



ADVANCING A GLOBAL BASELINE FOR PRODUCT SAFETY



2026 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 9-10 | CHARLEMAGNE BUILDING | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT SAFETY WEEK – SEPTEMBER 7-10

When product compliance rules evolve, move with confidence.

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The International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO) is an international, neutral forum where product safety stakeholders learn, network and share information to advance safer consumer products around the globe.

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Membership connects you with a global community of professionals working across the consumer product safety field.

Member Benefits

- Discounted registration rates for ICPHSO events
- Members-only access to the ICPHSO membership directory
- Members-only access to symposium presentations
- Career Center benefits
- Opportunities to connect with product safety professionals around the world

Learn more and become a member: www.icphso.org

Upcoming ICPHSO Events

February 22-25, 2027
2027 Annual Meeting and Training Symposium
Hyatt Regency Crystal City
Arlington, Virginia, USA

June 22, 2027
2027 North America Product Safety Training Workshop
Lowe's
Delta Hotel Ottawa City Centre
Ottawa, Canada
Hosted with Health Canada

October 20-21, 2027
2027 International Symposium
Barcelona World Trade Center
Barcelona, Spain
Hosted with the Catalan Consumer Agency

Save the dates and join us!

[Explore upcoming ICPHSO events](#)



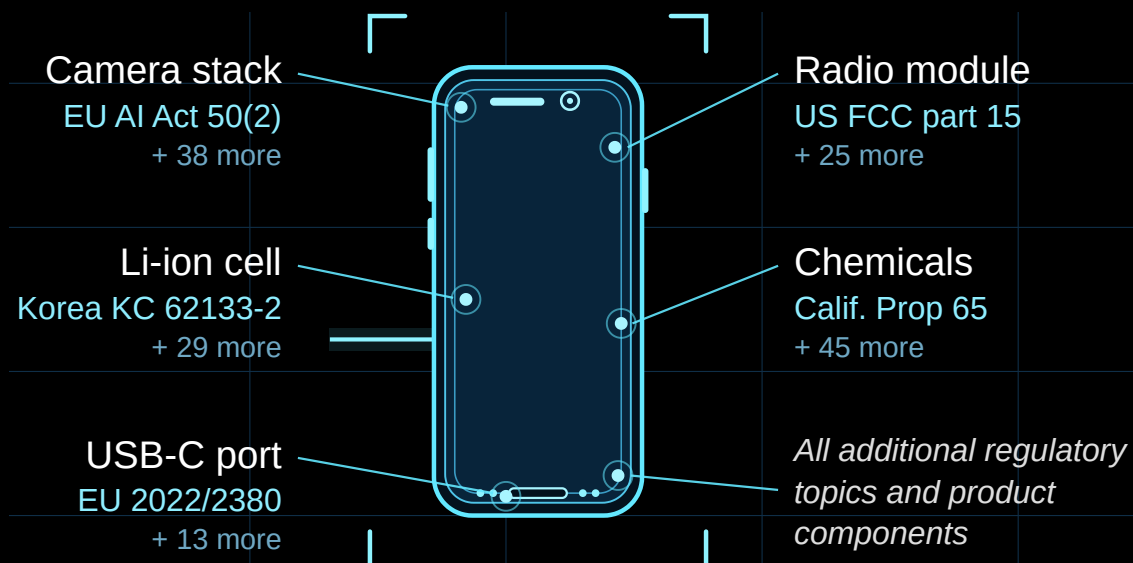
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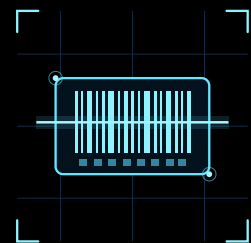
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Welcome from the ICPHSO President

Welcome to Brussels! We're delighted you could join us for the 2026 ICPHSO International Symposium. We extend our sincere thanks to our friends and colleagues at the European Commission for their invitation to host this year's Symposium alongside International Product Safety Week.

I hope you've enjoyed the programming and discussions thus far. Our theme this year, "*Advancing a Global Baseline for Product Safety*," reflects the unique opportunity we have to learn from one another, exchange perspectives, and strengthen collaboration across the global product safety community. I think you'll agree that bringing together regulators, industry leaders, academics, consumer advocates, and service providers from around the world creates an exceptional forum for advancing product safety and protecting consumers everywhere.

ICPHSO and the European Commission have enjoyed a strong and collaborative partnership for more than 20 years, and we are excited to continue our jointly sponsored International Student Mentorship Program this week.

Through this program, students have the unique opportunity to participate in both International Product Safety Week and the ICPHSO International Symposium. Similar to our U.S. mentorship program, each student has been paired with an experienced product safety professional who will help them better understand the field, expand their professional network, and gain valuable insight into the diverse and rewarding world of consumer product safety.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Rod Freeman, our International Symposium Planning Chair, and the entire Planning Committee for developing such a comprehensive and engaging agenda. We are honored to welcome speakers from UNCTAD, European Commission, ACCC, OPSS, Health Canada, and more.

Please join me in thanking our sponsors and exhibitors for their continued support of ICPHSO and the International Symposium. We encourage you to visit the exhibit hall throughout the week to connect with our exhibitors, learn more about their organizations, and explore the important contributions they make to advancing consumer product safety around the world.

I would also like to recognize and thank the ICPHSO team, Board of Directors, moderators, speakers, mentors, and volunteers. Their dedication, expertise, and countless hours of effort have made this Symposium possible. We are grateful for their commitment to sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and helping make this another informative and impactful event.

With that, on behalf of the ICPHSO Board of Directors, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to the 2026 ICPHSO International Symposium. We hope you find the sessions insightful, build valuable new connections, and take advantage of the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends from across the global product safety community. Enjoy the Symposium and thank you for being part of it.

Chris Harvey

President, ICPHSO

Welcome from the Planning Committee Chair

Hello and welcome back to Brussels! It's wonderful to see so many familiar faces here – and plenty of new ones too. We're thrilled to be partnering once again with the European Commission as part of its ever-growing International Product Safety Week.

We've put together another exciting program for this year's International Symposium, with fresh topics being explored for the first time and presentations from leading experts on some of the most important issues in international product safety. This year we have over 300 of you joining us, representing some 48 countries – a truly unique gathering! Thank you all for being here. This year's ICPHSO International Symposium comes at a pivotal moment. Consumer product safety policymakers around the world are considering and implementing the principles set out in the United Nations Principles for Consumer Product Safety, adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 15, 2025. With that in mind, we've chosen the theme "Advancing a Global Baseline for Product Safety" for this year's event. We're moving into a time of significant change – and significant opportunity for international cooperation. Over the coming days, you'll hear a range of presentations that explore this theme throughout the program we've prepared for you.

We're honored that our program will be opened by Isabelle Perignon, Director for Consumer Policy at the European Commission. ICPHSO deeply values our partnership with the Commission. We're especially grateful to the Commission, and especially to Olivier Micol and his team for their generous hospitality in hosting us again as part of International Product Safety Week. I know many of you will have attended some of the Commission's meetings earlier this week, and we've designed our program to build on those discussions.

One of the highlights of our International Symposia each year is the Global Regulator's Panel. This year we have a record number of international regulators attending – one of many records being broken at this event! – so we're delighted to offer not one, but two regulator panels. This is a truly unique opportunity to hear directly from international policymakers as they share updates and compare notes. You'll hear from senior representatives of the European Commission, the ACCC (Australia), OPSS (United Kingdom), Health Canada, SERNAC (Chile), the Catalan Consumer Agency (Spain), and INMETRO (Brazil).

Our plenary sessions, rapid-fire presentations, and breakout sessions will explore some of the hottest topics in international product safety. As you'd expect from ICPHSO, every session brings together a range of perspectives. Please come along with your questions, and keep the conversations going during the networking sessions. One of the great things about ICPHSO is how we foster supportive, diverse, multi-stakeholder discussions. We may not always agree on every point of detail, but we all share a common goal: a world where consumers can have confidence that the products available to them are safe, and where responsible manufacturers and sellers can operate on a level playing field with fair and predictable regulations.

Please take all the opportunities to make new friends and contacts during the networking and social events. ICPHSO is unique in bringing together all stakeholders from around the world to collaborate on topics that we all care about and for which we all share common fundamental goals. This level of engagement does not happen anywhere else. Make the most of it!

Finally, a big thank you to the Planning Committee and everyone who worked so hard to put this program together. We had a record number of proposals this year, the quality was exceptionally high, and choosing among them was no easy task. A special shout-out to Marc, Courtney, Dana, and Annette at ICPHSO for everything they do. And to my Cooley colleague Tracey Bischofberger – thank you for your tireless and expert work behind the scenes to help produce the wonderful program you'll all be enjoying this week.



Rod Freeman
Cooley LLP, London
ICPHSO Treasurer and International Symposium Committee Chair

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Welcome to the ICPHSO International Symposium

Dear ICPSHO International Symposium Attendees,

I am delighted to welcome you to Brussels for the **ICPHSO International Symposium**, a key part of this year's **International Product Safety Week** entitled "Product Safety in Motion". This captures the essence of our work: **safety is not static**. It evolves with new technologies, adapts to changing markets, and grows stronger through collaboration.

As we advance together, we aim to **create common ground**. This "*Global Baseline for Product Safety*" is at the heart of this year's symposium. ICPHSO is a unique forum bringing together global regulators, businesses, consumer advocacy groups, trade associations, certification/testing laboratories, standardisation organisations, law firms, consultants, academia, media and many others. The European Commission is pleased to host this important dialogue, where we can share knowledge and align our efforts.

I invite you to take this opportunity to **share your experiences, learn from others, and leave with new ideas** to apply in your work. You will also be able to connect with the next generation of product safety professionals through our **joint mentorship programme**.

As we mark **20 years of International Product Safety Week**, let's reflect on how far we have come, celebrate our achievements and discuss how we can continue to move product safety forward together.

With best wishes,

Olivier Micol

Deputy to the Director for Consumers
Head of Unit for Product Safety and Rapid Alert System
Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
European Commission



Product safety is a top priority at Temu

As a global e-commerce platform, Temu collaborates with regulators and businesses worldwide to uphold safety standards.

We invest continuously in technology and apply proactive product screening to help reduce risks. We also work with stakeholders to share insights and advance best practices, aiming to ensure a safer and more reliable shopping experience.

Agenda

SEPTEMBER 8 • TUESDAY

6:30pm – 10:00pm

European Commission Networking Dinner - Open to ICPHSO & IPSW Registered Attendees. Pre-Registration Required with European Commission (Limited Availability)

SEPTEMBER 9 • WEDNESDAY

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Registration

2:00pm – 2:10pm

ICPHSO Welcome and Opening

Alcide de Gasperi

2:10pm – 2:20pm

European Commission Welcome: Isabelle Pérignon, Director

Alcide de Gasperi

2:20pm – 3:05pm

Global Regulator Session 1

Alcide de Gasperi

3:05pm – 3:20pm

Moving Forward with the UN Principles

Alcide de Gasperi

3:20pm – 3:35pm

Networking Break & Exhibits

Foyer

3:35pm – 4:15pm

Plenary 1: 18 Trillion Reasons Why the UN Principles for Consumer Product Safety Apply to Your Product: Safe & Accessible Products for All Persons

Alcide de Gasperi

4:15pm – 4:55pm

Plenary 2: Stopping the Burn but Continuing to Heat Things Up

Alcide de Gasperi

4:55pm – 5:00pm

End of Day Remarks

Alcide de Gasperi

5:00pm – 6:30pm

Reception

Foyer

SEPTEMBER 10 • THURSDAY

8:00am – 9:00am

Breakfast & Registration

9:00am – 9:10am

Opening Remarks

Alcide de Gasperi

9:10am – 9:55am

Global Regulator Session 2

Alcide de Gasperi

9:55am – 10:15am

Rapid 1: You Think Your Products Are Safe... But Are Your Processes Ready to Prove It?

Alcide de Gasperi

10:15am – 10:55am

Plenary 3: From Compliance to Claims: Product Safety, Enforcement and Liability Across the EU and US

Alcide de Gasperi

10:55am – 11:15am

Networking Break & Exhibits

Foyer

11:15am – 11:55am

Breakout 1: Social Media/Gaming, Behavioral Patterns, and Risk Assessment: The Manufacturer's Obligations Under the New EU Product Liability Directive

Lord Jenkins
(Limited Seating)

11:15am – 11:55am

Breakout 2: Advancing the Baseline: What Does Good Enforcement Really Look Like?

Sicco Mansholt
(Limited Seating)

SEPTEMBER 10 • THURSDAY, CONTINUED

11:15am – 11:55am	Breakout 3: New Era for e-Commerce Safety in Europe- Tackling the Retailer's Challenges	Alcide de Gasperi
12:00pm – 12:40pm	Plenary 4: Using AI Tools to Detect Unsafe Products Online: Emerging Approaches for Market Surveillance and Recall Effectiveness	Alcide de Gasperi
12:40pm – 1:35pm	Lunch, Networking & Exhibits	Foyer
1:35pm – 2:15pm	Breakout 4: Velocity, Volume, Variation: The New Geometry of Product Safety in an Age of Global Scale	Alcide de Gasperi
1:35pm – 2:15pm	Breakout 5: Online Marketplaces: Enabling e-Commerce Sellers to Comply with EPR	Lord Jenkins <i>(Limited Seating)</i>
1:35pm – 2:15pm	Breakout 6: Fixing Product Safety Before It Becomes a Compliance Problem: The Voice of Suppliers — Where Execution Actually Happens	Sicco Mansholt <i>(Limited Seating)</i>
2:20pm – 2:40pm	Rapid 2: Microplastics as a Consumer Product Hazard	Alcide de Gasperi
2:40pm – 3:20pm	Plenary 5: Principles Without People Don't Work	Alcide de Gasperi
3:20pm – 3:35pm	Networking Break & Exhibits	Foyer
3:35pm – 4:15pm	Breakout 7: Can We Achieve a Global Baseline for Product Safety?	Sicco Mansholt <i>(Limited Seating)</i>
3:35pm – 4:15pm	Breakout 8: Promoting a Global Standard for Product Safety - From the Global Gap to Effective Implementation: Towards a Standard of Good Practices and an Ombudsman Model for Product Safety	Alcide de Gasperi
3:35pm – 4:15pm	Breakout 9: Regulatory Uncertainty? No Excuse: Proactive Product Safety Strategies for a Borderless Global Marketplace	Lord Jenkins <i>(Limited Seating)</i>
4:20pm – 4:30pm	Mentorship Program Reflections, Takeaways and Certificate Presentation	Alcide de Gasperi
4:30pm – 4:50pm	Consumers at the Center	Alcide de Gasperi
4:50pm – 5:00pm	End of Day Remarks and Closing	Alcide de Gasperi

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

The Symposium may last two days. The ICPHSO community continues all year.

JOIN ICPHSO

Connect with product safety professionals from around the world, access member benefits, participate in ICPHSO programs and stay informed about upcoming opportunities.

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Growing recall risks put consumer product safety in the spotlight.

In the first half of 2026, European consumer product recalls reached their **second-highest level** in 10 years, reflecting heightened regulatory scrutiny, evolving compliance expectations and growing complexity across global supply chains. For manufacturers and retailers, the implications extend far beyond regulatory action — impacting customer trust, financial exposure, and brand reputation.

Our H1 2026 Recall Index report provides independent analysis and expert perspectives to help organisations understand what happened – and why it matters. Drawing on recall activity from the first half of the year, the report delivers an **unrivalled view** of the product safety and recall landscape.

**Sedgwick is a proud sponsor of ICPHSO's
2026 International Symposium.**



<https://bit.ly/H1-2026-EUR-INDEX>

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Investing in the Future of Product Safety

ICPHSO is committed to supporting the next generation of product safety professionals and ensuring that diverse voices and perspectives are represented within our global community.

ICPHSO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The ICPHSO Scholarship Fund helps product safety professionals, consumers, consumer advocates and others participate in ICPHSO events when financial resources might otherwise prevent them from attending. Scholarships may support registration, travel and accommodation for ICPHSO workshops and events.

DAVID SCHMELTZER FOUNDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Established in memory of ICPHSO founding member David Schmeltzer, this fund supports individuals who are **new to the product safety field and have not previously attended an ICPHSO event**. Recipients receive **waived registration to an ICPHSO event plus one year of free membership**.

STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The ICPHSO Student Mentorship Program introduces students and emerging professionals to the consumer product safety community.

Participants have opportunities to:

- Learn about careers in product safety
- Connect with experienced professionals
- Build relationships across the industry
- Explore product safety management and best practices
- Participate in ICPHSO programming and networking

HELP US SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION

Sponsorships and contributions to these programs are welcomed throughout the year. Learn more about ICPHSO scholarships and mentorship opportunities at www.icphso.org



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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

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Strategic Planning Committees

- Communications
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Governance
- Membership
- Mentorship
- Symposium

Ad Hoc Committees

- Content Working Group
- Membership Retention

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ICPHSO Headquarters Office

1120 Route 73, Ste. 200
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

P: 703.822.7976

E: info@icphso.org

For further information on any
ICPHSO activity contact

info@icphso.org

www.icphso.org

WHY ICPHSO?

ONE GLOBAL COMMUNITY. ONE NEUTRAL FORUM.

ICPHSO brings together the people and organizations working to make consumer products safer.

Together, we learn, network, share information and collaborate to address today's product safety challenges and advance safer consumer products around the globe.

STAY CONNECTED. GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

- ✓ Become an ICPHSO member.
- ✓ Attend an upcoming event.
- ✓ Participate in a committee.
- ✓ Share your expertise.
- ✓ Support our scholarships and mentorship programs.

LEARN MORE www.icphso.org

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JOB SEEKERS

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We give clients clear explanations of complex issues, robustly defend their interests and devise practical value-adding solutions for them.

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YOUR ICPHSO CONTACTS



MICHAELA HERRON
Partner, Head of Products
mherron@mhc.ie



JAMIE GALLAGHER
Partner, Products
jamesgallagher@mhc.ie



JAY SATTIN
Partner, Environmental Law
jsattin@mhc.ie

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ProductIP combines regulatory expertise with technology to help organisations manage compliance across products, suppliers, and the wider supply chain.

