



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

Research and analysis

Product Safety Testing Sampling Protocol Programme: April 2024 – March 2025

Updated 18 February 2026

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1) Summary

Under the 2024 to 2025 programme:

- 583 products were tested, of which 464 (80%) products were found to be non-compliant against the legislation that they were tested against.
- The most tested categories were cosmetics, electrical, and toys.

2) Introduction and methodology

This report is based on data collected by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) through the Product Testing Sampling Protocol for the 2024 to 2025 programme. These programmes have run annually since 2018, with consistent data collection in place since 2020.

OPSS provides grant funding to local authority operated test houses, enabling UK local authorities to access funded product assessment and testing for compliance with product safety legislation within OPSS's remit. The scope of the programme and details of its operation are set out in the Sampling Protocol, which is published each year on the [Regulators' Companion Website](https://www.regulatorscompanion.info/) (<https://www.regulatorscompanion.info/>). ^[footnote 1]

The Sampling Protocol enables local authorities to test purchase products and assess their compliance with product safety legislation for items placed on the market by businesses within their area. The programme gives local authorities cost-free access to scientific and technical expertise for product assessment and testing, supporting their regulatory activities.

For products costing £75 or more, local authorities can apply to OPSS for funding to cover purchase costs. For products under £75, the cost of test purchasing is met by the local authority.

Trading Standards Officers (TSOs) in Great Britain and Environmental Health Officers in Northern Ireland are advised to adopt a risk-based approach, using their professional judgment to decide which products to test purchase and which legislation to assess compliance against.

Samples were submitted to one of seven laboratories for testing, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Laboratories testing samples, 2024 to 2025

Laboratory	Number
Aberdeen Scientific Services	1
Edinburgh Scientific Services	17
Gateshead Metrology Laboratory	33
Glasgow Scientific Services	16
Hampshire Scientific Services	152
Kent Scientific Services	191
Lancashire Scientific Services	173
Total	583

Source: OPSS data collection

After each product is tested, the local authority laboratory must send the test certificate to the local authority TSO who submitted the sample. This enables the TSO to take appropriate follow-up action in line with their enforcement policy and the Regulators’ Code.

Under the Sampling Protocol, OPSS requires that any non-compliant test results, along with details of follow-up enforcement actions, be recorded in the OPSS Product Safety Database (PSD), ^[footnote 2] together with any additional intelligence about the product.

Local authority TSOs can use these test certificates to engage with businesses about any non-compliance issues identified. This helps businesses take corrective action to bring their products into compliance. It also enables local authorities to assess whether enforcement action is necessary and proportionate. Where required, authorities can mandate the removal of unsafe products from the market to protect consumers. This approach helps create a level playing field in which compliant businesses can compete and grow on fair terms.

How the data can be used:

- Product compliance can be shown by individual product category.
- The compliance rate reflects only the products assessed under this specific programme and should not be interpreted as the overall compliance level of all products on the market.

How the data cannot be used:

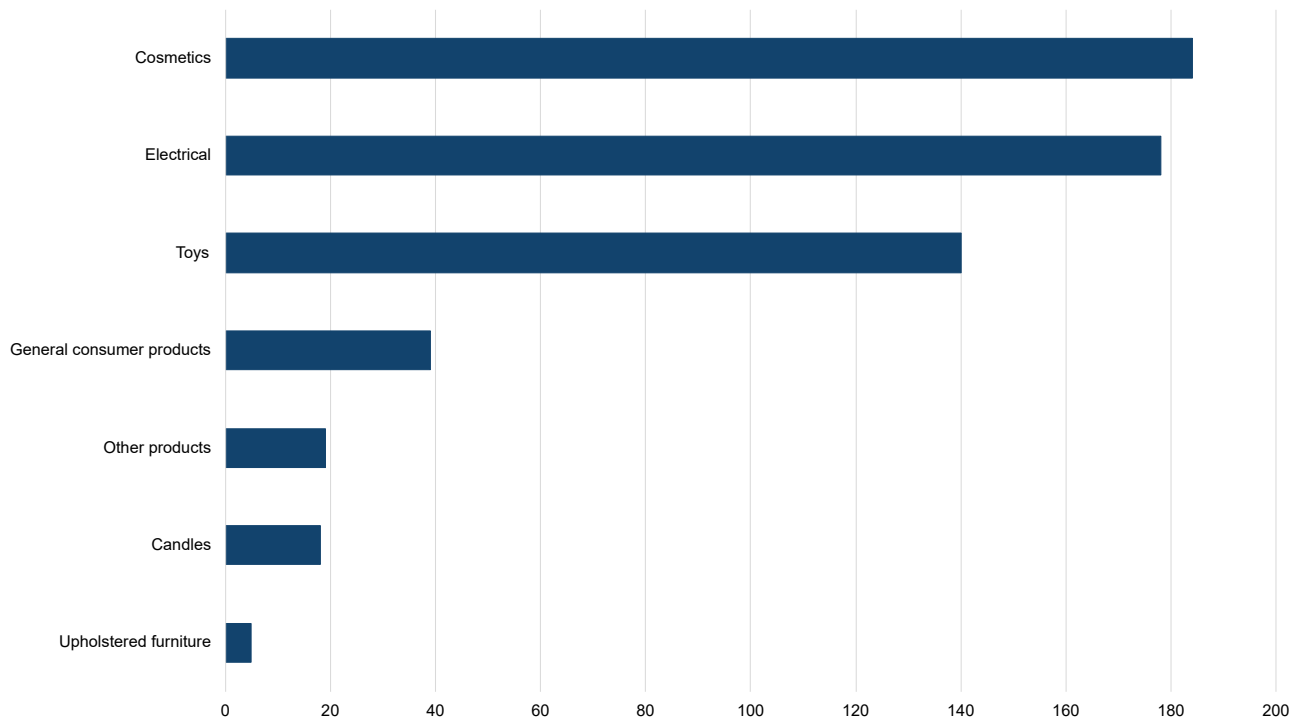
- Product compliance rates cannot be used to estimate national compliance levels due to the sampling methodology. Local authorities typically select products based on local knowledge and intelligence, focusing on items that have raised safety concerns. As a result, the products tested do not represent a random sample.
- Total testing volumes cannot be used to compare local authority performance, as the number of tests varies by authority and depends on factors such as available grant funding and demand for testing.

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) complies with the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) Code of Practice for Official Statistics (<https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>). This code outlines the revision policy for this release, and DBT will notify users of any revisions to the statistics through announcements on gov.uk.

3) Products tested

A wide range of products were tested, with cosmetics, electrical, and toys being the most common categories. These were followed by other consumer products, including nursery items and household goods such as furniture.

Figure 1: Types of products tested, 2024 to 2025



Source: OPSS data collection

Table 2: Types of products ^[footnote 3] tested under OPSS Sampling Protocol, 2024 to 2025

Product type	Number
Cosmetics	184
Electrical	178
Toys	140
General consumer products	39

Product type	Number
Other products	19
Candles	18
Upholstered furniture	5
Total	583

Source: OPSS data collection

Table 3 shows the legislation under which products in the 2024 to 2025 programme were tested for compliance. Most products were assessed under cosmetic or toy safety regulations, with some tested against multiple pieces of legislation.

Table 3: Legislation applied, 2024 to 2025

Legislation	Products	Percentage
Cosmetic Products Enforcement Regulations 2013	143	25
Toys Safety Regulations 2011	123	21
Multiple Legislations Apply	120	21
Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016 / Plugs and Sockets (Safety) Regulations 1994	78	13
General Product Safety Regulations 2005 (GPSR)	75	13
Food Imitations (Safety) Regulations 1989	6	1
Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988	5	1
Personal Protective Equipment (Enforcement) Regulations 2018	5	1

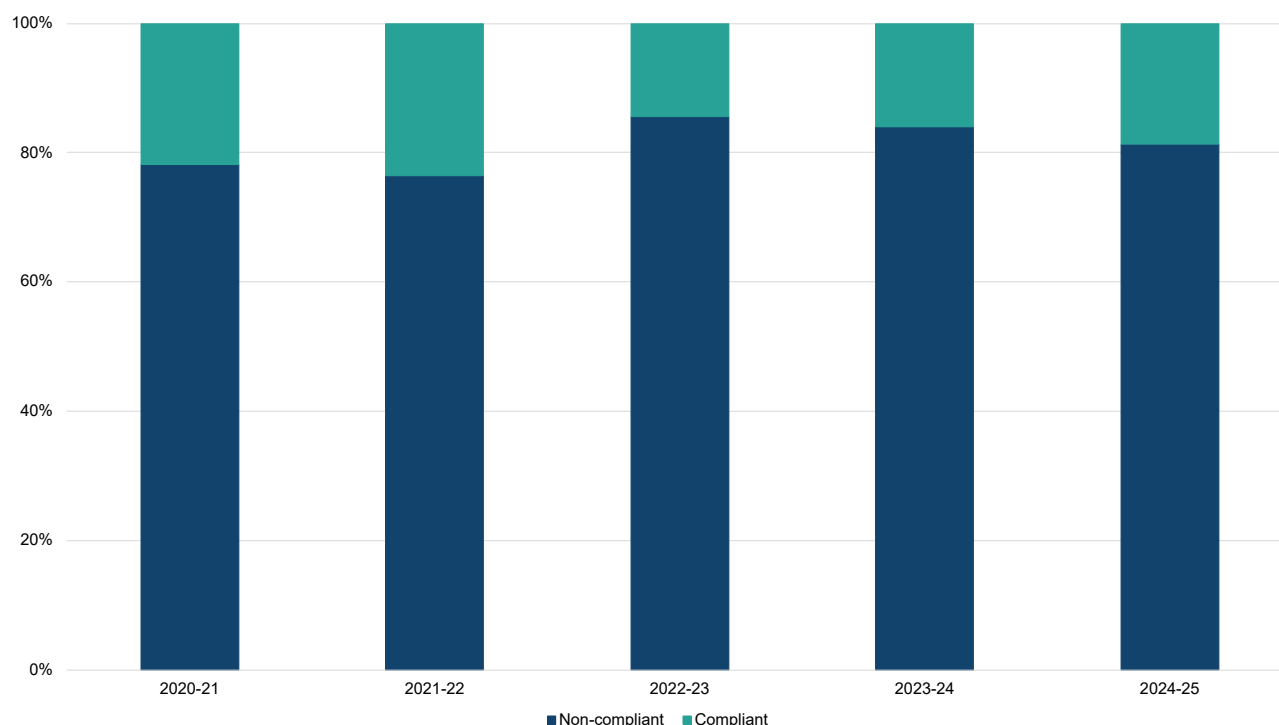
Legislation	Products	Percentage
N-nitrosamines and N-nitrosatable Substances in Elastomer or Rubber Teats and Dummies (Safety) Regulations 1995	2	0
Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2016	1	0
Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008	1	0
Unknown	24	4
Total	583	100

Source: OPSS data collection

4) Test results

During 2024 to 2025, 583 ^[footnote 4] products were tested, of which 464 (80%) products were found to be non-compliant with relevant legislation and standards. ^[footnote 5] This is broadly similar to the level of non-compliance found for other years of the programme since 2020. The lowest non-compliance rate was 76% in 2021 to 2022 and the highest was 86% in 2022 to 2023.

Figure 2: Overall compliance results, 2024 to 2025



Source: OPSS data collection

Table 4: Overall compliance results of products tested under OPSS Sampling Protocol, 2024 to 2025

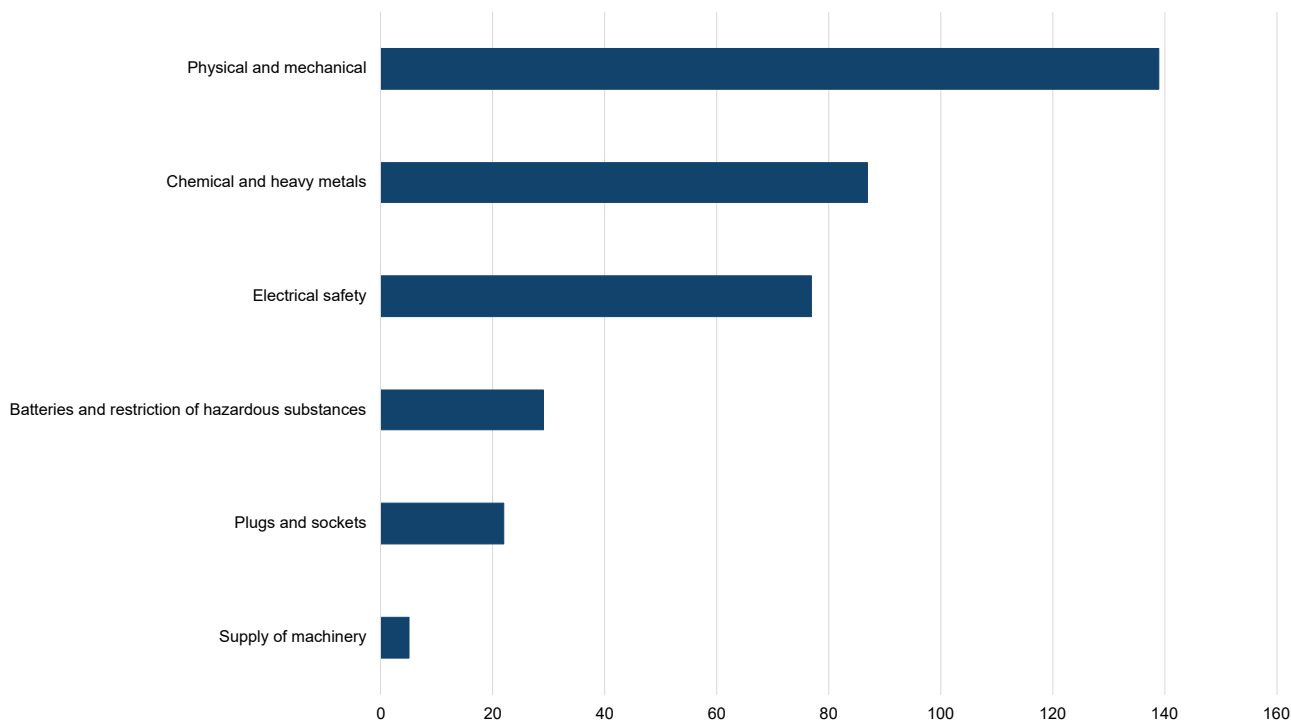
Compliance	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Compliant	73	141	69	111	107
Non-compliant	261	457	408	580	464

Source: OPSS data collection

The types of products selected for assessment are likely to have influenced compliance rates, as local authorities use risk-based approaches in their regulatory work.

A product can fail in multiple physical safety categories, such as physical and mechanical, electrical safety, batteries and restriction of hazardous substances, chemical and heavy metal, pyrotechnics, and microbiology. The total number of failures across these categories was 359. ^[footnote 6]

Figure 3: Nature of physical safety non-compliance, 2024 to 2025



Source: OPSS data collection

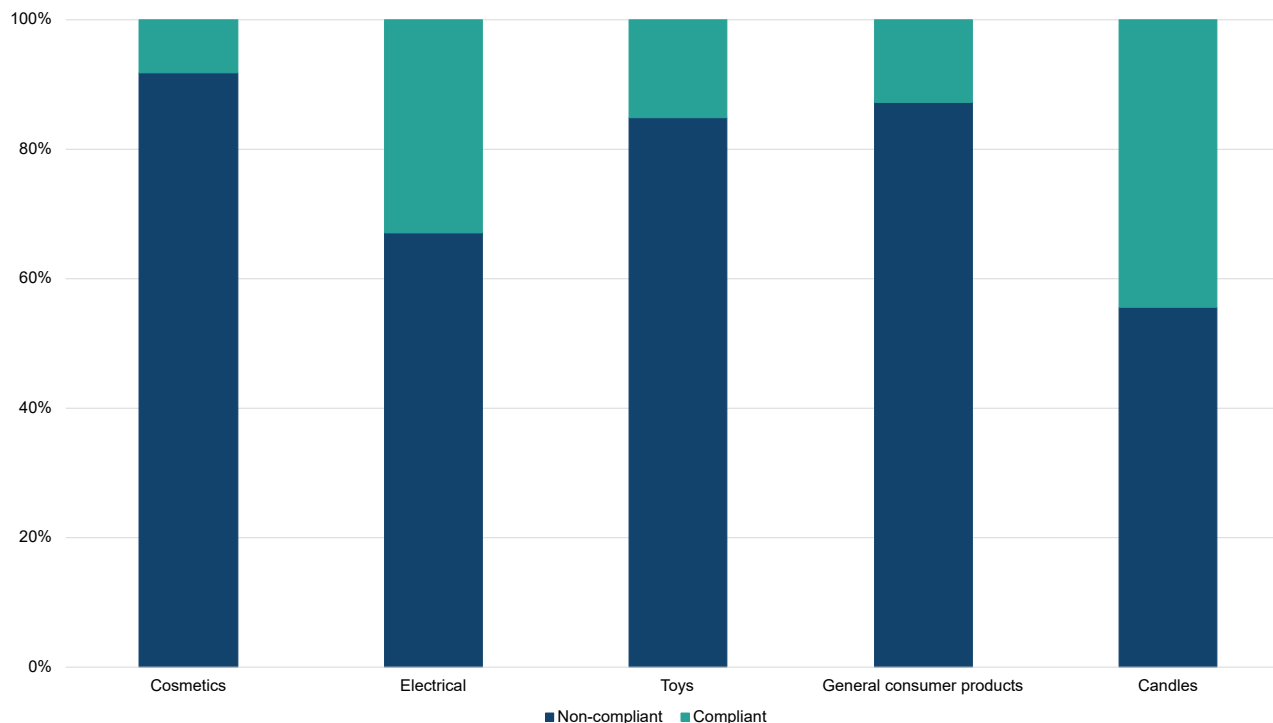
Table 5: Nature of physical safety non-compliance of products tested under OPSS Sampling Protocol, 2024 to 2025

Nature	Number
Physical and mechanical	139
Chemical and heavy metals	87
Electrical safety	77
Batteries and restriction of hazardous substances	29
Plugs and sockets	22

Nature	Number
Supply of machinery	5
Total	359

Source: OPSS data collection

Figure 4: Overall compliance results of the top five types of products tested, 2024 to 2025



Source: OPSS data collection

Table 6: Overall compliance results of the top five types of products tested under OPSS Sampling Protocol, 2024 to 2025

Product type	Compliant	Non-compliant	Total
Cosmetics	15	168	183
Electrical	56	114	170
Toys	21	117	138
General consumer products	5	34	39
Candles	8	10	18

Source: OPSS data collection

5) Corrective actions

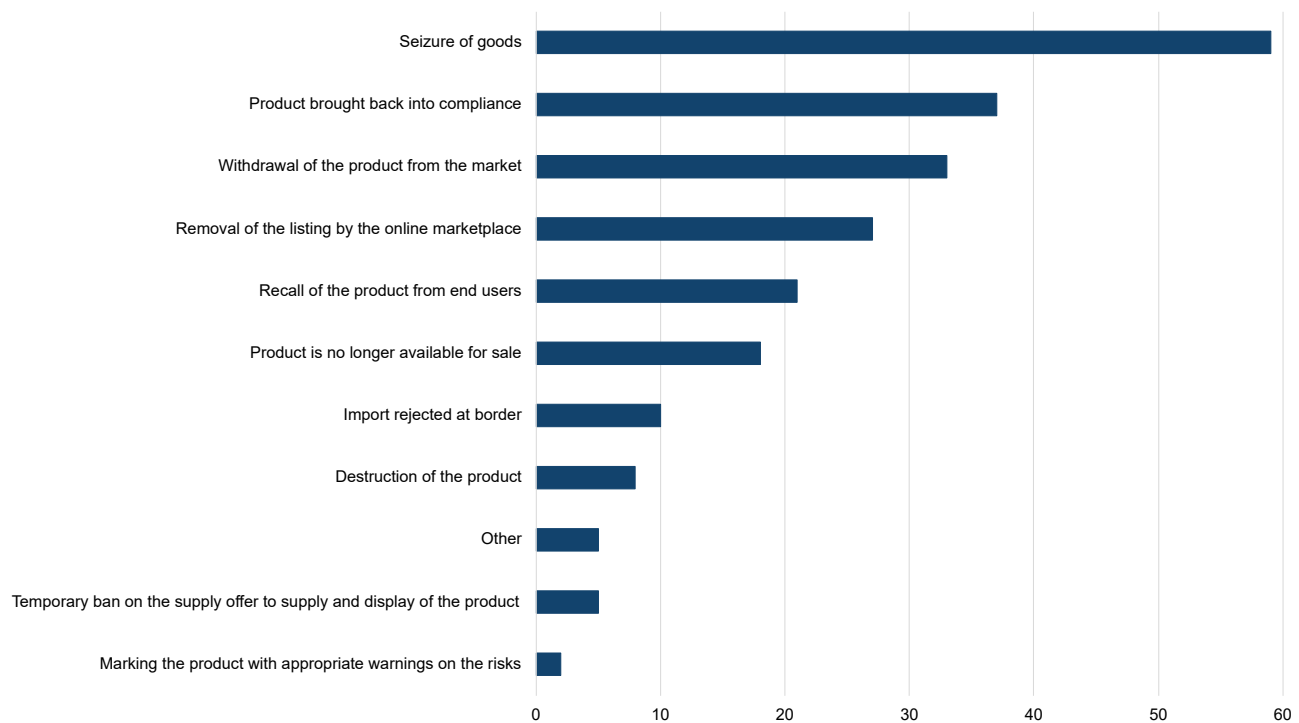
Under the 2024 to 2025 Sampling Protocol, data was required to be entered into the PSD whenever products posed a risk to consumer health and safety due to unsatisfactory test results or were found to be non-compliant.

Of the 464 products with test certificates identifying non-compliance with relevant regulatory requirement, 213 records were accurately matched in the PSD against a test laboratory report. This represents approximately 46% of the products expected to be recorded under the programme.

Among these 213 matched records, 198 (93%) had at least one corrective action recorded. This proportion may increase over time due to reporting and recording delays by local authorities. To further support accurate and timely reporting, steps are being taken to encourage consistent data entry by local authorities.

A wide range of corrective actions were recorded by local authorities in the PSD, including product recalls and removal of listings from online marketplaces.

Figure 5: Corrective actions recorded on PSD, 2024 to 2025



Source: OPSS data collection

Table 7: Corrective actions recorded on PSD, 2024 to 2025

Corrective action	Number
Seizure of goods	59
Product brought back into compliance	37
Withdrawal of the product from the market	33
Removal of the listing by the online marketplace	27
Recall of the product from end users	21
Product is no longer available for sale	18
Import rejected at border	10
Destruction of the product	8

Corrective action	Number
Other	5
Temporary ban on the supply offer to supply and display of the product	5
Marking the product with appropriate warnings on the risks	2
Total	225

Source: OPSS data collection

The figures presented throughout this report are based on data analysed in January 2026 from the test laboratory reports and searches of the PSD for corrective actions. Any subsequent changes will not be reflected in this report.

More information on the PSD, and key findings, can be accessed at [Product Safety Database annual reports \(https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/product-safety-database-annual-reports\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/product-safety-database-annual-reports).

6) Annex A – Legislation / products for testing

Products	Legislation tested for compliance with / associated Northern Ireland legislation where appropriate
Aerosols	Aerosol Dispensers Regulations 2009
Baby products	N-nitrosamines and N-nitrosatable Substances in Elastomer or Rubber Teats and Dummies (Safety) Regulations 1995
Consumer products	General Product Safety Regulations 2005
Cosmetic products	Cosmetic Products Enforcement Regulations 2013

Products	Legislation tested for compliance with / associated Northern Ireland legislation where appropriate
Electrical Equipment	Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016 Plugs and Sockets (Safety) Regulations 1994
EMC	Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2016
Fireworks and explosives	Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015
Food imitations	Food Imitations (Safety) Regulations 1989
Gas appliances	Gas Appliances (Enforcement) and Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 2018
Machinery	Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008
Nightwear	The Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985
Oil heaters	Oil Heaters (Safety) Regulations 1977
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment (Enforcement) Regulations 2018
Pressure equipment	The Pressure Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016
Radio equipment	Radio Equipment Regulations 2017
Recreational craft	Recreational Craft Regulations 2017
Simple pressure vessels	Simple Pressure Vessels (Safety) Regulations 2016
Toys	Toys Safety Regulations 2011
Upholstered furniture	Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988

Footnotes

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1. The website requires a login to access.
 2. The PSD is the notification system used by local authority trading standards (environmental health in Northern Ireland), certain national regulators and OPSS enforcement teams to notify unsafe and non-compliant products to the Secretary of State, as required in product safety legislation.
 3. Other products include nursery products, food imitation, unlicensed drugs and personal protective equipment.
 4. There were 12 products with unknown test results, which are excluded from figures discussing compliance outcomes.
 5. The legislation under which products were tested for compliance is listed in the Annex.
 6. This value represents all unsatisfactory test results from tests conducted under the physical safety categories: physical and mechanical, chemical and heavy metals, electrical safety, batteries and restriction of hazardous substances, plugs and sockets, supply of machinery, and microbiology. Labelling failures are excluded, and a single product may generate multiple unsatisfactory results.



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