

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING**

CPSC/OFC OF THE SECRETARY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

2001 MAR 19 A 9:17

SUBJECT: Window Covering Manufacturers Association (WCMA) Technical Committee Meeting to Update the ANSI/WCMA A100.1-1996 American National Standard for Safety of Corded Window Covering Products

CPSC (b) (5) - Exempt
2/3/19/01

NLRB, OSHA, PVT, etc. or
Products Classified

Exempted by

Firms Notified,
Comments Processed

DATE OF MEETING: January 23, 2001

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Renae Rauchschalbe, CRC

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: March 15, 2001

LOCATION: Hyatt Regency Bethesda

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Renae Rauchschalbe, CRC; Caroleene Paul, ESME; Mark Kumagai, ESME; Tim Smith, ESHF; Alan Schoem, AEDCE; Ron Medford, AEDHIR

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): John Eisenheimer, 3 Day Blinds, Inc.; Bruce Levin, Achim Importing Co. Inc.; Herschel Gavsie, Blinds-to-Go; Ray Randall, Comfortex; Don Fraser, Hunter Douglas; Roger Palmer, Chairman Levolor; Ken Chang, Nien-Made/CoustronCraft; Gary Bebell, Rollease; John Morris, Springs; Richard Hudnut, ANSI Consultant; Maria Ungaro, WCMA.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: The WCMA's proposed changes to ANSI/WCMA A100.1 were reviewed alongside the CPSC's recommendations. The new inner cord requirements were discussed and written in draft. CPSC's recommendation to



include a requirement for an upward pull force of the inner cords as well as a downward pull force was left for further discussion pending closer review of inner cord child strangulation investigations. Industry representatives asked CPSC Human Factors staff to review warning labels and consider reducing the number of hang tags to one along with the one permanent label. There was agreement between both industry and CPSC that the lift cords within "roll-up" blinds pose an inherent strangulation risk to children and that the standard should so state in the beginning paragraphs. Industry representatives stated they would present an informational meeting at the next International Window Covering Show in March to encourage other window blind manufacturers to become involved in the technical committee and in writing the standard.

The CPSC staff summarized 10 strangulation/near-strangulation incidents that occurred since 1997 involving exposed cords that did not involve a manufactured loop. Six of these incidents include window blind cords that meet the current standard. Further, CPSC staff explained their proposal to limit the length of exposed operation cords to 7.25 inches at all times regardless of the position of the window blind. The goal, CPSC staff challenged, is to revise the standard to include this new requirement one year from now. WCMA representatives agreed to attempt to meet this challenge and to present new designs to the CPSC staff within the next four months.

A tentative date of April 26th was set as the next meeting.