

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

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7-12-05 AB

SUBJECT: WCMA Technical Meeting on window covering cords

DATE OF MEETING: May 18, 2005

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Caroleene Paul

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: May 25, 2005

LOCATION: Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel, Newark, NJ

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Caroleene Paul, ESME

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Cliff Birch	Levolor Kirsch
Ken Chang	Nien Made
Richard Hudnut	WCMA
Joseph F. Jankoski	Hunter Douglas
Carolynn Jennings	WCMA
Ren Judkins	TechStyles
David Levonick	RollEase
Thomas J. Marusak	Comfortex Window Fashions
Phillip McGreevy	3 Day Blinds
Rory McNeil	TechStyles
John E. Morris	Springs Window Fashions

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Voluntary Standard Requirements

- Section 5.1.1 *Generic Warning Bottom Rail Label(s)*: sub-requirement 5.1.1.1 was proposed that allows for reduced size label on products where width limitations prevent use of larger label specified in 5.1.1. Sample of reduced sized label was presented.
- Section 3 *Definitions*: proposal made to modify term "cord" to "operating cord", with definition unchanged.
- Section 3 *Definitions*: proposal made to revise definition for Inner Cord to "That portion of an operating cord between the head rail and the moving rail(s) that helps to suspend and lift the bottom rail and any horizontal louvers or fabric collected upon it at any position, raised or lowered."
- Section 3 *Definitions*: following definition for the term passive was proposed "A window-covering product component that operates without the direct interaction of the user, as opposed to an active device which is activated and operates by the direct interaction of the user."

- Section 4 *Product Requirements*: proposal made to streamline requirements into two groups, addressing hazards in operating cords and addressing hazards in inner cords.
- Section 4.3.8 was tabled until the next meeting because it currently does not address hazardous loop above a cord connector. This hazard should be addressed.
- Section 5.2 *Operational Hang Tags*: J. Morris and C. Paul will draft wording that stipulates use of hang tags on products with accessible cords (specifically, how to address cordless products with accessible inner cords)
- Section A1.2.2.2: Ren Judkins volunteered to evaluate the current proposal by testing multiple break away device per the draft; sufficiency of language and methodology will be ascertained.
- several samples and designs of break away devices were presented by Ren Judkins

Passive Inner Cord Lock In Head Rail

- Red Judkins presented a constant spring lock design that provides passive locking of the inner cord in the head rail. A multi-cam design was presented for products with multiple cords. This design does not consistently meet the 10 lbf pull force requirement on inner cords.

Break Away Test Method

- C. Paul presented a brief outline of the history behind the development of the test procedure for break away tassels.
- C. Paul will send copies of the outline to WCMA members.
- Tom Marusak clarified that testing by independent labs indicate that the current test procedure using the originally specified anthropometric dummy does not produce repeatable results. Testing with the new replacement dummy produces even more erratic test results.
- C. Paul will discuss these limitations with CPSC staff and work with task group to develop new test procedures.

Next Meeting:

June 30, 2005 location TBD