



DEBATE PACK

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Role of the new Office of Product Safety and Standards

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Summary

This pack has been prepared ahead of the debate to be held in Westminster Hall on Wednesday 9 May 2018 from 2.30 – 4pm. The Member opening the debate is Carolyn Harris.

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Summary

A recent spate of very serious incidents, including the Shepherd's Bush Tower Fire on 19 August 2016 and the Grenfell Tower Fire on 14 June 2017, have been linked to faulty domestic appliances. These incidents have led to questions being asked about the UK's product safety regime. Various groups have called for the current regulatory and enforcement system to be strengthened.

A "Working Group on Product Recall and Safety" was established in October 2016 by former Consumer Minister Margot James, shortly after the Shepherd's Bush Fire. A group of product and fire safety experts was brought together to build on the recommendations made by Lynn Faulds Wood in her independent review on [UK Consumer Product recall](#), published in February 2016. The Working Group published its [full report](#) on 19 July 2017. This was followed, on 16 January 2018, by a report by the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Select Committee on "[The Safety of Electrical Goods in the UK](#)".

On 21 January 2018, as part of the [Government's response to the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety](#), the Business Minister Andrew Griffiths announced the creation of the Office for Product Safety and Standards [the "OPSS"]. He said:

The new Office for Product Safety and Standards will strengthen the UK's already tough product safety regime and will allow consumers to continue to buy secure in the knowledge that there is an effective system in place if products need to be repaired or replaced.

The overriding aim of the OPSS is to help the UK meet the evolving challenges of product safety by responding to expanding international trade, the growth in online shopping and the increasing rate of product innovation. The new Office is part of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ([BEIS](#)) and will have a budget of around £12 million per year when fully operational.

On its website, the new OPSS describes its responsibility as follows:

We work at the front line with businesses, local and national regulators and consumers to improve regulatory protections and support compliant businesses.

The OPSS will provide specialist services centrally to support consistent national enforcement, including aspects of product testing and technical expertise. Specifically, its responsibilities will cover general (non-food) consumer product safety, including:

- National Capacity for Product Safety and Technical Regulation
- Policy Development - Product Safety, Metrology and Regulatory Delivery
- Primary Authority
- Industrial Strategy commitments to local better regulation
- Technical regulation on behalf of government

- Approval of types of utility meters and provision for accuracy testing
- EU Exit preparation for technical regulation
- International regulatory delivery
- NMO Technical Services
- Standards and accreditation policy
- Business insights through our Business Reference Panel and others
- Sponsorship of British Hallmarking Council

However, the remit of the OPSS does not cover construction products, vehicles, medicines and medical devices, or workplace equipment, which are already covered by other agencies.

It is envisaged that in addition to providing support and advice for local authority Trading Standards teams, the OPSS will co-ordinate work across local authorities where action is needed on a national scale and will ensure the UK continues to carry out appropriate border checks on imported products once the UK leaves the EU.

It is important to note that there are no changes to the roles and responsibilities of local authorities or other market surveillance authorities. Crucially, the creation of the new OPSS will not lessen any of the legal responsibilities of manufacturers, importers and retailers to present safe products to the market, and to take rapid effective action when safety issues arise with their products.

A Library briefing paper on "[Product safety and recall](#)" (CBP 8211) (dated 15 February 2018) provides an overview of the current product safety regime in the UK.

2. News Articles

Guardian

[Whirlpool and retailers selling its tumble dryers 'give poor safety advice'](#)

27 April 2018

Guardian

[Faulty appliances cause 60 UK house fires a week, Which? says](#)

15 February 2018

Practical Law

[Government launches new Office for Product Safety and Standards](#)

23 January 2018

Out-Law

[UK to create body to lead new approach to product safety](#)

22 January 2018

BBC online news

[Government introduces new product safety office](#)

21 January 2018

Independent

[Government starts new Office for Product Safety and Standards to manage recalls after Grenfell warnings](#)

21 January 2018

3. Press releases

Office for Product Safety and Standards

New guide to improve consumer product safety recalls

7 March 2018

BSI Code of Practice will help businesses understand what to do if their product needs to be recalled.

- First ever government-backed Code of Practice for product safety recalls published
- new guidance will help businesses understand what they need to do if something goes wrong with their product
- the move follows recommendations from safety experts commissioned by the government

The government's new [Office for Product Safety and Standards](#) has teamed up with [BSI](#), the UK's National Standards Body, to launch the first government-backed Code of Practice (PAS 7100) for product safety recall in the UK.

The Code of Practice includes details on how a business can monitor the safety of products and plan for a recall, and how Market Surveillance Authorities such as local authority Trading Standards can support businesses in their monitoring of incidents and their implementation of corrective action.

The Code of Practice, developed by BSI, is the first major initiative for the new Office which was launched by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in January. It follows a recommendation by the Working Group on Products Recalls and Safety to introduce such a Code to further strengthen the UK's already tough product safety regime.

This was created with the assistance of leading retailers, consumer interest groups and industry bodies, including Tesco, Samsung Electronics, British Retail Consortium, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers.

Consumer Minister Andrew Griffiths said:

This new Code of Practice will support businesses in dealing with product safety issues swiftly and effectively, ensuring people can continue to buy secure in the knowledge there is an effective system in place if products need to be repaired or replaced.

Effective regulation is a key element of our Industrial Strategy, which is creating the conditions for businesses to succeed in the UK and to compete in the global economy.

Scott Steedman, Director of Standards at BSI said:

Public interest in product safety is higher than it has ever been and whilst consumer products generally perform without problems, there are times when products can become faulty and require a repair or recall.

The Code of Practice was created to ensure that corrective action by manufacturers is taken in a safe and systematic way. The launch of this guidance is an important step in ensuring even higher levels of product safety in the future.

The Code of Practice comes in two parts. The first part is focused on non-food consumer products and is intended for use by manufacturers, importers and distributors. It provides details on:

- how a business can plan for a recall, including establishing mechanisms to deal with any product safety issue identified
- managing a possible safety related product recall or other corrective action
- establishing mechanisms to monitor the safety of products
- investigating any potential product safety issue
- reviewing corrective action programmes to ensure that product safety responsibilities continue to be met.

The second part is aimed at regulators, specifically Market Surveillance Authorities including local authority Trading Standards. It details how they can carry out their role in ensuring businesses meet their responsibilities in respect of consumer product safety issues by:

- monitoring incidents and analysing data
- supporting businesses in the preparation of their 'product safety incident plan' (PSIP)
- supporting businesses in their monitoring of incidents and their implementation of appropriate corrective action.

Notes to Editors

PAS 7100 explains and applies existing legal requirements to be met by businesses or regulators. The following organisations were involved in the development of PAS 7100 as members of the steering group:

- Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances (AMDEA)
- Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO)
- Baker & McKenzie LLP, British Retail Consortium (BRC)
- British Toy and Hobby Association (BTHA)
- BSI Consumer and Public Interest Network
- Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI)
- Cooley (UK) LLP
- Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
- Electrical Safety First (ESF)
- London Fire Brigade; National Caravan Council (NCC)
- National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCO)
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)
- Samsung Electronics (UK) Ltd
- techUK
- TESCO
- Wilco Retail Limited

[BSI](#) is the business improvement company that enables organizations to turn standards of best practice into habits of excellence. For over a century BSI has championed what good looks like and driven best practice in organizations around the world. Working with over 86,000 clients across 193 countries, it is a truly international business with skills

and experience across a number of sectors including automotive, aerospace, built environment, food, and healthcare. Through its expertise in Standards Development and Knowledge Solutions, Assurance and Professional Services, BSI improves business performance to help clients grow sustainably, manage risk and ultimately be more resilient.

The [Office for Product Safety and Standards](#) was set up in January 2018 in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to enhance protections for consumers and the environment and to drive increased productivity, growth and business confidence. It will build national capacity within the UK's product safety system and develop tools that support small business growth and implement the Industrial Strategy vision of simplifying regulation. This includes taking forward the work of the Regulatory Delivery directorate on Primary Authority, the Regulators' Code and technical regulation.

Chartered Trading Standards Institute

New Office for Product Safety and Standards: Positive move says CTSI

22 January 2018

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) supports the Government's substantial steps towards the establishment of an Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS).

The planned Office for Product Safety and Standards matches CTSI's previous calls for a central body on product safety and market surveillance providing scientific and technical expertise to support local trading standards services.

CTSI asks that the commitment of a £12m per-year budget is aligned with a clear timetable to set up the full functions of the OPSS. The Institute also anticipates a confirmed date for a future consultation to make the new office an independent body.

CTSI encourages the Government to consider additional recommendations as set out in the Lynn Faulds Wood report on product safety, particularly the funding of trading standards, which underpins the entire product safety and market surveillance system.

Leon Livermore, CTSI Chief Executive, said:

"Following recent tragic events it is encouraging to see action is taken by the Government to fill the gap in intelligence on product safety issues, as well as providing front line services with the urgent support they need."

"We look forward to working with the new Office for Product Safety and Standards to develop a more effective system for product safety moving forward."

"CTSI hopes that the Government pays similar attention to trading standards services in future to ensure that the UK is prepared for Brexit."

Notes for Editors

For media enquiries or further information, contact CTSI Press Office – 01268 582240 or pressoffice@tsi.org.uk.

London Fire Brigade

Total Recalls campaign victory as Government confirms database of deadly white goods

22 January 2018

We welcome a significant victory for our [Total Recalls campaign](#) as the Government announces plans to launch a public database of potentially deadly faulty white goods.

Nearly one fire a day in the capital involves white goods and the Brigade has been calling on the Government since 2016 to [implement a number of changes to](#) make all white goods safer, including making it easier for consumers to find out if they own potentially dangerous goods via a centrally managed recall database.

New Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS)

In response to recommendations from the Product Recall and Safety Working Group, the Government has announced it will form a new Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) and one of its key functions will be to establish 'a comprehensive database of corrective actions and recall programmes for consumer goods'.

The Brigade's Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Fire Safety Charlie Pugsley said:

"This is a huge success for our Total Recalls campaign, which has been calling on the Government to make it easier for people to check whether they are using a faulty appliance.

"Consumers need to be able to check quickly and easily if they have a potentially deadly appliance in their home – and this announcement appears to be a very positive step in the right direction.

"There is still more work to be done though. We also want to see greater regulation of second-hand appliances, changes to the way fridges and freezers are manufactured and the inclusion of sleeping as a factor in risk assessments – and we will continue to campaign for all of these measures."

By spring 2018

The work to establish a database will be completed in two phases. By spring 2018, the content on the Government's existing product recall website pages will be upgraded and made simpler to use.

The second phase will be to build an 'extensive hub of all corrective action and recall programmes affecting consumer products'. This will be completed by using various data sources to share information and make the advice and information relating to UK product safety comprehensive and up-to-date.

It is hoped full public access to this new database will be available in 2019.

Working together

The OPSS will also be working with fire and rescue services, Trading Standards and hospitals to map product-related incidents to improve the understanding of risk at product level.

It will also look at the costs and benefits of product marking to make products easier to identify, particularly in cases where a product is damaged by fire.

As well as the single product recall register, Total Recalls has also been calling for:

- [Recalls notices to be better publicised to reduce confusion](#)
- [Greater regulation of second-hand appliances](#)
- [Changes to the way that fridges and freezers are manufactured](#)
- [The inclusion of sleeping as a factor in risk assessments](#)

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

21 January 2018

Government launches new Office for Product Safety and Standards

The new office will further enhance the UK's world-leading product safety system and give consumers the highest ever levels of protection.

The government has today (21 January 2018) announced the creation of a new national oversight body tasked with identifying consumer risks and managing responses to large-scale product recalls and repairs.

The new Office for Product Safety and Standards will enable the UK to meet the evolving challenges of product safety by responding to expanding international trade, the growth in online shopping and the increasing rate of product innovation.

Today's announcement comes as part of the [government's response to the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety](#). Established in October 2016 by former Consumer Minister Margot James, the group of product and fire safety experts was brought together to build on the recommendations made by Lynn Faulds Wood in her independent review into consumer product recalls.

In addition to providing support and advice for local authority Trading Standards teams, the office will co-ordinate work across local authorities where action is needed on a national scale and will ensure the UK continues to carry out appropriate border checks on imported products once the UK leaves the European Union.

Business Minister Andrew Griffiths said:

The new Office for Product Safety and Standards will strengthen the UK's already tough product safety regime and will allow consumers to continue to buy secure in the knowledge there is an

effective system in place if products need to be repaired or replaced.

I thank the working group for their efforts to help improve product safety and I look forward to working with them in this new phase.

Neil Gibbins, Chair of the working group, said:

It has been my mission to make the public safe since I joined the fire service nearly 40 years ago. That's why I'm pleased to see the government respond to our recommendations with concrete steps to ensure the safety of consumers, now and in the future.

The government will continue to work with stakeholders such as consumer groups, manufacturers and retailers to ensure the office coordinates the UK's product safety regime as effectively as possible.

This will not lessen any of the legal responsibilities that sit with manufacturers, importers and retailers to present safe products to the market, and to take rapid effective action when safety issues arise with their products.

Other actions as part of the government's response to the working group include:

- working with the British Standards Institution to provide guidance on product recalls and corrective action
- conducting research to help manufacturers and retailers develop technological solutions to product marking and identification
- increasing the reach of Primary Authority to further share business, local authority and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) expertise to help protect consumers
- researching consumer behaviour to identify the best way to drive up the number of consumers registering appliances with manufacturers
- creating an expert panel to bring together trade associations, consumer and enforcement representatives to advise on product safety issues as they arise

London Fire Brigade

Response to the new Office for product and safety standards

21 January 2018

London Fire Brigade has responded to the new Office for product and safety standards.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Charlie Pugsley said:

I won't be able to rest until I know that people can easily check whether or not they have a potentially deadly appliance in their home. We welcome the establishment of the new Office for Product Safety and Standards but their first act should be to establish a single government backed product recall database to make it easier for people to check whether they are using a faulty appliance.

"We don't even know how many defective white goods there are in use in homes across the UK but we do know there are at least a

million Whirlpool tumble dryers with an identifiable defect that has caused over 750 fires in the UK.*

According to London Fire Brigade figures, nearly one fire a day in London involves white goods and in 2016, the Brigade launched its Total Recalls campaign which calls on the government and manufacturers to implement a number of changes to make all white goods safer including making it easier for consumers to find out if they own potentially dangerous goods via a centrally managed recall data base.

What is the Brigade calling for?

- A single government backed product recall database
- Recalls notices to be better publicised to reduce confusion
- Greater regulation of second-hand appliances
- Changes to the way that fridges and freezers are manufactured
- All appliances to be marked with a model and serial number to allow identification after a fire

* As reported by Whirlpool to BEIS select committee

4. Parliamentary material

Ministerial statement

Member: Andrew Griffiths (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy))

[Government Response to the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety](#)

Yesterday the Government published its response to the report of the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety, and announced the establishment of a new Office for Product Safety and Standards.

Setting up the Office for Product Safety and Standards represents a significant upgrade in the Government's approach to product safety in the UK and will, for the first time, give us dedicated expertise to lead on national product safety challenges. It demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that UK consumers receive the highest possible levels of protection from unsafe goods, and UK businesses are protected from the unfair competition posed by substandard and unsafe products (including imports) and can have confidence in meeting their responsibilities to supply safe goods.

The Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety was set up in October 2016 to provide advice to Ministers on tangible improvements that could be made in the safety of white goods and the recalls system. The Working Group is chaired by Neil Gibbins, former Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Devon and Somerset and former Chief Executive of the Institution of Fire Engineers; and brings together product safety experts, the fire service and trading standards professionals.

The Group published its recommendations in July 2017. The Government accepts the recommendations in full and is now taking action to address them.

The recommendations, and the headlines of the Government's response to each, are as follows:

- 1 There is a need for centralised technical and scientific resource capability to support decision making and co-ordination of activity of Local Authorities and the businesses that they regulate. The Government fully accepts this recommendation and today we are establishing the Office for Product Safety and Standards to deliver this capability.
- 2 A detailed Code of Practice should be developed with input from all relevant stakeholders; this should be informed by behavioural insights research. This should set out expected good practice with regard to product safety corrective actions (including recalls). The Government fully accepts this recommendation and commissioned the British Standards Institution who published a draft code in November. The draft code was widely welcomed and finalised text is expected to be published by March this year.
- 3 Full consideration should be given to establishing central capacity to co-ordinate product safety corrective actions at a central level.

The Government fully supports this recommendation and the Office for Product Safety and Standards will be responsible for providing incident management capability and for maintaining a comprehensive database of corrective actions and recall programmes for consumer goods.

- 4 Systematic and sustainable ways to capture and share data and intelligence should be established and agreed by relevant parties – this should make use of existing systems used by Trading Standards and the Fire Service. The Government fully accepts this recommendation and the Office for Product Safety and Standards will establish an intelligence capability that brings together the widest possible range of information and evidence to inform the understanding of risks at industry and product level. Work has already begun to map available data sources and available expertise.
- 5 Manufacturers and retailers should continue to work together and through standards setting bodies to develop technological solutions to product marking and identification. This recommendation was aimed at manufacturers and retailers however the Government would welcome further thinking from the business community on the practicalities and costs of taking this forward. The Government itself is undertaking research on indelible marking which may prove useful to industry in their considerations.
- 6 Primary Authority provides a key mechanism for ensuring that businesses, local authority and BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) expertise is shared to ensure the protection of consumers. The Government supports this recommendation. Primary Authority helps businesses to improve their compliance and it supports local regulators in delivering protections for the public. The Office for Product Safety and Standards will work with primary authorities and businesses to provide additional compliance advice based on the latest scientific and technical knowledge.
- 7 The registration of appliances and other consumer goods with manufacturers by consumers should be encouraged to make corrective actions (including recalls) more effective. The Government welcomes the 'Register my Appliance' initiative developed by the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances. The Government will continue to work with retailers, fire services and others to see what more can be done to improve the registration of appliances.
- 8 An expert panel bringing together trade associations, consumer and enforcement representatives and BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) should be established. The Government fully accepts this recommendation and is looking to build on the foundations of the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety. The Office for Product Safety and Standards will also work closely with the BEIS Chief Scientific Adviser to consider the potential role and make-up of additional scientific and technical committees.

The establishment of the new Office for Product Safety and Standards will deliver on the Working Group's key recommendation which called for centralised technical and scientific capability to support effective decision making and to help co-ordinate the activity of Local Authorities and the businesses that they regulate. It also provides the capability needed to address the other recommendations made by the Working Group.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards will enable the UK to meet evolving challenges – responding to expanding international trade, the growth in online retail and the increasing rate of product innovation. It will also help the UK to put in place the most effective system for regulation and enforcement of product safety in preparation for our exit from the European Union.

The Office will:

- provide incident management capability to respond to national product safety issues;
- improve the information available to consumers on the Government's product recall website;
- provide central scientific and technical expertise on product safety issues;
- provide support for local authority Trading Standards teams, and for District Councils in Northern Ireland;
- support checks at UK borders and the interception of unsafe imports;
- provide improved intelligence and risk analysis to guide enforcement activities; and,
- work with UK business to ensure they are able to meet their compliance requirements.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards will initially be based in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and will have an operating budget of around £12 million per year when it is fully operational. In the longer-term, the Government will examine the options for making the Office an arm's length independent body and will look at associated funding options. This will be subject to further consideration and public consultation before any decisions are made.

The Government's response to the Working Group's report marks the culmination of longer term work on product safety and recalls. An independent review of the recall system was undertaken by Lynn Faulds Wood in 2015, with her review published in February 2016. The Working Group has built on that review and made their own recommendations.

On 16th January 2018, the BEIS Select Committee published its report on The Safety of Electrical Goods in the UK. The Government will respond to the Committee in due course.

The Government Response to the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety sets out in full how we are addressing each of the Working Group's recommendations. That response has now been published, and copies of the documents have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

HC Deb 22 January 2018 | HCWS418

PQs

[Domestic Appliances: Fires](#)

Asked by: Lee, Karen

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions her Department has had with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on reducing the number of electrical fires in the home caused by faulty white goods.

Answering member: Mr Nick Hurd | **Department:** Home Office

The Home Office has collaborated with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to support and promote the Register My Appliance initiative, run by the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances. This is designed to improve product recall rates and ensure a greater number of faulty products can be traced and either repaired or removed from homes.

Home Office officials will continue to work closely with product safety officials, following the creation of the Office of Product Safety and Standards, to explore what else can be done to support their work around faulty white goods.

30 Apr 2018 | PQ136662

[Office for Product Safety and Standards](#)

Asked by: Andy Slaughter

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether the funding the Office for Product Safety and Standards has been allocated from existing Departmental budgets; and whether it represents an increase in spending on product safety.

Answered by: Andrew Griffiths

New funding for the Office for Product Safety and Standards has been allocated from within existing Departmental budgets to increase spending on product safety. When the Office is fully operational its budget will include an additional £12m per year for new product safety activities, as announced in the Government's response to the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety. The budget for the Office for its first full year of operation in 2018/19 is expected to be around £25m in total which includes around £9m additional funding for product safety.

HC Deb 27 February 2018 | PQ128341

[Domestic Appliances: Safety](#)

Asked by: Mr Alan Campbell

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the General Data Protection Regulation, what steps he is taking to support manufacturers to track appliances sold to customers to enable effective product corrective action.

Answered by: Andrew Griffiths

Answered on: Manufacturers and distributors are responsible for ensuring they have effective systems in place to prevent risks to consumers if a product that they have placed on the market is found to be unsafe.

On 21st January I announced the creation of a new Office for Product Safety and Standards to co-ordinate rapid and effective action on national product safety issues. The new Office is supporting the British Standards Institution (BSI) to develop a code of practice on corrective action and recalls which aims to help business to prepare and deal with any product safety issue which may arise.

The code will provide guidance on the use of data, including that it should be handled in accordance with data protection legislation, which would include the General Data Protection Regulation when it comes into force in May 2018. The code will be published shortly.

HC Deb 26 February 2018 | PQ 127680

[Domestic Appliances: Safety](#)

Asked by: Campbell, Mr Alan

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the General Data Protection Regulation, what steps he is taking to support manufacturers to track appliances sold to customers to enable effective product corrective action.

Answering member: Andrew Griffiths | **Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Manufacturers and distributors are responsible for ensuring they have effective systems in place to prevent risks to consumers if a product that they have placed on the market is found to be unsafe.

On 21st January I announced the creation of a new Office for Product Safety and Standards to co-ordinate rapid and effective action on national product safety issues. The new Office is supporting the British Standards Institution (BSI) to develop a code of practice on corrective action and recalls which aims to help business to prepare and deal with any product safety issue which may arise.

The code will provide guidance on the use of data, including that it should be handled in accordance with data protection legislation, which would include the General Data Protection Regulation when it comes into force in May 2018. The code will be published shortly.

26 Feb 2018 | PQ 127680

[Consumer Goods: Safety](#)

Asked by: Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to take steps to introduce a publicly accessible national register of product recalls to help ensure that faulty and dangerous goods are removed from people's homes; how many product recalls Electrical Safety First has received since 2007; and what assessment they have made of the level of such recalls.

Answering member: Lord Henley | **Department:** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Government is taking action to improve the safety of white goods and the recalls system. Last year, the Government upgraded its central product recalls website on gov.uk to make it easier for consumers to identify which products have been subject to recall or other corrective action. A new Office for Product Safety and Standards was announced on 21st January and it has commissioned a project to further upgrade and improve the recalls website.

I understand that Electrical Safety First have identified 518 electrical products that have been subject to recall or corrective action in the ten years since 2007. Our system of product safety aims to ensure products are safe before they are placed on the market, but it also recognises that sometimes safety issues are identified at a later stage and it is important that where there is a risk to safety, those products are recalled or corrected.

29 Jan 2018 | PQ HL4946

Debates

[Faulty Tumble Dryers \(Fire Risk\)](#)

HC Deb 13 September 2016 Vol 614 c865

5. Links and further reading

Commons Library Briefing papers

[Product safety and recall](#), CBP-8211, 15 February 2018

[Whirlpool and the product safety system](#), CDP-2017-0123, 21 April 2017

[Grenfell Tower fire: Response and tackling fire risk in high rise blocks](#), CDP-7933, 1 August 2017

Government and parliamentary material

Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety report, [Report from the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety](#), 19 July 2017

[Government response to the recommendations in the Working Group on Product Recalls and Safety](#), 21 January 2018

Lynn Faulds Wood, [UK consumer product recall: an independent review](#), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, February 2016

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, [UK consumer product recall review: the government response to the independent recall review by Lynn Faulds Wood](#), BIS, February 2016

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee reports:

[The safety of Electrical Goods in the UK](#), 16 January 2018 HC503

Government response: [The safety of Electrical Goods in the UK: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report](#), 28 March 2018 HC920

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