

EU Product Safety Award

Rules of the contest

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE AWARD

The [New Deal for Consumers](#) emphasises that, while the general regulatory framework of consumer protection in the EU is working well overall, there is a need to strengthen the enforcement of existing rules, consumer redress and awareness about consumer protection and product safety.

At the same time, there are many good examples of economic operators developing and promoting actions that contribute to improve consumers' rights, safety and redress. Those practices are worth promoting and should receive better visibility at the EU level.

The EU's Product Safety Award aims to reward companies that excel in consumer protection by putting product safety at the heart of their business. It offers prestigious recognition for those who go beyond the EU legal requirements, setting an example that can inspire others.

2. AWARD CATEGORIES

There are two thematic categories for 2019:

1. Safety of products sold online

The first category recognises companies selling online that pay particular attention to the safety of the products that they offer. This may be through effective recall procedures, new ways to identify unsafe products or innovative communication techniques with customers, for example.

The rewarded procedures and processes should demonstrably improve the safety of products sold online and go **beyond the minimum requirements** set out in EU law.

This category is open to companies who are:

- Producers selling their own goods online
- Online retailers
- Online marketplaces offering third-party products online

Producers selling their own products online and online retailers are bound by the general obligations applicable to producers and distributors set out in Articles 3 and 5 of the [General Product Safety Directive](#) or – for products subject to EU harmonisation legislation – by sector specific provisions. The obligations applicable to economic operators in sector-specific legislation are increasingly based on the model provisions set out in Annex I, Chapter R.2 of [Decision 768/2008](#)). Online marketplaces offering third-party products are bound by Article 14 of the [E-commerce Directive](#)¹. Additional

¹ In addition, in June 2018, the European Commission facilitated the signature of the [Product Safety Pledge](#) by four major online marketplaces that sets out specific voluntary commitments with respect to the

guidance is provided by the [European Commission notice on the market surveillance of products sold online](#).

2. Safety of childcare products

This Award is for companies designing/producing or distributing **childcare products** that put the safety of children at the heart of their business. This may be by putting in place comprehensive processes to ensure safety across the product lifecycle, providing products with innovative safety features, safety messaging, after-sale consumer services or effective and robust product safety monitoring and recall procedures, for example.

The rewarded product, service or process should make a demonstrable difference to child safety and go **beyond the minimum requirements** set out in EU law.

Childcare products include products for babies or young children such as:

- Baths & bathing equipment
- Bottles and feeding equipment
- Carriers
- Sleeping equipment such as cots, beds, mattresses and bedding
- High-chairs and other seats (excluding car seats)
- Pushchairs
- Safety equipment such as safety gates

Toys and cosmetics are not eligible for submission.

The [General Product Safety Directive](#) (GPSD) lays down a general obligation that only safe products can be placed on the EU market. The obligations applicable to producers (i.e. manufacturers or importers) and distributors are set out in Articles 3 and 5 of the Directive. In addition, specific safety requirements applicable to childcare products may be set out in other pieces of legislation (e.g. REACH Regulation, Low Voltage Directive, Food-imitating Products Directive etc.) depending on the product. For many childcare products, [voluntary European standards](#) are relevant for assessing their safety (Article 3.2 and 3.3 of the GPSD). Other safety benchmarks to be taken into account are listed in Article 3.3 of the GPSD.

The Award will be granted to two different types of beneficiaries:

1. **Micro, small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**, as defined in [Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC](#), i.e. enterprises which (i) employ fewer than 250 persons (expressed in ‘annual working units’) and (ii) have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

safety of non-food consumer products sold online by third party sellers. The Pledge is open for other marketplaces to join.

2. **Larger companies:** all enterprises which do not qualify as micro, small or medium-sized enterprise.

There will be 12 winners in total. A Gold, Silver or Bronze Award will be given to three SMEs and three larger companies in each of the two categories (online sales and childcare products).

	SMEs	Larger companies
Online sales	3 Awards	3 Awards
Childcare products	3 Awards	3 Awards

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligible companies must:

- Be registered in one of the 31 countries in the European Economic Area (the 28 EU Member states plus Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway) or have a subsidiary registered within the EEA.

***For British applicants:** Please be aware that depending on the outcome of the EU-UK withdrawal negotiations, British applicants may no longer be eligible to participate in the award procedure and their applications may, thus, be rejected.*

- Operate in one of the sectors referenced in point 2 (online sales or childcare products).
- Submit an example of work that took place in at least one country of the European Economic Area and started at least 6 months before the deadline for applications (i.e. by 7 October 2018) so that their impact can be evaluated.
- The product or practice submitted must comply with and go beyond relevant EU legislation.
- Operate in line with internationally-recognised Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) standards. Finalists will be screened for CSR.

The European Commission may exclude entities that are in one of the situations referred to in Articles 136(1) and Article 141(1) of the [Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union and its rules of application](#):

- the entity is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended, or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under Union or national law;
- it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the entity is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;

- it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the entity (and/or the persons having powers of representation, decision making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the giving of the Award) is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the entity belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:
 - (i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the implementation of the legal commitment;
 - (ii) entering into agreement with other persons or entities with the aim of distorting competition;
 - (iii) violating intellectual property rights;
 - (iv) attempting to influence the decision-making of the authorizing officer responsible during the award procedure;
 - (v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;
- it has been established by a final judgment that the entity is guilty of fraud, corruption, conduct related to a criminal organization, money laundering or terrorist financing, terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, child labor or other offences concerning trafficking in human beings.;

Applicants may also be excluded if they do not respect internationally recognised corporate social responsibility (CSR) standards relating to human rights, labour, environment and fair operating practices.

4. PROCEDURE AND KEY DATES

Applications

Companies can apply via an online platform designed for this purpose from 25 February to 7 April 2019. Submissions are accepted in one of the official EU languages (except for Maltese and Gaelic). However, submissions in languages other than English will be evaluated by the jury on the basis of machine translations.

The application consists of an eligibility section (including a declaration on CSR criteria) and an award section. The application forms are set out in Annex 1.

Participants may be asked for further documents at a later stage (for legal entity validation, bank account validation, information related to CSR check, etc.).

Selection of winners

There are three rounds in the selection process:

- Phase 1: Applications will be screened to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria;

- Phase 2: National market surveillance authorities will select top candidates from each country. This selection will be based on the quality of the practices submitted for the Award, as described in the answers to the award questions in the application forms.
- Phase 3: An EU-level jury - made up of high-level EU officials, representatives from NGOs, industry and/or academia - will choose the finalists – to be screened against internationally recognised corporate social responsibility (CSR) criteria before the final list of 12 winners is drawn up.

All applicants will be informed by email of the contest results by the end of July 2019.

Award ceremony and networking workshops

The 12 winners and other shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a prestigious Awards Ceremony and a networking workshop in Brussels. Companies invited in addition to the winners will be selected based on the results of the national pre-selection process and with a view to ensuring a balance of countries represented and the size of businesses present. The winners will receive their award from Věra Jourová, the EU Commissioner for Consumers.

Key dates

25/02/2018	Applications open
7/04/2019	Deadline for applications
May 2019	Pre-selection by national market surveillance authorities
June 2019	Final selection by EU-level jury
September	Award Ceremony and networking workshop in Brussels

5. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF APPLICANTS

The applicants commit to attend a high-level Award Ceremony and present their best practices at a networking workshop taking place in Brussels on 26 September 2019 (tbc), should they be short-listed. The European Commission will pay for the accommodation and travel (from one of the 31 countries eligible for the Award) for one representative of each short-listed company to Brussels.

The 12 winners may use the logo and branding of the Award to promote their position as product safety champions without prior approval of the European Commission. **No financial contribution will be given to the winners** and the Award itself will be purely symbolic.

The Commission will promote the rewarded practices on its website, on social media, in a dedicated brochure and through any other appropriate channels. It may use any information submitted in the applications (in particular the names and countries of the companies, the description of the best practices and what makes them innovative), unless

the applicant explicitly requests that certain elements remain confidential (e.g. to protect their commercial interests).

The applicants authorise the European Commission to publish any photos or videos taken by the Commission either in preparation or during the Award Ceremony and the networking workshop(s). All such audio-visual material will be the sole property of the Commission.

6. OTHER CONDITIONS

6.1. DATA PROTECTION

All personal information gathered during registration will be held by the European Commission, which will use the data solely for the purpose of the Award and the campaign linked to it.

Any personal data will be processed by the Commission under [Regulation 2018/1725](#).

6.2. CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Applicants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective running of the Award is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

They must inform the Commission without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The Commission may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

6.3. CANCELLATION OF THE AWARD

The Commission may cancel the Award process or decide not to attribute all or any of the Awards without any obligation to compensate applicants if:

- no applications are received
- the jury does not judge any of the applications to be of sufficient quality
- the winner(s) do not abide by the rules of this Award.

6.4. RESPONSIBILITY

Under no circumstances can the organisers be held liable for any accident, cost, direct or indirect damage which might occur as a result of participation in this Award.

Similarly, the organisers cannot be held responsible for any theft, loss, injury, delay or damage during the trip to Brussels.

In addition, the organisers can under no circumstances be held liable for cancellation, postponement or modification of the Award due to unforeseen circumstances.

6.5. APPLICABLE LAW AND COMPETENT COURT

Any dispute arising from the application, the interpretation or the validity of the present rules and this campaign shall be governed by Belgian law and any dispute arising shall be exclusively submitted to the competent court of Brussels.

6.6. LANGUAGE VERSIONS

If there are discrepancies between the translated version and English version of any Award documents, the English version will prevail.

In case of a controversial interpretation and/or application of the different language versions, the English version will prevail.

7. CONTACT

For more information about the Product Safety Award, please visit the Award website or contact the helpdesk on: contact@product-safety-award.eu

Participation in the Award assumes full acceptance of these rules. Failure to comply with the rules may result in disqualification.

Annex 1

APPLICATION FORMS

Category 1: Safety of products sold online

Eligibility questions

1. I confirm that my company is a business entity with an industrial or commercial character, not a body governed by public law.

2. In which European Economic Area (EEA) country is your business registered in?

Belgium
Bulgaria
Czechia
Denmark
Germany
Estonia
Ireland
Greece
Spain
France
Croatia
Italy
Cyprus
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Hungary
Malta
The Netherlands
Austria
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovenia
Slovakia
Finland
Sweden
United Kingdom
Iceland
Liechtenstein

Norway

3. In which European Economic Area (EEA) country(ies) did the process/procedure you're submitting for this Award take place?

Belgium
Bulgaria
Czechia
Denmark
Germany
Estonia
Ireland
Greece
Spain
France
Croatia
Italy
Cyprus
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Hungary
Malta
The Netherlands
Austria
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovenia
Slovakia
Finland
Sweden
United Kingdom
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

4. Specify the period during which the process/procedure you are submitting for the Award has taken place.

The process/procedure should have started at least 6 months before the deadline for applications for this Award (i.e. by 7 October 2018) so that we can evaluate its impact.

5. I confirm that my company has not been declared bankrupt nor is under bankruptcy proceedings.

6. I confirm that my company has met all its social security obligations in the country in which it is based.

7. I confirm that my company has met all its legal tax obligations in the country in which it is based.

8. I confirm that I have read the self-declaration on Corporate Social Responsibility and that my company respects the principles enshrined within it. This agreement is made with honesty and integrity.

9. I confirm that, should my company be shortlisted, a representative of my company can present our entry at a networking workshop and attend the Award Ceremony taking place in Brussels on 26 September 2019 (tbc).

Please note that the jury reserves the right to contact the preselected candidates for any supporting documents.

Award questions

1. Title of entry

2. Context (Max 500 words)

- Describe your company and why it is a champion in product safety.
- Explain the reasons/circumstances that led to the development of the process/procedure you are submitting for this Award.

3. Innovation (Max.1 000 words)

- Explain how the process/procedure you are submitting for this Award is different from those applied by other e-commerce websites or online marketplaces.
- Explain how it goes beyond the minimum legal requirements.

4. Impact (Max. 1 000 words)

- Provide clear evidence of how the process/procedure you are submitting for this Award contributes to enhancing your customers' health and safety.

5. Replication potential (Max. 500 words)

- Describe the potential of the process/procedure you are submitting for this Award to be replicated, i.e. adopted elsewhere, geographically or in another sector.

6. Company product safety processes (Max. 1 000 words)

In replying to this question, please only focus on the aspects that are relevant to your company and have not been covered above

Explain how your company:

- Monitors and maintains the safety of products offered on its e-commerce website / online marketplace (e.g. at purchasing/procurement stage, when the product is offered online, during transport and delivery, when the product is in the consumer's hands).

- Detects and recalls unsafe products (e.g. determines risk, traces a product and recalls it from consumers)
- Communicates on product safety with consumers and uses customer feedback.
- Cooperates with public authorities and other stakeholders (e.g. product suppliers) on product safety

7. List one or more sources where the information about your entry can be verified (e.g. website, other source.)

Category 2: Safety of childcare products

Eligibility questions

1. I confirm that my company is a business entity with an industrial or commercial character, not a body governed by public law.

2. In which European Economic Area (EEA) country is your business registered in?

Belgium
Bulgaria
Czechia
Denmark
Germany
Estonia
Ireland
Greece
Spain
France
Croatia
Italy
Cyprus
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Hungary
Malta
The Netherlands
Austria
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovenia
Slovakia
Finland
Sweden
United Kingdom
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

3. In which European Economic Area (EEA) country(ies) was the product/process/service that you are submitting for this Award placed on the market/implemented?

Belgium
Bulgaria
Czechia
Denmark
Germany
Estonia
Ireland
Greece
Spain
France
Croatia
Italy
Cyprus
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Hungary
Malta
The Netherlands
Austria
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovenia
Slovakia
Finland
Sweden
United Kingdom
Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

4. Specify the period during which the product/process/service you are submitting was placed on the market or implemented.

The product/process/service should have been placed on the market or implemented at least 6 months before the deadline for applications for this Award (i.e. by 7 October 2018) so that we can evaluate its impact.

5. I confirm that my company has not been declared bankrupt nor is under bankruptcy proceedings.

6. I confirm that my company has met all its social security obligations in the country in which it is based.

7. I confirm that my company has met all its legal tax obligations in the country in which it is based.

8. I confirm that I have read the self-declaration on Corporate Social Responsibility and that my company respects the principles enshrined within it. This agreement is made with honesty and integrity.

9. I confirm that, should my company be shortlisted, a representative of my company can present our entry at a networking workshop and attend the Award Ceremony taking place in Brussels on 26 September 2019 (tbc).

Please note that the jury reserves the right to contact the preselected candidates for any supporting documents.

Award questions

1. Title of entry*

2. Context (Max. 500 words)

- Describe your company and why it is a champion in product safety.
- Explain the reasons/circumstances that led to the development of the product/process/service you are submitting for this Award.

3. Innovation (Max. 1 000 words)

- Explain how the product/process/service you are submitting for this Award is different from its predecessors or others already on the market.
- Explain how it goes beyond the minimum legal requirements.
- Explain if/how the behaviour of consumers (including guardians, adults and children) has been taken into account.

4. Impact (Max. 1 000 words)

- Provide clear evidence of how the product/process/service you are submitting for this Award contributes to enhancing children's safety.

5. Replication potential (Max. 500 words)

- Describe the potential of the product/process/service you are submitting for this Award to be replicated, i.e. adopted elsewhere, geographically or in another sector.

6. Company product safety processes (Max. 1 000 words)

In replying to this question, please only focus on the aspects that are relevant to your company and have not been covered above

Explain how your company:

- Monitors and maintains the safety of products it produces and/or sells throughout the lifecycle of the product.

- Detects and recalls unsafe products (e.g. determines risk, traces a product and recalls it from consumers).
- Communicates on product safety with consumers, encourages engagement and uses customer feedback (e.g. use of social media, new technologies, product registrations).
- Cooperates with public authorities and other stakeholders (e.g. product suppliers) on product safety.

7. List one or more sources where the information about your entry can be verified (e.g. website, other source).

PRODUCT SAFETY AWARD

Created by Maria PINTADO RAMIREZ, last modified by Anna JASSEM on Feb 15, 2019

Dear CSN members,

Welcome to the new space dedicated to the EU pilot **Product Safety Award**.

As announced at the last CSN meeting, we will be launching the Award on 25 February 2019 to reward those businesses, large and small, that go the extra mile to protect consumers.

All consumers expect and deserve safe products. This new Award will give recognition to companies who put product safety at the heart of what they do, going beyond the requirements set out in EU law. It's for those who innovate and invest to make their products and services safer, setting an example that can inspire others.

We would be grateful if you could help us promote the Award so that as many businesses as possible can apply.

There are two Award categories for 2019:

- **Safety of products sold online:** For producers, online retailers or online marketplaces or online retailers selling/offering their own or third-party products online.
- **Safety of childcare products:** For companies designing, producing and distributing products such as pushchairs, highchairs and safety equipment for babies and young children.

There are **12 Awards** up for grabs in total: a Gold, Silver and Bronze will be given to an SME and a large company in each category.

Companies registered in any of the **31 European Economic Area (EEA) countries** can apply online between **25 February and 7 April 2019**.

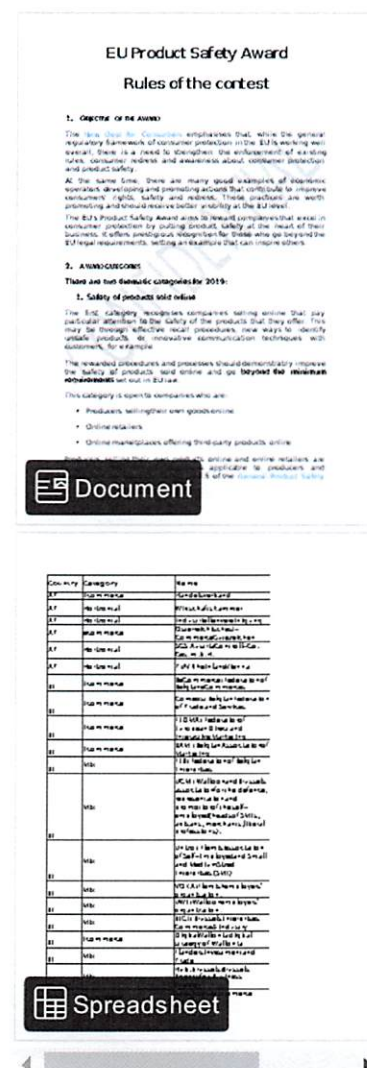
Submissions are accepted in one of the official EU languages (except for Maltese and Gaelic).

The winners will be selected in 2 phases. We will first **give you the opportunity to select top candidates from your country**. An EU-level jury - made up of high-level EU officials, representatives from NGOs, industry and/or academia - will then choose the final winners.

Short-listed applicants, including the 12 winners, will be invited to a prestigious Awards Ceremony and a networking workshop in Brussels in September 2019.

For more information, please consult the attached **Rules of the Award (confidential until the Award launch)** and a list of national business associations who may be interested in the award. We will send you further details – including links to the Award webpage and the application platform on the day of the launch.

The Product Safety Award Team



Celebrating businesses that go the extra mile for consumers




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EC Contact point

European
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DG JUST UNIT E4 -
Product safety
Award

[JUST-PRODUCT-
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Calendar of activities

February
2019

W	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr
5	28	29	30	31	1
6	4	5	6	7	8

7	11	12	13	14	15
8	18	19	20	21	22
9	25	26	27	28	1
Application period					
10	4	5	6	7	8
Application period					

Product 5



Events



No labels

