



Building Consumer Confidence



**Consumers
Union**

NONPROFIT
PUBLISHER OF
CONSUMER REPORTS

Fighting For Consumers

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Our Mission

To work for a fair, just, and safe marketplace for all consumers and to empower consumers to protect themselves.

- **Test.** We test, evaluate, and rate products and services through expert, objective, independent research.
- **Inform.** We publish and publicize our Ratings, buying advice, and consumer information to help consumers make informed choices in the marketplace.
- **Protect.** We fight marketplace abuses by advocating for government policies, industry standards, and market reforms that help protect consumers.

The Product Safety Crises

– Consumers (and Industry) at Risk

- ☹ Lost confidence in imports
- ☹ Lost confidence in government
- ☹ Lost confidence in venerable brand names

CU's Action Plan for Import Safety

1. Bolster government safety agency resources
2. Attach responsibility for safe products to each link in the supply chain
3. Develop third-party safety certification program for all products
4. Develop country-of-origin traceability program for products, ingredients, and components

CU's Action Plan for Import Safety

5. Require safety bond on imports
6. Raise caps on civil penalties to meaningful levels; impose criminal penalties for repeat offenders
7. Give safety agencies mandatory recall authority
8. Require public disclosure of safety investigations and reports of adverse events

Pre-shipment Testing and Inspection

- Accreditation of qualified labs
- ANSI / ASQ Z1.4 statistical sampling for acceptable quality level
- Quality audits

Safety Certification

- Need for well-recognized mark similar to **CE**
- Accreditation of qualified labs
- Quality audits