

How safe are lighting chains sold in the EU?

National market surveillance authorities collaborated in a product safety campaign, funded through the European Commission, to test selected lighting chains sold on their markets for compliance with EU rules and standards.



What was tested?

87 lighting chains, consisting of mains powered traditional lighting chains and rope lights, bought online and from physical stores in **11 countries** were analysed by an accredited laboratory in the EU. Laboratory tests included checks on wiring, protection against electric shock, and resistance to heat and moisture. Labelling and marking were verified by the relevant national authorities.



What should you do?

- **Follow** safety warnings and instructions.
- **Dispose** of a lighting chain immediately if it is damaged.
- Check [Safety Gate](#) for reported problems for the lighting chain you want to buy.
- **Report** safety issues or accidents with the product to your consumer protection authority on [Consumer Safety Gateway](#).



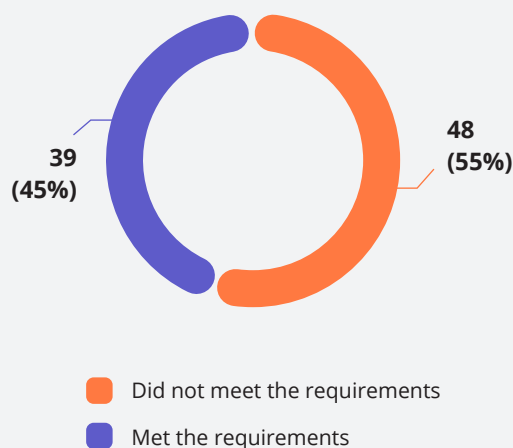
Test results

Of the 87 samples, **48%** failed to meet at least one of the testing requirements. When checks for labelling are included **55%** did not meet the requirements.

The main failures were related to moisture and electric shock protection, and the resistance of solid objects.

Tests also found that some samples had undersized wiring whilst others indicated suitability for outdoor use but were found not to be waterproof.

Test results including checks on warnings, markings and instructions





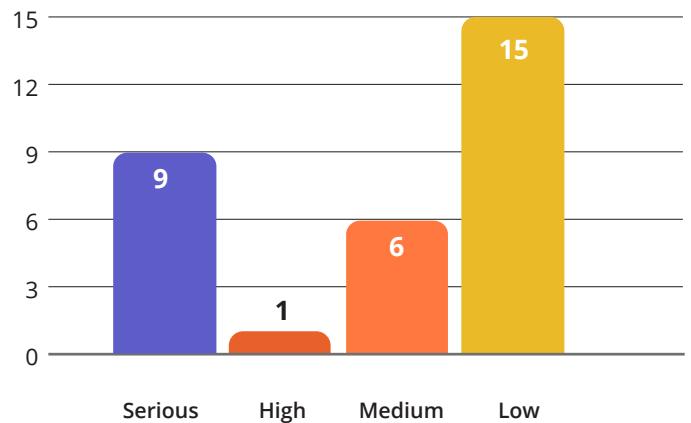
What are the risks?

The main safety risks identified were electric shock, fire and burns. For example, inadequate protection of live parts against water can cause electric shock if the set is handled when plugged in.



What did national authorities do?

Nine were found to pose a **serious risk** to safety and health, 1 a high risk, 6 a medium risk and 15 a low risk. Seven were recalled, one withdrawn and five banned from the single market.



EU-wide notifications for the **seven lighting chains** of serious risk were posted on Safety Gate, the EU's rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products. Manufacturers and distributors were instructed to:

- recall their products from consumers;
- withdraw them from the market;
- stop further sales;
- correct shortcomings with labels, warnings and instructions.

