About CPSC

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is an independent federal regulatory agency that was established in 1972 by Congress with the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA). The CPSC administers and enforces several other federal laws, which authorize the agency to protect the public from unreasonable risks of injury and death from consumer products. The CPSC has jurisdiction over thousands of types of consumer products, from children’s toys to portable gas generators and toasters.

The CPSC works to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from consumer products through:

- Hazard Identification and Assessment
- Participation in Development of Voluntary Standards and Mandatory Regulations
- Import Surveillance
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Public Outreach
- Intergovernmental Coordination, and Cooperation with Foreign Governments
Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Workforce
Cultivate the Most Effective Consumer Product Safety Workforce

Having a highly trained, diverse, and engaged workforce is critical to meeting the dynamic challenges of the consumer product safety landscape and achieving the CPSC’s life-saving mission. Agency staff’s knowledge about product safety, commitment to the agency’s mission, and “can-do” attitude make achieving the CPSC mission possible.

Key strategic challenges are:
• Having a workforce with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to meet new, innovative, and emerging product safety challenges;
• Aligning personnel resources to agency priorities;
• Maintaining a global presence to address global marketplace issues;
• Increasing employee engagement; and
• Strengthening knowledge transfer through succession planning.

Strategic Goal 2: Prevention
Prevent Hazardous Products from Reaching Consumers

The CPSC is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury and death from a vast array of consumer products supplied through expanding global markets. Efforts to increase manufacturing of safe consumer products, combined with improved mechanisms to identify hazardous products before they enter the marketplace, are the most effective ways to prevent hazardous products from reaching consumers.

Key strategic challenges are:
• Providing surveillance for the myriad of consumer products imported and domestically manufactured under the CPSC’s jurisdiction;
• Advancing data analysis and research capabilities to identify the consumer product hazards that pose the greatest risks;
• Addressing changes in traditional manufacturing methods, such as additive manufacturing using 3-D printers, and e-commerce sales and distribution options;
• Working with affected stakeholders to address existing product hazards and product hazards resulting from new technologies;
• Helping develop voluntary standards and adopting mandatory regulations; and
• Identifying, researching, and informing the public about chemical or chronic hazards in consumer products.

Strategic Goal 3: Response
Respond Quickly to Address Hazardous Consumer Products Both in the Marketplace and with Consumers

The CPSC learns about potential consumer product hazards from many sources. Additionally, field staff investigates reports of incidents and injuries; conducts inspections of manufacturers, importers, and retailers; and identifies potential regulatory violations and product hazards. When potential product defects are identified, the CPSC must act quickly to address the most hazardous consumer products that have made their way into the marketplace or into the hands of consumers.

Key strategic challenges are:
• Addressing trends in retailing and e-commerce, such as the prevalence of online sellers or other direct manufacturer-to-consumer marketing, as well as sales through third party platform providers;
• Working within a global supply chain, which creates complex monitoring challenges;
• Collecting, integrating, and analyzing data to identify high-risk hazards for appropriate action; and
• Improving the monitoring and effectiveness of consumer product recalls.

Strategic Goal 4: Communication
Communicate Useful Information Quickly and Effectively to Better Inform Decisions

Consumers need safety information to make more informed decisions for themselves and their families. Safety advocates rely on accurate data to shape their policy recommendations. Industry needs information to stay in compliance with safety requirements. Foreign regulators and state and local government agencies also need high-quality information to establish new safety requirements that advance consumer safety. These diverse audiences have different information needs and respond to different methods of communication.

Key strategic challenges are:
• Strengthening the CPSC’s collaboration with all stakeholders to improve communication;
• Updating knowledge management strategies and adopting advanced communication tools and channels to improve consistency, reliability, accessibility, and timeliness of information provided to stakeholders and internally among CPSC staff; and
• Improving CPSC messaging and outreach to affected populations, including underserved, low-income, and minority communities and families.