

# Electrical Safety First Product Safety Conference

 Why is intelligence so important  
to product safety?

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# 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.

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