NATCP National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection

PRESS RELEASE

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Shocking results: out of 186 USB chargers, only 30 passed the NATCP's product safety test

A nationwide product safety inspection carried out under the technical supervision of the National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection (NATCP), with the cooperation of government agencies, has yielded alarming results: of the 186 USB chargers tested in the NATCP's laboratory, 156 failed to meet safety requirements. The rejection rate of nearly 84 percent once again highlights that a significant number of dangerous products may be found even amongst everyday electrical devices. The NATCP's aim is to help remove unsafe products from the market through regular, targeted inspections and laboratory tests, thereby protecting consumers' health and safety.

Whilst 85 percent of the products in question failed product safety tests in 2023 and 92 percent in 2024, last year's figure stood at 87 percent. The high non-compliance rate justified an increase in the number of samples tested: in 2026, the authority inspected nearly 200 USB chargers in two phases.

As in previous years, the results of the inspections are unfavourable. During laboratory testing of the 186 chargers, 156 products failed to meet the standard's requirements, meaning that 83,87 percent of the products failed the tests. Regulatory proceedings initiated due to the hazardous products and their withdrawal from the market are currently underway. The sampling carried out by government agencies – taking into account the popularity and widespread distribution of this product category – covered, in both phases, a range of outlets including electrical goods stores, specialist retailers, Far Eastern-operated convenience shops and products offered by online retailers.

This year's tests carried out at the NATCP laboratory also covered safety requirements critical to everyday use. The tests focused primarily on whether the use of USB chargers posed a risk of

electric shock to consumers. This is because, in poorly designed chargers, components carrying mains voltage may not be adequately isolated from parts accessible to the user. In serious cases, this can even result in a life-threatening electric shock. Experts therefore checked the safety of the chargers' insulation, the correct design of the plugs, and the safety of devices combined with a travel adaptor. The tests are also capable of uncovering hidden faults that are not visible to the naked eye, meaning that consumers may not necessarily be able to recognise the danger at the time of purchase.

Based on the findings of these inspections, it remains important to bear in mind that chargers should primarily be purchased from specialist shops or electrical retailers. The NATCP strongly urges consumers to purchase USB chargers from reputable retailers wherever possible, to avoid suspiciously cheap products of unknown origin, and to stop using the charger immediately in the event of abnormal operation or overheating.

For the NATCP, consumer safety is a top priority. Nationwide inspections carried out under the authority's professional guidance, together with state-of-the-art laboratory tests, make it possible to identify dangerous products whose defects are not apparent to consumers. The NATCP will continue to pay particular attention to the inspection of high-risk product categories and, through its professional guidance and laboratory activities, will support the effective market surveillance efforts of government agencies. The common aim is to ensure that unsafe products are removed from the market as soon as possible, so that Hungarian consumers can choose from a range of safe products.

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