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## Inter-American Rapid Alert System (SIAR) Workshop

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### I. Introduction

The Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) is the Inter-American interdisciplinary mechanism, specialized in promoting -at a national and hemispheric level- consumer health and safety policies and programs, and the impact they can have on consumers' health and wellbeing.

The CSHN offers countries a space for technical cooperation to prevent and/or stop, as a region, the circulation of unsafe products in their markets. Among other aspects, the CSHN has promoted and supported the creation and/or the strengthening of consumer product safety national market surveillance systems, has trained hundreds of specialists and officials and administers the only existing regional safety alert portal in the Americas

El fundamento de esta cooperación internacional impulsada desde los Estados Miembros parte de la base de que en un contexto de comercio de bienes y servicios de consumo globalizado, la seguridad de los productos es, por un lado, un reto internacional frente al cual los países no pueden hacer frente de forma aislada, sino que buscan la cooperación a nivel subregional, hemisférico y global.

The foundation of this international cooperation, promoted by Member States, it's based on the idea of the global trade of goods and services; however, Consumer Product Safety is, on one hand, an international challenge that individual countries cannot face in isolation, but for which they rather seek sub regional, hemispheric and global cooperation.

At the same time, it is an inter-institutional challenge, since it exceeds the scope of the responsibilities assigned to consumer protection agencies alone and must be focused on a systemic and interdisciplinary perspective that involves all the national institutions with commitments related to product safety -including the sanitary surveillance authorities, health ministries, metrology institutes, customs administrations, among others.

In addition to the above, and in the framework of the CSHN, countries in the hemisphere have created the Inter-American Rapid Alert System (SIAR), which is the first hemispheric integrated system for the generation, and management of the rapid and secure exchange of information on consumer safety alerts, based on agreed criteria on principles, general concepts and relevant terminology for regional alerts; with more than 18,000 alerts issued to date.

The system is supported by an advanced IT platform with information and support resources for consumer product safety surveillance, with public and private access modules.



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## II. Objective of the workshop

Contribute to the strengthening of the institutional capacity of relevant government agencies for market surveillance and the safety of consumer products, including the generation and dissemination of national recalls and communication to regional systems, with a systemic, inter-institutional and interdisciplinary approach, and the necessary attention towards the participation and involvement of civil society and health authorities.

In addition to the above, the workshop is an opportunity to raise awareness among stakeholders on the impact of the safety of consumer products in the welfare and health of consumers as well as the development and competitiveness of countries, pursuant to maintaining a common language, which has been developed through the CSHN-SIAR.

## III. Expected results

As a result of the workshop, authorities should acquire knowledge on the functioning of the SIAR, as foundation for developing their own national systems and coordinated approach for the surveillance of consumer products, in line with hemispheric efforts, as well as efforts in other countries of the Americas and other regions.

## IV. Participant Profile

The workshop is aimed at decision-making specialists and technicians, with direct or indirect capacity, on consumer products safety, in government agencies with jurisdiction in the matter. Among others, consumer protection agencies, ministries of health, health surveillance agencies, standardization institutes, technology and quality, and customs administrations.



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## Agenda

4:00 pm	Welcome
4:10 pm	CSHN – SIAR Introduction
4:30 pm	Uploading a Recall
4:45 pm	Private Module
5:00 pm	<p>Report Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Format Section</li><li>• Country Report</li><li>• Region Report<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- By Totals</li><li>- By Percentages</li><li>- By years</li></ul></li><li>• Category Report</li><li>• Risk Report</li><li>• Exporting Reports</li></ul>
5:15 pm	Publication of Events
5:25 pm	Country Experiences
5:50 pm	Next Steps
6:10 pm	Comments and Closing