

Preventing a recurrence of an accident based on lessons learned

Consumer Safety Investigation Commission

- The Consumer Safety Investigation Commission (hereinafter "the Commission") was established in October 2012 as a council of experts with the aim of drawing lessons from accidents and obtaining insights for preventing accidents and avoiding their recurrence. Rather than focusing on who is at fault, the Commission investigates from the consumer's perspective: why the accident occurred and how similar accidents can be prevented. It then provides its recommendations on recurrence-prevention measures to the relevant administrative bodies.
- In addition, the Commission does not consider its work finished once recommendations are issued. Taking into account the circumstances surrounding each accident, it conducts hearings with the relevant administrative bodies at appropriate times to understand the status of their follow-up efforts.

Examples of cases handled to date

(Accident involving a wooden three-dimensional maze [a large, multi-level outdoor wooden play structure installed at an amusement park])

[Overview of the investigation]

- A section of the floor of a wooden three-dimensional maze installed at an amusement park collapsed, causing a user to fall and sustain injuries.
- Due to decay, the strength of the beams supporting the floor had deteriorated, but the amusement park operator failed to recognize this and continued to allow consumers to use the facility.
- The risks inherent in wooden structures not subject to legal regulation, such as the facility in question, and the necessary countermeasures were not sufficiently recognized, organized, or communicated.

[Commission's recommendations]

- Recommendations to the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (Formulation of safety standards, etc.)
 1. Formulation of safety standards
 2. Ensuring compliance with safety standards (including consideration of the need for regulation by law)
- Recommendations to the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Emergency measures)
Request for investigations and other actions by experts



Examples of cases handled to date

(Accidents involving children falling from residential windows and balconies)

[Overview of the investigation]

- Despite ongoing awareness-raising efforts by administrative bodies and others regarding the risks and necessary countermeasures, fatal accidents continue to occur.
- The Commission examined 134 fatal fall accidents (covering 32 years) involving children under six years old falling from residential windows and balconies.
- Both in terms of micro- and macro-level measures, residential environments have not been sufficiently prepared to prevent children from falling from windows and balconies.

[Commission's recommendations]

- Recommendations to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Support for the construction and renovation of housing with measures to mitigate fall risks
- Recommendations to the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Encouraging product development to prevent children from falling from windows and balconies
- Recommendations to the Director-General of the Children and Families Agency Awareness-raising for parents and guardians regarding the mechanisms of falls and methods for preventing fall accidents

