

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Log of Meeting**

~~EXEMPTED FROM PUBLIC RELEASE~~
MEMBERS/PRVT. BLINDS FOR PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED
EXEMPTED BY: PETITION
RULEMAKING ADMIN. PROC.
~~WITH PORTIONS REMOVED~~

SUBJECT: Conference call

DATE OF MEETING: April 30, 2004

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Caroleene Paul *e.p.*

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: May 5, 2004

LOCATION: conference call

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Caroleene Paul

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Joseph F. Jankoski	Hunter Douglas Window Fashions
Carolynn R. Jennings	WCMA
Thomas J. Marusak	Comfortex Window Fashions
Rory McNeil	TechStyles
John E. Morris	Springs Window Fashions

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Purpose of this conference call is to determine what issues (based on CPSC requests at Nov 26, 2002 Tech Meeting) should be presented to full WCMA for further consideration. These issues will merit consideration because there is data supporting the need to resolve the issue.

Labels

Due to limited space on certain "mini" blinds, a label that meets the requirements will be too big to fit on the actual product. John Morris will gather information.

Inner Cord Stops

- Failure modes:
- 1) cord stop not present -- by design
 - 2) cord stop improperly set -- mfr'ing or during installation (modification)
 - 3) cord stop not present -- fabrication error
 - 4) loop formed by pulling inner cord from above bottom rail

Failure modes 1) and 3) are compliance issues.
Failure mode 3) is of concern, especially with stock blinds where the consumer may fail to readjust the inner cord stops when modifying the length of the blind or the consumer may allow the blind to stack on the sill of a window (in which case the inner cord stops will be not be in the correct location). Rory McNeil will confer with other major manufacturers to determine the standard procedures involved in fitting stock blinds and the resulting affects on the inner cord stop location. This issue will be presented to the full WCMA.

Failure mode 4) was considered during the drafting of the inner cord stop requirements in the last revision of ANSI A100.1. The formation of a loop in the inner cord from the middle of the blinds is a functional possibility. However, the dexterity required to perform the action is most likely beyond the capabilities of the victim age group associated with this hazard. Caroleene Paul will review the photographs from the inner cord IDIs to determine if there is any indication that the inner cords have been pulled from above the bottom rail in an upward direction.

Tension Devices

Failure modes:

- 1) not installed
- 2) removed by consumer
- 3) product breaks off

Failure mode 2) is of concern because it is foreseeable and there is at least one documented case where the device was bypassed. Approaches to disable the functionality of the window covering product if the tension device is not installed were discussed. There should be some way for the standard to address the possibility. This issue will be presented to the full WCMA.

Tasseled Loop

Failure mode on individual cords:

- 1) entanglement in multiple cords
- 2) multiple cords tied in knots or to object

In some situations multiple cords are necessary to raise the blind, but due to weight the blinds are rarely raised. In this case multiple cords that can entangle or be tied up may be more of a hazard than if the multiple cords met at a stop ball with a single cord beneath it. Best solution would probably be a break away stop ball. However, it should be recognized that it is not possible to achieve 100% probability when more than 2 cords are in the break away device. Caroleene Paul will review non-fatal IDIs for evidence that multiple cords can entangle or are likely to be modified.

Stop Ball

Should be required to break away when pressure is applied to the loop above the stop ball.

Top Down/Bottom Up Products

Fairly new development. Samples will be brought to next meeting.

7.25 Inch Exposed Cord Requirement

There are products on the market that currently meet this requirement -- cordless products and the Allouetta (?) product that was inspired by the Ultra Glide (?). For the record these are two examples but they are fairly expensive. Because the majority of the IDIs appeared to involve stock blinds, the cost difference between products that meet the 7.25 inch requirement becomes significant. A matrix of the levels of products available will be developed to compare the technology and the associated costs. This will be done to provide perspective on the effort that would be required to make stock products meet this requirement.

Next Meeting

Sometime end of May.