

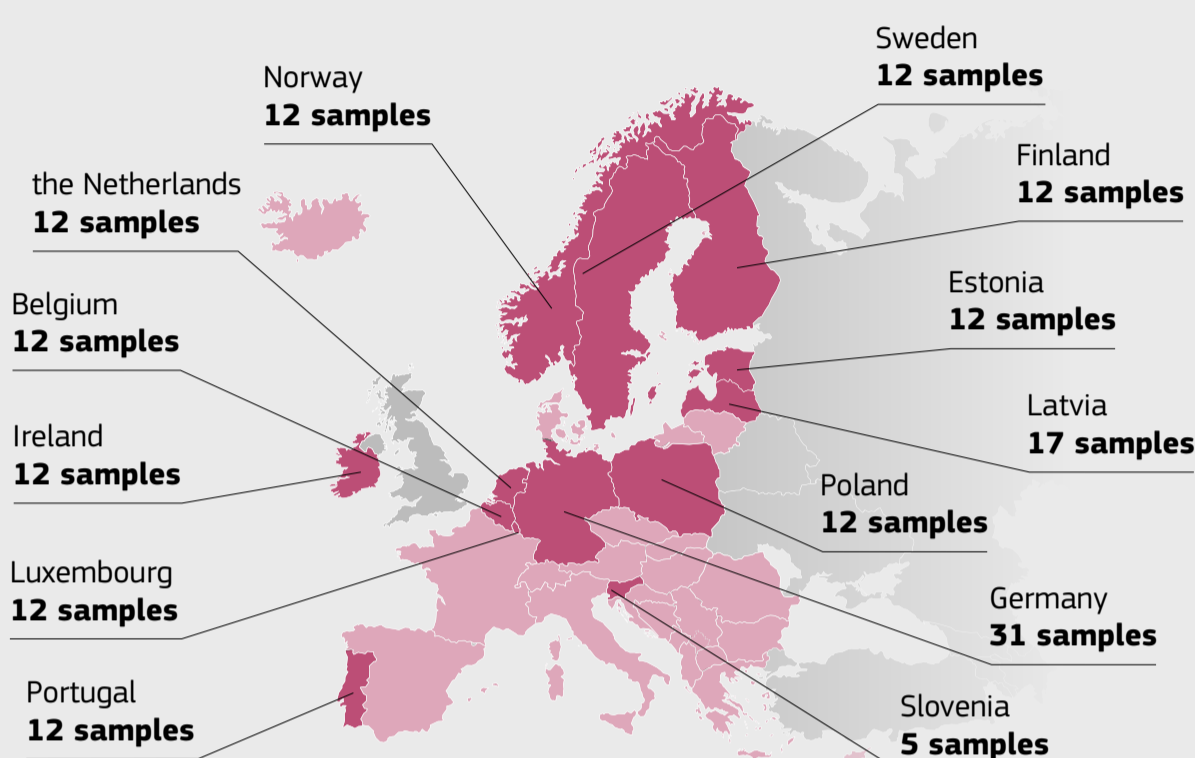


Do common household gadgets contain hazardous substances?

An EU-funded campaign tested a selection of electronic goods for hazardous substances listed in the RoHS directive.

Which products were tested?

173 items sourced online and in shops in 13 countries: gadgets with USB connectors or solar panels, kitchen appliances and personal care electronics.



What was tested?

Presence of heavy metals and chemicals:

Pb

Lead

Cd

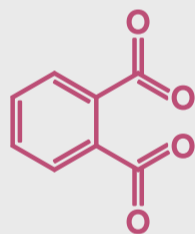
Cadmium

Cr⁶⁺

Hexavalent chromium

Hg

Mercury



Plasticisers
(phthalates: DEHP, BBP, DBP, DIBP)

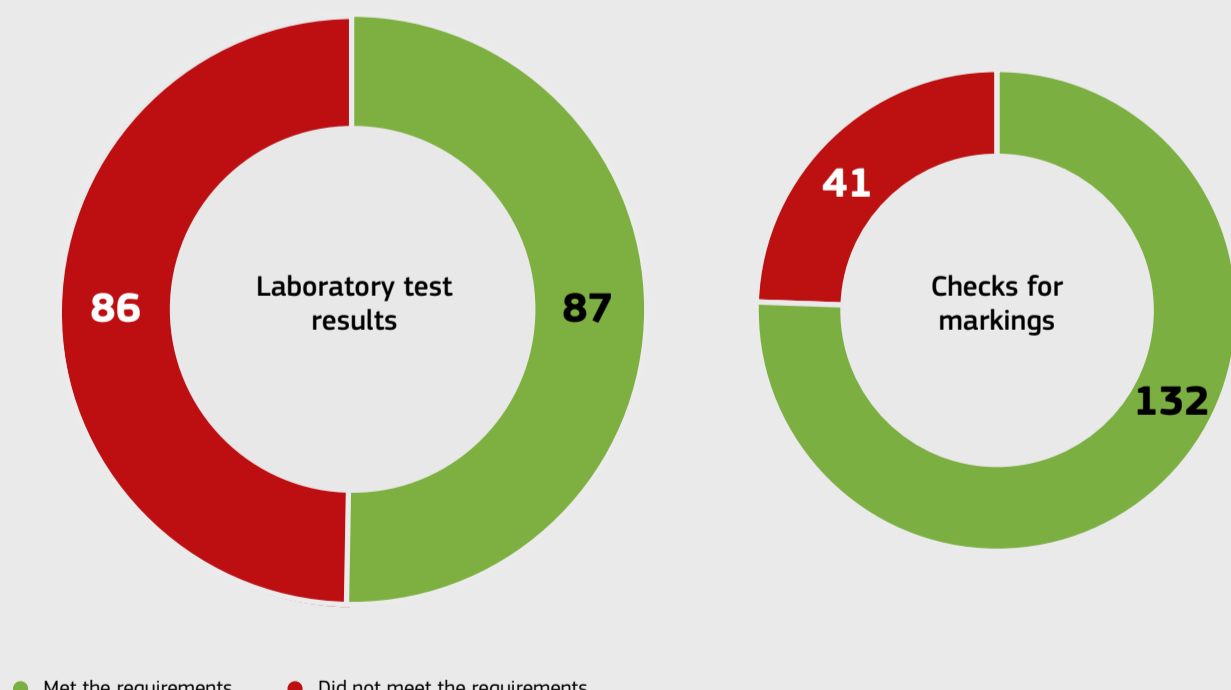


Flame retardants
(PBBs and PBDEs)

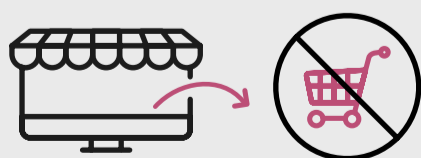
Checks for markings:



The results



What did market surveillance authorities do?



70 products withdrawn from the market and/or banned from sale

What can you do as a consumer?



Check if the product has been reported on the Safety Gate platform



Look for the CE marking and beware of imitations



Avoid buying suspiciously cheap electronic products that could harm you or the environment