



Overview

The ExpertRECALL Index tracks aggregate recall activity and trends in five product categories: medical devices, pharmaceuticals, food, consumer products and children's products. Highlights of recall activity in the third quarter of 2011 included:

25
percent increase in medical device recalls quarter-over-quarter.

150
recalls in the pharmaceutical sector during the third quarter contributed to the category's continued increase.

6
times as many food units affected by third quarter recalls as compared to the second quarter of 2011.

20
percent decrease in consumer product recalls quarter-over-quarter.

40
percent of all children's and infant product recalls were initiated out of a concern for the choking risk associated with small parts.

Recall Index - Third Quarter 2011

How the ExpertRECALL Index is Compiled

The ExpertRECALL Index gathers and tracks cumulative data from the two primary federal agencies that oversee recalls in the United States: the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Recall trends are calculated from FDA enforcement reports and news releases published on agency websites.

FDA Data

To track trends in food, pharmaceutical and medical device recalls, the ExpertRECALL Index uses information publicly available and posted on the FDA website.

CPSC Data

For insight into consumer product recall trends, Stericycle ExpertRECALL collects data from CPSC recall announcements. When compiling statistics and tracking trends for consumer product recalls, the ExpertRECALL Index uses standard product categories and hazards recognized by the CPSC.

Terminology

Recalls represent events documented in news releases published on agency websites and events documented in agency enforcement reports.

According to the FDA, A Class I recall involves a situation in which there is a reasonable probability that the product will cause serious adverse health consequences or death. A Class II recall is a situation in which the product could cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences or where the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote. The FDA defines a Class III recall as a situation in which the product is not likely to cause adverse health consequences.