

Appliance industry files legal challenge over EU's flawed product risk assessment methodology

APPLiA, the trade association representing leading European home appliance manufacturers, has filed a legal challenge before the General Court of the European Union against the European Commission's Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/3173, supplementing Europe's General Product Safety Regulation (GPSR).

The **General Product Safety Regulation (GPSR)** is an EU regulation aimed at ensuring that all consumer products sold in the European Union, whether online or offline, are safe for use. In this framework, the **Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/3173** sets the rules for how EU countries must report and manage alerts about dangerous products through the Safety Gate system.

APPLiA's challenge is driven by its commitment to consumer safety. The Association believes the Regulation introduces a flawed methodology for assessing product risk that undermines the goal of accurate consumer protection and could lead to unintended and unjust consequences.

APPLiA Director General Paolo Falcioni said:

"We are seeking legal clarity on the Regulation's methodology for assessing product risk. The way the law is written today unfairly and incorrectly classifies any market withdrawal as a 'serious risk, regardless of the reason. This ignores the reality that products are often withdrawn for reasons unrelated to safety, and it deviates significantly from established practices that require a proper evaluation of both the probability and impact of a risk."

"There is a vital distinction between commercial decisions and actual safety hazards which needs to be explicitly and unequivocally defined within the legal text, ensuring that 'serious risk' is understood and applied solely in the context of safety".

Through this legal challenge, APPLiA aims to ensure a fair, accurate, and proportionate risk assessment framework that genuinely serves to protect consumers while fostering innovation and maintaining a healthy market. European manufacturers remain dedicated to delivering safe, high-quality products to consumers.