

Renae Rauchschalbe summarized the latest incident data, and encouraged industry members to rise to the challenge of eliminating the remaining hazards posed by continuous cords (by making the blinds inoperable unless a tension device is installed) and exposed cord lengths (by limited the exposed cord to 7.25 inches in any blind position).

WCMA members responded with the following:

- regulatory action by CPSC -- members were alarmed that such actions would proceed without industry input or collaborative analysis of data
- incident data -- members disagreed with the interpretation of a particular near strangulation incident where the child's neck was tangled in the tassels and/or inner cord stops of the exposed pull cord (members believe it clearly did not involve the inner cord stops), as the experts in their products many members believe the WCMA should review and analyze the incident data
- economic impact -- it is currently not feasible to raise the cost of a \$6 blind to \$30 in order to limit the exposed pull cord to 7.25 inches or to render the blind inoperable unless a tension device is installed, one member suggested interim steps of achieving this goal that would spread the cost over time and result in a more gradual increase in the cost of window blinds

Caroleene Paul stated that CPSC staff will collaborate with the WCMA and invites an open dialogue on all issues, including incident data. While CPSC staff recognizes the economic burden of any design change, it is the government's position to encourage the industry to uniformly improve the safety of its products. CPSC staff is interested in what particular steps would be taken to achieve design goals in an economically feasible manner.

Carolyn Jennings agreed to form a subcommittee to work with CPSC staff on the above issues. The current meeting format is inappropriate to discuss each point in detail. Caroleene Paul will be the CPSC point person for active participation in the subcommittee task group. The task group will communicate and meet on a more regular basis to ensure open input from both industry and government perspectives.