

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

9/2/04
X
ALL CPSC FILES OR
IDENTIFIED
REMOVED BY PETITION
ADMIN. PROCDS
ALL INFORMATION REMOVED: _____

SUBJECT: WCMA Technical Meeting on window covering cords

DATE OF MEETING: August 10, 2004

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Caroleene Paul e.p.

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: August 31, 2004

LOCATION: Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel, Newark, NJ

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Caroleene Paul, ESME
Mark Kumagai, ESME

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Timothy Bates	Techniku
Cliff Birch	Levolor Kirsch
Richard Hudnut	WCMA
Carolynn R. Jennings	WCMA
Ren Judkins	Custom Craft
David Levonick	RollEase
Thomas J. Marusak	Comfortex Window Fashions
Wolfgang Moeller	Lewis Hyman, Inc.
John E. Morris	Springs Window Fashions
Howard Siegal	Achim Imports

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Subcommittee presented evaluation of items reviewed in light of the data published in report to the Association dated April 2004.

1) Inner cord

Improper placement of the cord stops on the product was identified as a foreseeable hazard. Instructions on proper adjustment of inner cord stops and warnings on the need to do so should be standardized and included in the standard. An inner cord lock in the headrail that does not require user adjustment is being developed, but it cannot meet the current 10 lbf (pull force on the inner cord) requirement in the standard.

Action items

- John Morris will draft requirements for instructions on the proper adjustment of inner cord stop
- Caroleene Paul will review the rationale for the 10 lbf pull force requirement
- Carolynn Jennings will draft a formal request to the Window Covering Safety Council (WCSC) to enhance consumer awareness of the need to properly adjust inner cord stops

✓

2) 7.25 inch cord

The subcommittee stated it is not economically feasible to apply current "cordless" technology to existing stock products. The subcommittee estimates a cost increase for high-end custom products of 18-25% of the base product for mechanical systems and 75-150% for electric motor systems. For low-end, mass-market products the cost burden would increase between 80-500% of the base product. CPSC staff accepted the analysis that it is not economically feasible to apply current cordless technology to mass-market products. However, the committee was advised not to forget this issue. The data in the analysis report clearly indicates that user modification of cords does occur, and CPSC staff is aware of other products where child strangulation occurs on a single cord.

3) Loop above stop ball

Improvements to break away designs were discussed, but the challenge of achieving 100% consistent break away action with more than 2 cords has remained unresolved. The subcommittee will continue to explore new design approaches for break away stop balls.

4) Tension devices

Designs that would render the window covering product inoperable if the tension device is not installed were discussed.

Action item

- Tom Murasak and Ren (?) will draft additional requirements for tension devices in the voluntary standard.

5) Top Down - Bottom Up window covering products

The committee discussed the cord systems used in these products and whether or not the standard requirements can be interpreted to apply to these systems.

6) Size and placement of warning labels

CPSC staff indicated that it was willing to consider labels that do not specifically meet the size requirements in the standard if it is necessary to reduce the text size in order to fit the label on the product. Another solution was offered where the warnings were layered so that the top warning in English could be peeled back to uncover the Spanish version of the warning. Since the peel back labels are affixed, it appears that it would meet the standard requirements.

Additional items:

Carolynn Jennings suggested all the terms in the standard be clarified. Specifically inner cord stops and stop balls. It was suggested that stop balls be termed cord connectors or cord joiners.

The committee members discussed patent issues and the ANSI agreement was that if a standard requirement involved a patented product the patent shall be equally available to all members for a reasonable fee.