

Risk Assessment of consumer products for the GPSD

This procedure is proposed to assist companies when deciding whether a specific hazardous situation caused by a consumer product requires notification to the authorities

Table A - Risk Estimation

		Severity of Health/Safety Damage			Overall Gravity of Outcome
		Slight	Serious	Very Serious	
Probability of Health/Safety Damage	Very High		Very High	High	Very High
	High		High	Medium	High
	Medium		Medium	Low	Moderate
	Low		Low	Very Low	Low
	Very Low		Very Low		Very low

Table B – Grading of Risk

Vulnerable people		Non-vulnerable adults				Adequate warnings and safeguards? Obvious hazard?
Very vulnerable	Vulnerable	No	Yes	No	Yes	
<div style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px;">SERIOUS RISK – Notification required</div>		No	Yes	No	Yes	<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;">Notification required</div>
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;">Moderate risk</div>		<div style="background-color: green; padding: 5px;">Low risk Notification unlikely</div>				

Table A is used to determine the gravity of the outcome of a hazard, depending on the severity and probability of the possible health/safety damage (see tables in notes)

Table B is used to determine the rating of the gravity of risk depending on the type of user and, for non-vulnerable adults, whether the product has adequate warnings and safeguards and whether the hazard is sufficiently obvious

Example (indicated by the arrows above)

A chain saw user has suffered a badly cut hand and it is found that the chain saw has an inadequately designed guard which allowed the user's hand to slip forward and touch the chain. The company's assessor makes the following risk assessment.

Table A - The assessment of probability is **High** because the hazard is present on all products and may occur under certain conditions. The assessment of severity is **Serious** so the overall gravity rating is **High**.

Table B – The chain saw is for use by non-vulnerable adults, presents an obvious hazard but with inadequate guards.

The **High** gravity is therefore intolerable so a **serious risk** exists.