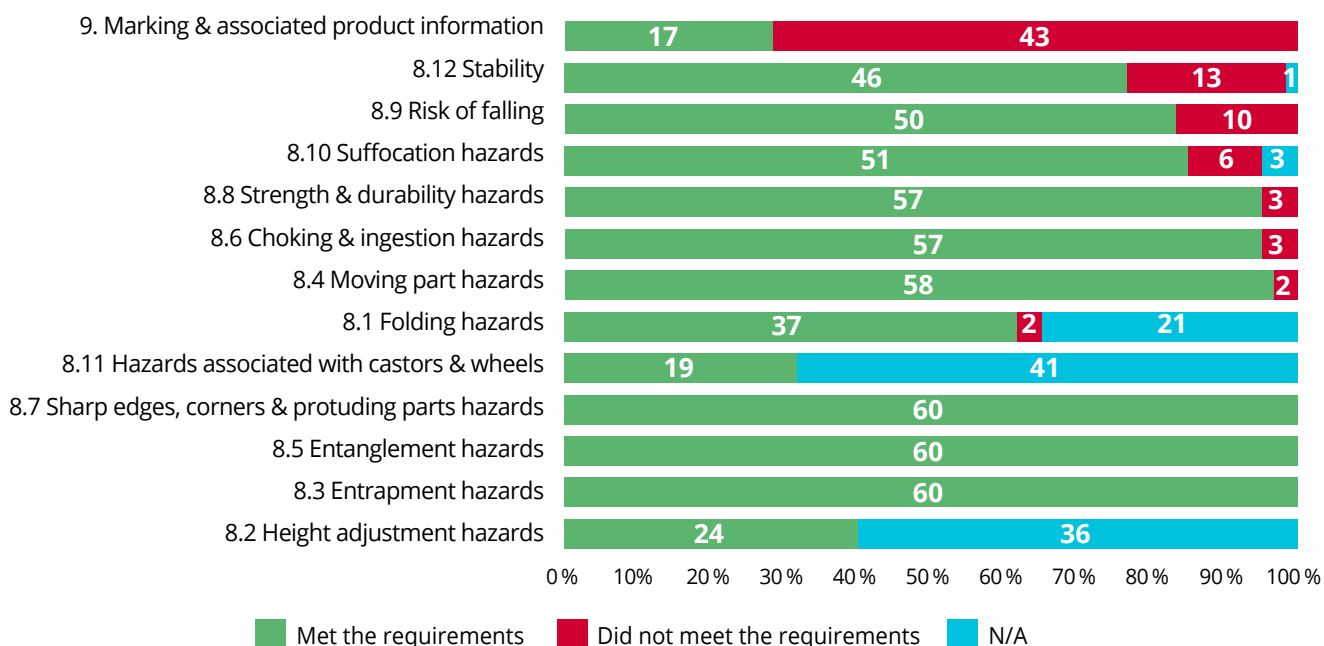
### Results per clause

Looking at the results of EN 14988:1:2017 + A1:2020, clauses with a particularly high failure rate included Clause 9: Marking; Clause 8.12: Stability; and Clause 8.9: Risk of falling. Figure 4 provides a detailed overview of the tests results per clause.

Focusing on the specific types of high chairs, 41 foldable high chairs and 19 non-foldable high chairs were tested. Excluding the results from Clause 9, 41 % of foldable high

chairs and 37 % of non-foldable high chairs failed to meet at least one of the testing requirements. When including the results of Clause 9, the failure rates increased, with 78 % of foldable chairs and 79 % of non-foldable chairs not meeting at least one of the testing requirements. There seem to be no significant differences between the two categories.

**Figure 4: Test results by clause**

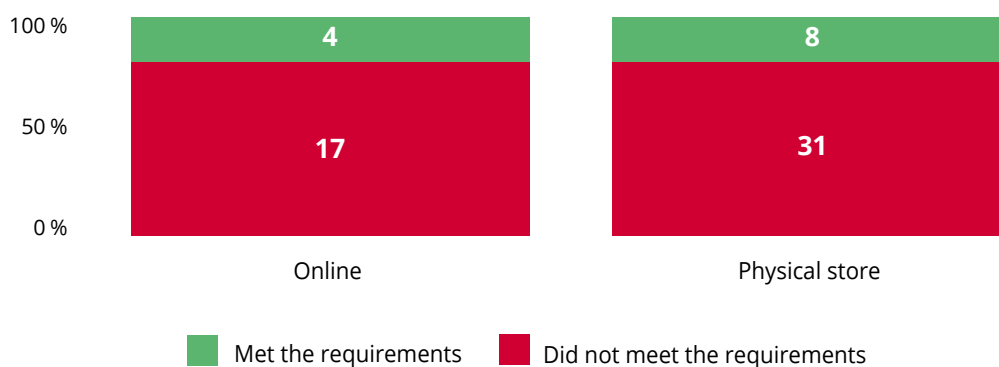


## Results per sampling channel

A total of 39 samples were obtained in physical stores and 21 were purchased online. The testing results revealed that 81 % of the products purchased online did

not meet the requirements of the testing plan. Similarly, 79.5 % of the samples purchased in physical stores also failed to meet the requirements.

**Figure 5: Test results per sampling channel (N=60)**



## Conclusions of the test results

This activity focused on medium-priced high chairs, including dual purpose ones, such as those that also function as swings. All 22 samples that were tested against chemical migration met the requirements set in the established standards. However, the amendment to EN 14988:2017+A2:2024 has updated chemical testing limits for certain elements, aligning them with the stricter standards of EN 71-3:2019+A1:2021. This change imposes

stricter limits on substances like chromium VI, aluminum, and lead. As a result, three samples that passed the tests, now would not meet the new requirements.

The 40 % failure rate (excluding Clause 9: Marking requirements) is concerning. Specifically, there was a 22 % failure rate for Clause 8.1.2 regarding stability requirements and a 16 % failure rate for Clause 8.9 concerning the

risk of falling due to non-compliant restraint systems or inadequate lateral protection. These failures present significant risks to young children, including falls from heights or head/neck entrapment, as children often move around and may attempt to escape from high chairs.

### Warnings, markings and instructions

The checks performed by the MSAs on warnings, markings and instructions in their national language(s) revealed that 38 samples (63 %) did not meet the requirements. These elements are an essential source

The review of the results seems to indicate that producers did not perform a conformity assessment on some products prior to placing them on the market.

of information for parents/caregivers about the product and its safe use. Correct graphical symbol markings are essential for consumers to understand all the possible risks associated with the use of high chairs.

## Risk assessment and corrective measures

### Risk assessment results

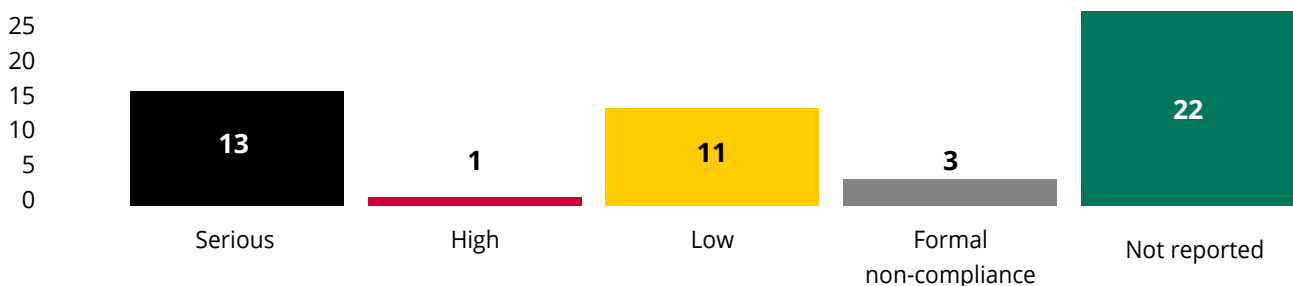
When assessing whether a product poses a risk, Article 26 on the notifications of dangerous products through the Safety Gate Rapid Alert System should be respected<sup>4</sup>.

In total, 50 (83 %) samples did not meet the requirements. This was due to failures in either the mechanical tests, the checks on warnings, markings and instructions, or both<sup>5</sup>. 14 samples were evaluated

as posing either a serious (13) or high risk (1). 11 samples were assessed as posing a low risk.

Figure 6 shows the risk levels of the samples that did not meet the requirements.

**Figure 6: Risk levels of samples**



### Corrective measures

Based on the test results and risk assessments performed, the MSAs determine the corrective measures for products that do not comply with EU legislation and/or applicable standards, Figure 7 illustrates the corrective measures taken for products that failed to meet the testing requirements.

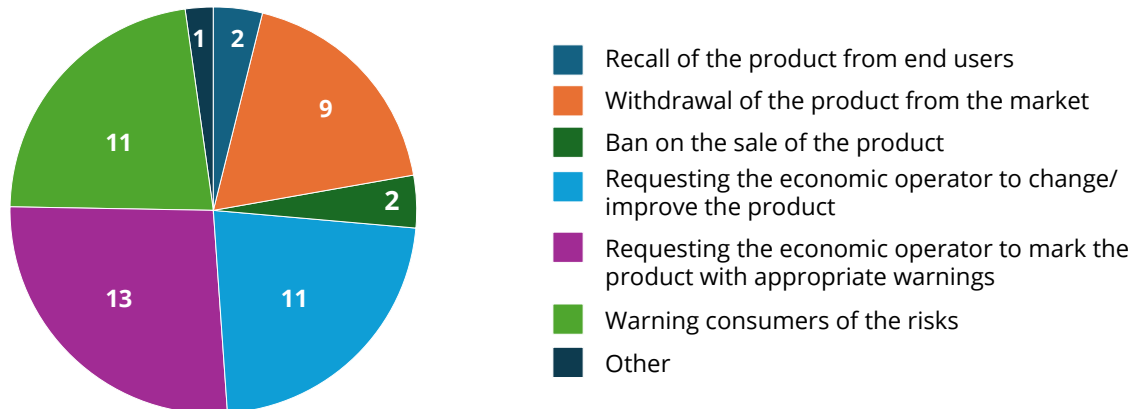
Additionally, when a serious risk is identified, MSAs are legally required to submit a notification through the Safety Gate Rapid Alert System, in accordance with Article 26 of the GPSR. On the basis of the GPSR and Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, it is also recommended to submit notifications of measures taken for products that are assessed as posing a less-than-serious risk.

Following the actions triggered by this testing campaign, Safety Gate notifications were issued for 6 products.

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products.

<sup>5</sup> Products that met the testing requirement, but not the requirements on warnings, markings and instructions are reported under the label 'Formal non-compliance'.

**Figure 7: Measures taken for products that did not meet the requirements (N=49)**



## Conclusions and recommendations

### Conclusions

The activity revealed a high failure rate: 24 (40 %) of the 60 sampled high chairs did not meet at least one of the requirements set out in the testing plan, excluding the results of Clause 9: Markings. The campaign identified that the main issues were related to the stability and the risk of falling.

MSAs performed verification on warnings, markings and instructions in their national language(s) that showed 38 (63 %) of samples did not meet the requirements. This

is an important part of the risk profile of childcare articles as it provides parents/caregivers with crucial information about a product's correct use and age suitability.

MSAs issued 6 Safety Gate notifications and instructed the economic operators to withdraw the products from the market and warn consumers of the risks.

### Recommendations to stakeholders

The following recommendations are based on the outcome of the testing and discussions among MSAs during the project.

#### For consumers:

- ▶ Do you know who made your child's high chair? Check for the manufacturer's contact details so that you can report problems or defects.
- ▶ Do you enjoy sitting on a wobbly chair? Before using the child's high chair, make sure it is stable and that your child, when applicable, can be safely buckled in.
- ▶ You wouldn't sit on a broken chair. So don't let your child use a defective chair and report defects to the seller and consumer protection authorities.
- ▶ Look out for easily detachable small parts your child could put in the mouth and choke on, or gaps where their limbs could get trapped or injured – especially if it is a folding chair.
- ▶ Don't let your child sleep in a high chair.
- ▶ Read the product information carefully.
- ▶ Always use the restraint system as the tray is not an alternative for keeping children safe. When available, use the buckle according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ Be aware of the risk of tilting when the child pushes their feet against the table.
- ▶ Dispose of the plastic packaging immediately, as the child could play with it and suffocate.
- ▶ Check on [Safety Gate](#) to see if the product you're buying has been identified as dangerous.
- ▶ Report any safety issues or accidents with your product to your consumer protection authority on [Consumer Safety Gateway](#).

### For economic operators:

- ▶ Warnings and instructions have to be comprehensive, durable and easily visible.
- ▶ When selling products online, ensure that all necessary product information is available in the language of the country you are selling, and update it as needed.
- ▶ A new version of the standard has been published, be aware of the new limits of certain elements, such as aluminum, lead and chromium.
- ▶ If you have trouble interpreting the applicable standard, you can contact your national standardisation body for assistance.
- ▶ Be extra cautious to avoid detachable small parts that could cause choking.
- ▶ The restraint system needs to keep the child safely in place. Consult the relevant standard to ensure that the gap between seat and tray complies with the standard.
- ▶ There have been failures in stability, risk of the child falling, and with warnings and markings of certain products tested. Check your products regularly to ensure they meet the essential safety requirements.

### For standardisation organisations:

- ▶ Age range for the standard: Some products are advertised for children up to six years old, but the standard only covers products for children up to age three. It should be clearly highlighted that the product can be used as a high chair up to three years, and then just as a chair up to six years. The laboratory suggested providing better information at the point of purchase to distinguish the requirements of the children's furniture EN.
- ▶ Suggestion to add a normative requirement in the standard. It would be advisable to ensure that photos on the samples are aligned with the product's usage instructions (e.g. not displaying a picture of a child using the high chair without restraint system).
- ▶ Markings and instructions: Ensure the size of the lettering and the visibility of the information are adequate (e.g., not hidden on the back or bottom of the product).
- ▶ Regarding Clause 8.12.2.6: Stability, clarification is needed on what constitutes a horizontal part of the high chair. Currently, this interpretation varies among laboratories. What one laboratory considers a horizontal part (and tests as such) may not be recognised as such by another, leading to inconsistencies in testing outcomes.



## Part II

## What is CASP?

The Coordinated Activities on the Safety of Products (CASP) project enables close cooperation between market surveillance authorities from European Union/

European Free Trade Agreement countries to ensure the safety of products on the Single Market.

## CASP 2024 includes seven product-specific testing activities and two horizontal activities

**Participants in the product-specific activities** test the jointly selected products sampled on their respective national markets. The products are tested in accredited laboratories in the EU/EFTA according to the commonly agreed testing criteria.

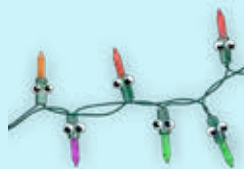
CASP 2024 also includes one re-testing activity. Based on the same testing plan as in the previous testing campaign of the given product category, the re-testing initiative involves repeating large-scale market surveillance activities for those product categories to verify the compliance level after a certain period of time.



**PSA 1**  
Baby soothers



**PSA 2**  
High chairs



**PSA 3**  
Lighting chains



**PSA 4**  
Mini electric heaters



**PSA 5**  
Disposable electronic cigarettes



**PSA 6**  
Bicycles for children



**PSA 7**  
Slime toys (re-testing)

**Horizontal activities** provide a knowledge-exchange forum for market surveillance authorities. With the guidance of technical experts in the relevant fields, the participants develop common approaches, procedures, and practical tools for market surveillance.

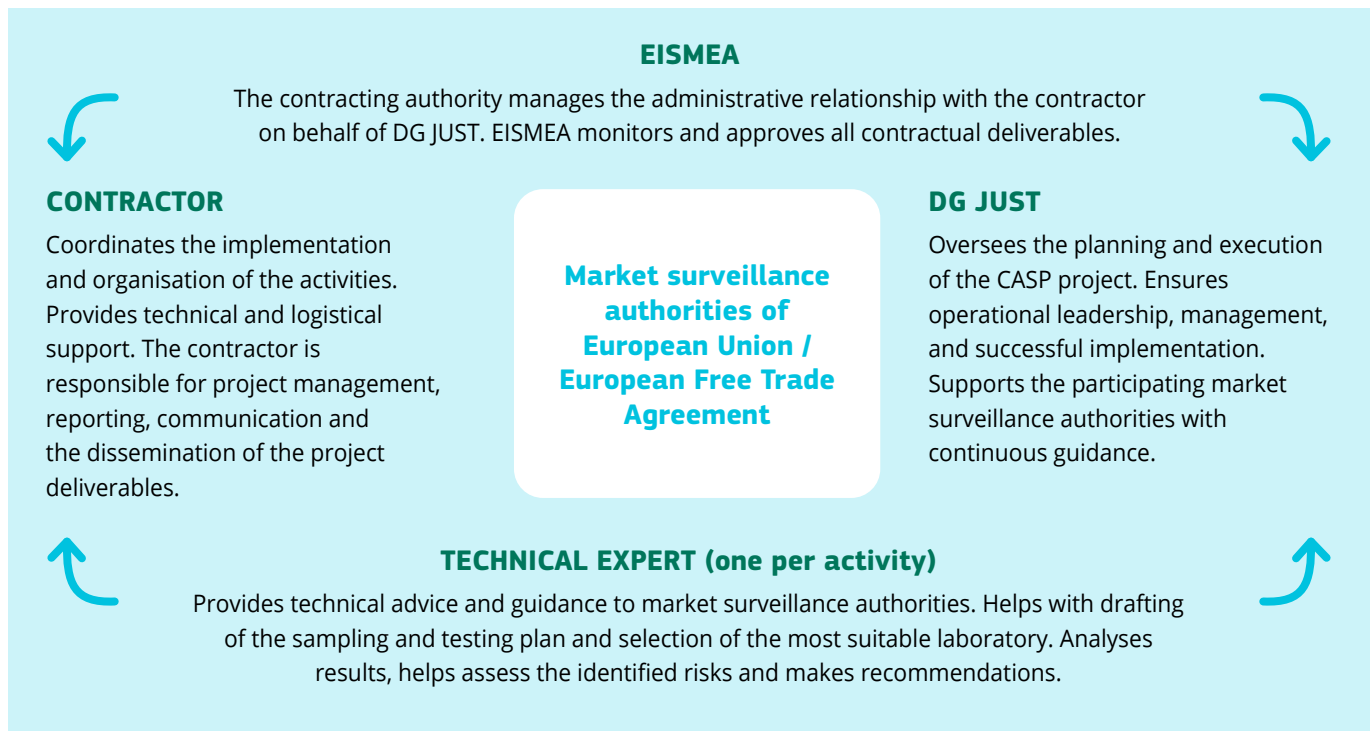


**HA 1**  
Standardisation – use of standards by analogy

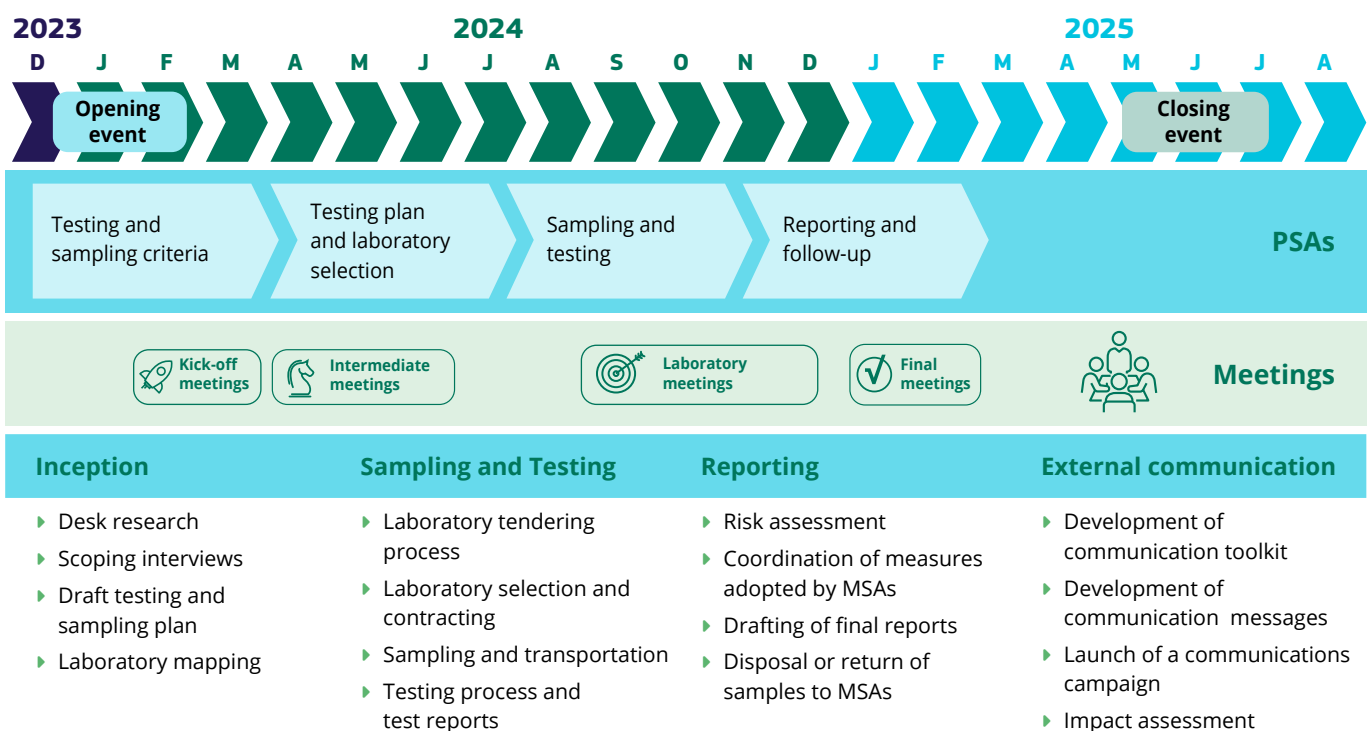


**HA 2**  
Starter kit for newcomers

## Roles and responsibilities



## Product-specific activities work plan



**Communication and dissemination**



## Product-specific activities processes and tools

<p><b>0 Pre-CASP process</b></p> <p>DG JUST conducts a priority-setting exercise with market surveillance authorities to select the product categories for each CASP project. This selection process encompasses both new and previously tested product categories in the framework of a CASP project.</p>	<p><b>1 Validation of testing and sampling plans</b></p> <p>The technical experts draft the testing plans based on the priorities set by market surveillance authorities and the main product hazards identified. The drafts are presented at the kick-off meetings, then finetuned and validated by the participants.</p>	<p><b>2 Laboratory selection</b></p> <p>The contractor's team maps the testing laboratories and contacts them to collect preliminary fee quotes and other relevant information. The tendering process is launched after the kick-off meetings, and the offers are compared and evaluated. During the intermediate meetings, the market surveillance authorities select one laboratory per activity.</p>
<p><b>3 Collection and transportation of samples</b></p> <p>The market surveillance authorities collect samples from their national markets, perform preliminary checks and send them to the selected testing laboratory.</p>	<p><b>4 Testing and delivery of test reports</b></p> <p>The laboratory tests the samples according to the agreed testing plan. The market surveillance authorities check and validate the test reports.</p>	<p><b>5 Risk assessment</b></p> <p>The technical expert and the market surveillance authorities perform risk assessments on all samples that do not meet the testing requirements.</p>
<p><b>6 Measures adopted by the market surveillance authorities</b></p> <p>The market surveillance authorities take corrective measures for the products that do not meet the requirements and issue notifications on Safety Gate.</p>		<p><b>7 External communications</b></p> <p>The external communication campaign will launch when all testing results have been validated. It is rolled out via media and influencer engagement activities, supported through stakeholder dissemination activities.</p>

## External communication

### Communication tools

- ▶ **Final reports** for each activity and for the CASP 2024 project;
- ▶ **Factsheets;**
- ▶ **#ProductGo game and related assets;**
- ▶ **Press kit and social media assets.**

### Channels

The communication material is disseminated via:

- ▶ [ec.europa.eu](https://ec.europa.eu) web presence ([Safety Gate](#), [CASP](#) webpage, [EISMEA news](#) section);
- ▶ Social media accounts of DG JUST and EISMEA;
- ▶ Communication channels of market surveillance authorities;
- ▶ Selected partner influencers;
- ▶ Selected media partnerships.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

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