

Businesses take on mandatory product safety reporting

Australian businesses have made 911 confidential mandatory product safety reports to the ACCC between 1 January and 30 June 2011, with intelligence provided by these reports and the ACCC's product safety data clearinghouse triggering 40 recall notifications.

The reports covered products in a broad range of categories including food, groceries, children's products, cosmetics, toiletries and motor vehicles, and included injuries and illnesses such as anaphylactic and allergic reactions, food poisoning, burns, electrocution, choking hazards, cuts and lacerations.

'As the majority of these reports have come from large organisations, the ACCC is concerned that small and medium sized enterprises may not yet be fulfilling their mandatory reporting requirements,' said ACCC Deputy Chair Peter Kell.

Since 1 January 2011 any organisation in the business of selling, exchanging, leasing, hiring or hire-purchasing consumer goods, or the granting or conferring of product related services such as repair or installation, has been required to notify the ACCC within two days after becoming aware that products or services they have supplied have been, or may have been, associated with serious injury, illness or death.

Mr Kell said that the ACCC has been assessing and working with suppliers on 481 of the 911 reports and has referred the remaining 430 to other regulators, such as Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

'The ACCC has continued to gain feedback from suppliers on the reporting process. Since the introduction of mandatory reporting, improvements have been made to

streamline the process for suppliers, making it easier for them to meet their mandatory obligation.

'We have also been working with food regulators, such as FSANZ, and the Australian Food and Grocery Council on streamlined reporting for the food industry,' said Mr Kell.

For more information, visit www.productsafety.gov.au/mandatoryreporting. You can also follow Product Safety at the ACCC on Twitter: @ProductSafetyAU.

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