



United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

**Office of International Programs
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International Seminar on Standards and Practices of Market Surveillance and Safe Consumption, August 9-10

Safe Consumption and Health Network in the Americas

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is working with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) partnership to help improve consumer product safety in the Western Hemisphere.

The CPSC presented an overview of CPSC's Market Surveillance activities at the "International Seminar on Standards and Practices of Market Surveillance and Safe Consumption" in Lima, Peru on August 9-10, 2010. This event was organized by INDECOPI, Peru's consumer product safety agency, and is part of a broader regional effort being undertaken by the OAS and the PAHO for consumer protection.

During the event OAS/PAHO announced a new platform called the "Safe Consumption and Health Network" (SCHN). The SCHN will be a hemisphere-wide web portal that provides a mechanism for exchanging information and experiences. This exchange of information will contribute to the development and consolidation of national and regional systems to enhance product safety in the following ways:

1. allowing the permanent compilation and publication of regional and global recall alerts;
2. serving as a tool for consumer protection and health authorities to share data and exchange relevant product safety information over a secure network; and



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3. providing a shared electronic resource to identify mandatory and voluntary standards, best practices on market surveillance, directories of authorities and experts, online capacity building and training modules, and other features.

According to Evelyn Jacir de Lovo, Director of the Special Legal Programs Department at the OAS, this initiative is of extreme importance to countries in the region because “products recalled in developed markets with more stringent safety requirements and market surveillance oversight are often distributed in less developed markets with weak or inexistent market surveillance systems, posing a risk to consumers’ health and safety.”

