

CPSA 60(b)(1) CLEARED for PUBLIC  
 9/27/11  
 NO MERCHANDISING OR  
 PRODUCT PROMOTION  
 EXCEPTED FROM COMPETITION  
 RULEMAKING PROC. PRCDG  
 WITH PORTIONS REMOVED:

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

**SUBJECT:** WCMA Steering Committee Meeting

**DATE OF MEETING:** September 1, 2011

**LOCATION:** Kellen Company Offices, 750 National Press Building, Washington, DC

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Rana Balci-Sinha

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** September 20, 2011

**CPSC ATTENDEES:** Rana Balci-Sinha, Human Factors  
 Bob Ochsman, Human Factors  
 Renae Rauchschalbe, Compliance

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEES:**

Attendee Name	Organization	
Dave Perkowitz	B & W Window Fashions	
Lisa Valenti	Beautiful Window	teleconference line
Lorraine Gilbert	BNA	
Jeff Sendlak	Bureau Veritas	teleconference line
Paul Ehrmann	Bureau Veritas	teleconference line
Ian Brodie	Canadian Standards Association	teleconference line
Ellen Gabler	Chicago Tribune	teleconference line
Rich Watkins	Comfortex	
Rachel Weintraub	Consumer Federation of America	
Don Mays	Consumers Union	
Sylvia Hall	Fair Warning	
Stephen Drew	Health Canada	
Jim Anthony	Hunter Douglas	
Mike Daniels	Hunter Douglas	teleconference line
Joe Jankoski	Hunter Douglas	
Joe Kovach	Hunter Douglas	teleconference line
Christopher Outlaw	Hunter Douglas	teleconference line
Carol Pollack Nelson	Independent Safety Consulting	
Debra Haire	JC Penney	teleconference line
Mark Johnson	Levolor	
Chuck Anderson	Levolor (Newell)	teleconference line
Teri Williamson	Levolor (Newell)	
Robert LeBlanc	Lewis Hyman Inc.	
Tripp Hornick	Louis Hornick & Company	teleconference line
Steve Birtles	Louvolite Canada	teleconference line

Brian Robertson	Louvolite Canada	teleconference line
Linda Kaiser	Parents for Window Blind Safety	
Joe Cannaverde	RollEase	teleconference line
Derick Marsh	RollEase	
Bill Vestal	Safe-T-Shade	
Will Lynch	Safe-T-Shade	
Tom Merker	Springs Window Fashions	
John Morris	Springs Window Fashions	teleconference line
John Woestman	WCMA	
Ralph Vasami	WCMA	
Tim Bennett	WCMA	
Michael Hollander	Whole Space Industries	
Eric Lin	Whole Space Industries	teleconference line
Jackson Ko	Whole Space Industries	teleconference line
Mary Ann Plumlee	Workroom Assoc of America	teleconference line

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

1. Tom Merker called the meeting to order. Ralph Vasami reviewed the antitrust rules. The log of the July 21st meeting was approved. Rachel Weintraub requested that the issues with tension devices discussed during the meeting as well as the research study not being made available to the steering committee be added to the log. Don Mays requested that the issues with securing devices on the wall be added to the log as well.
2. Carol Pollack-Nelson stated that she had felt optimistic about the process after the CPSC chairman's remarks on elimination of the hazards and the involvement of the consumer safety advocates in the steering committee; however, she felt that their inputs were not incorporated into the draft language of the standard and the process was not as inclusive as they had hoped. Rachel Weintraub stated that the proposed language fails to address operating cord hazards as well as cord joiners and tension devices are not required to be installed in order to make the shade operable. Don Mays believes that the association failed in the ANSI due process, is unbalanced, and he will be making a request to ANSI for review of WCMA's standard development process. Linda Kaiser stated that 17 years have gone by and the result is unacceptable and that the consumer safety advocates are walking out of the process. Ralph Vasami responded that they are disappointed, they have reached out to additional countries, and their standard is much stronger than other countries' standards. They will continue to drive the process and the process is open to safety advocates, and hoped that they would reconsider their decision.
3. Technical committee is scheduled to meet within two weeks.
4. The summary sheet that outlines the differences between the proposed draft and the current provisional standard has been reviewed.
5. Michael Hollander asked if there are any exceptions to the product categories in the standard, Tom Merker responded that all corded window coverings are included.

6. Tom Merker asked that all additional comments on the proposed language be sent to Tim Bennett for the technical committee review.
7. Inner cords and App C test procedure:
  - Rana Balci-Sinha asked that the rationale be added into the standard for all dimensions referenced.
  - Stephen Drew stated that there is no definition of the open and closed construction in Section 3. Tom Merker and Jim Anthony thought that the appendix is the most appropriate place.
  - Michael Hollander asked how the inner cord in a cord would be tested. Rich Watkins stated that the cord outside is a cord shroud. Rana Balci-Sinha suggested that any cord that fails the accessibility test should be tested individually per Appendix D. Issue will be reviewed by the task group.
8. Looped cords:
  - Rana Balci-Sinha stated that the tension device (TD) making the shade inoperable unless the TD is installed was proposed in the previous working document but in the current draft, it has been removed. She asked the reason of going back to the “partial inoperability” clause. Tom stated that there are no technical solutions and that the consumer is being encouraged to install the TD per section 6.5.3.
  - In addition, the anchors are not required to be provided by the manufacturer anymore, which is again a step back from the previous language. Response was that in furniture industry, the anchors are not being provided. Manufacturers may choose to add anchors.
  - Steve Birtles mentioned about a move in EU: If the height of the window covering is 2.5 meters or less, then the loop length should be 1 meter, which leaves the bottom 1.5 meter free of loops. If the height is over 2.5 meters, then loop length should be 1.5 meter. There was a discussion on the Australian requirement of a safe zone, which has a fixed 1.6-meter length from the floor. Steve Birtles asked if the breakaways on looped cords are still excluded and Tom Merker responded yes.
9. Wide lift band: Stephen Drew asked if the study has been completed. Tom Merker and Joe Cannaverde stated that the study has been completed and the task group will meet the following week to review the results.
10. Warning label on the packaging: A very specific language will be added to the retail packaging, the pictogram is still open. Intent is to highlight the hazard. Steve B. indicated that EU is looking at the information on packaging as well and international imagery is to be preferred.
11. Operating cords: Rana Balci-Sinha asked about the results of the Intertek study. Tom Merker responded that the study did not have anything conclusive. He added that industry is not comfortable with the current solutions to move ahead and the proposed standard supports innovation.
12. Testing: Steve Birtles asked about who would perform the testing (e.g., component supplier, manufacturer of the blind). Technical committee will look at the component versus system-level testing.
13. General comments:

- Bob Ochsman asked for a detailed document justifying why the proposed language fell short of the WCMA's promise on minimizing the hazards associated with free hanging operating cords and looped cords. Ralph Vasami responded that they would draft a document.
- Joe Jankoski stated that consumer awareness and education are paramount particularly considering the millions of existing window coverings in homes. He said that after the industry-wide recall for Roman shades was announced, a significant increase in the requests for the retrofit kits supplied by WCSC occurred.

14. Next meeting is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> in DC.

15. Meeting was adjourned.