

## RAPEX-CHINA

After more than 2 years of the operation of the "RAPEX-CHINA" application and eight quarterly reports sent by AQSIQ, it can be concluded that the cooperation of the EU with China brings first concrete results. So far, 669 RAPEX notifications have been investigated by AQSIQ and in 352 investigated cases appropriate preventive and restrictive measures were adopted. Today, once the cooperation is well established, the discussion should be focused on (i) how to ensure that more RAPEX notifications are investigated by AQSIQ and (ii) how to improve the accuracy of information on the Chinese manufacturing companies, provided by the EU.

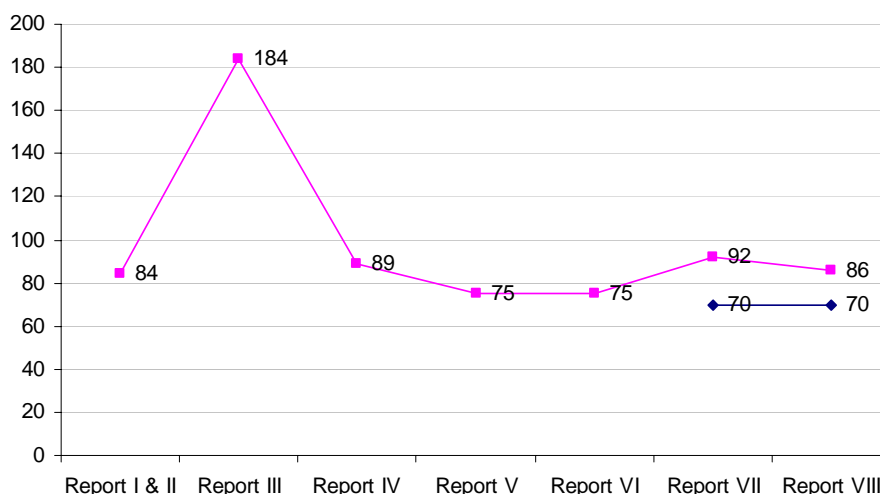
### OVERVIEW - REPORTS I-VIII

The eight quarterly reports received from AQSIQ<sup>1</sup> cover the information exchanged between September 2006 and November 2008.

So far, AQSIQ has investigated and where necessary taken measures in relation to 669 RAPEX notifications out of 3338 stored in the "RAPEX-CHINA" database<sup>2</sup>. It should be stressed that AQSIQ focuses its market surveillance actions only on the new notifications and it does not take follow-up actions on old notifications sent before 2006, when the enhanced cooperation between the EU and China began. That is because in many of the old cases, measures could not be taken due to objective reasons, such as non-existence of the responsible Chinese manufacturer/exporter or because the manufacturing process had ceased.

Analysis of all reports received so far from AQSIQ show that over a three-month period AQSIQ investigates on average 80 RAPEX cases. A significant peak in the number of investigated cases (184 notifications) registered in the period from July to September 2007 and covered by the 3<sup>rd</sup> report can be related to the Commissioner Kuneva's visit to China.

#### Notifications investigated by AQSIQ



<sup>1</sup> AQSIQ – *General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine* is responsible for market surveillance activities taken in relation to consumer products (<http://english.aqsiq.gov.cn/>)

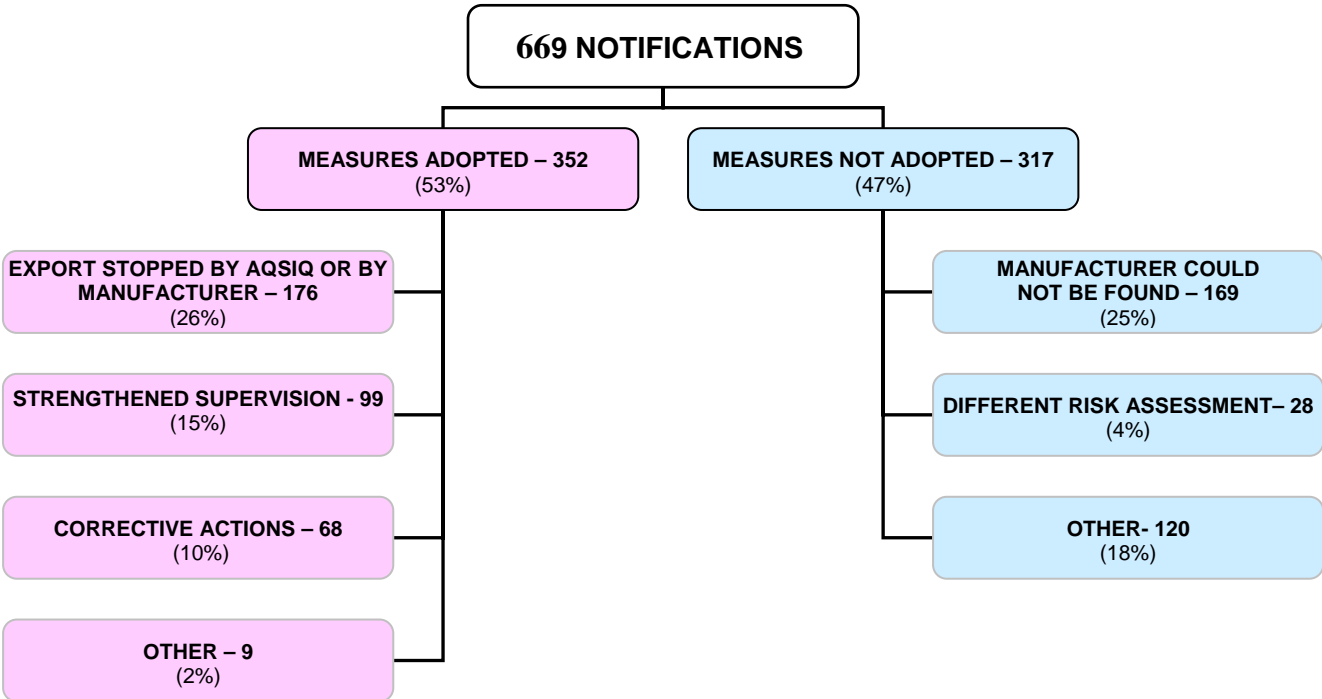
<sup>2</sup> Number of notifications stored in the "RAPEX-CHINA" system on 10.03.2009.

(86 notifications: Investigations started in the period of reference; 70 notifications: Investigations started and completed in the period of reference)

In 352 cases (53%) investigations resulted in preventive or restrictive measures being adopted either by AQSIQ or voluntarily by the Chinese manufacturer/exporter, such as: export bans, corrective actions or strengthened supervision over the Chinese company.

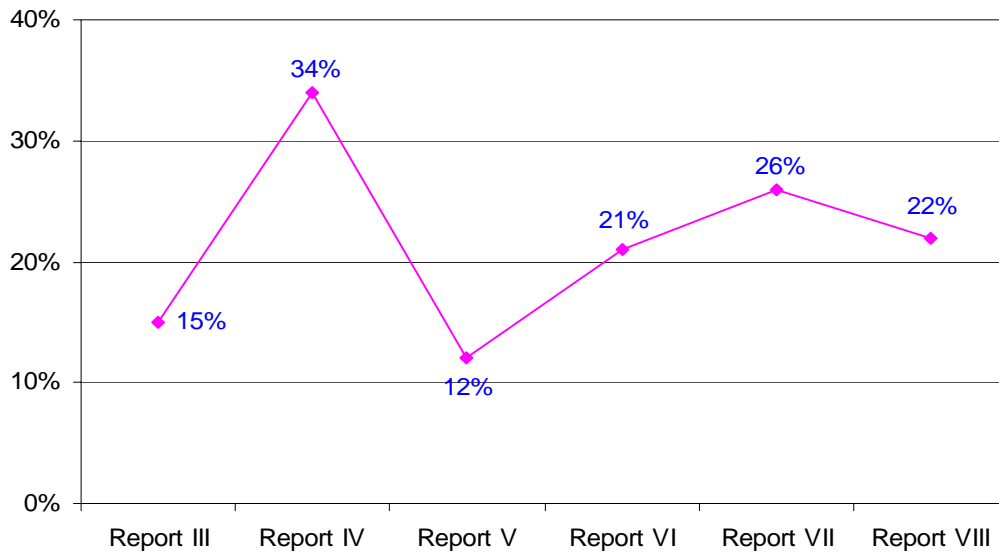
In 317 investigated cases (47%) no measures were taken mainly because AQSIQ could not find (for a number of reasons) the Chinese company responsible for the manufacturing and/or exporting of dangerous products to the EU.

Actions taken by AQSIQ (total figures)



Analyses show that the identification of the Chinese companies responsible for the manufacturing and/or exporting of dangerous products still remains the biggest challenge for AQSIQ in carrying out follow-up activities to notifications transmitted through the "RAPEX-CHINA" system. Despite many different actions undertaken so far by national authorities and the Commission, the number of RAPEX notifications where the responsible Chinese company could not be correctly identified has not decreased and has been kept (in the three most recent reports) at the level of approximately 23%.

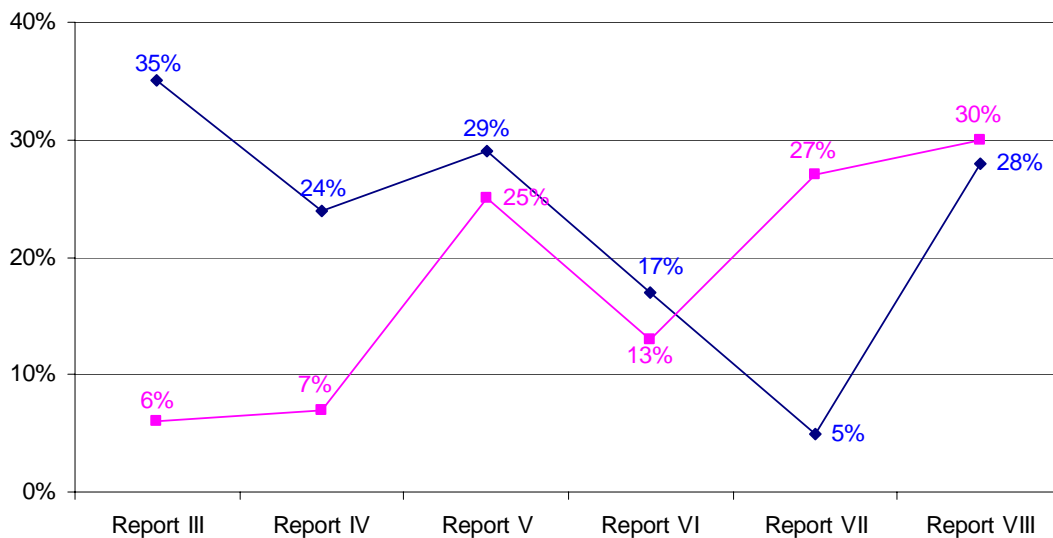
Manufacturer could not be found



*(% of all cases covered by a quarterly report where the responsible Chinese manufacturers/exporters could not be found by AQSIO)*

It should also be noted that in the period covered by the 8<sup>th</sup> report (September – November 2008), AQSIO increased the number of export bans imposed on the Chinese manufacturers and exporters. This is a significant improvement comparing to the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> reports. Still, however, the most frequently applied preventive measure by AQSIO is "strengthening of the supervision over a company".

Export ban/Strengthened supervision



*( % of all cases covered by a quarterly report, where AQSIO decided to strengthen its supervision over the Chinese companies; % of all cases covered by a quarterly report, where AQSIO decided to impose an export ban)*

## **DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE VIII REPORT**

The VIII Report submitted by AQSIQ (in January 2009) covers the three-month period from September to November 2008. In the period of reference, the Chinese authorities investigated in total 86 cases notified through the "RAPEX-CHINA" application and completed (before the submission of the report) 70 of them.

In 49 cases (70% \*) investigations resulted in preventive or restrictive measures adopted either by AQSIQ or voluntarily by the Chinese manufacturer/exporter.

- In 21 cases (30% \*) AQSIQ strengthened its supervision over the Chinese manufacturers which will result in more frequent and detailed controls and product checks in the future
- In 19 cases (28% \*) export of dangerous consumer products was stopped, including 3 cases where actions were taken voluntarily by the Chinese manufacturers
- In 9 cases (12% \*) the Chinese manufacturers applied corrective actions, i.e. modified the construction of a product so that it would comply with the European safety requirements

In 21 cases (30% \*) no measures were adopted.

- In 15 cases (22% \*) actions could not be taken mainly because AQSIQ could not find the Chinese companies responsible for the manufacturing and/or exporting of the dangerous products. Without correct and precise information about the Chinese manufacturer, AQSIQ can neither initiate investigations nor adopt measures preventing or restricting the export of dangerous products to the EU
- In 3 cases (4% \*) the Chinese manufacturer no longer existed when AQSIQ carried out its investigation (e.g. bankruptcy)
- In 3 cases (4% \*) AQSIQ presented different risk evaluation.

The 9<sup>th</sup> report from AQSIQ covering the period from December 2008 to February 2009 is expected in April 2009.

\* % of all 70 notifications investigated by AQSIQ in the period of reference.