U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Log of Meeting

SUBJECT: WCMA Technical Meeting on window covering cords

DATE OF MEETING: April 6, 2005

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Caroleene Paul c.Q.

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: April 8, 2005

LOCATION: Georgia International Convention Center, GA

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Caroleene Paul, ESME

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Cliff Birch
Ken Chang
Mike Cienian
Alan Duggan
Krister HardAlsager
Joseph F. Jankoski
Carolyn Jennings
Ren Judkins
Zina Juroch
David Levnick
Thomas J. Marusak
Phillip McCreery
Tom Merker
John E. Morris
Hsin Wang
Levolor Kirsch
Nien Made
Springs Window Fashions
Lewis Hyman
IKEA
Hunter Douglas
WCMA
TechStyles
Pier One Imports
RollEase
Comfortex Window Fashions
3 Day Blinds
Springs Window Fashions
Springs Window Fashions
Nien Made

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Lead Testing -- a link to an on-line survey regarding lead testing will be sent to WCMA members because some have not received the previous email (possibly due to spam filters).

The Technical Sub-Committee Report Follow-up (which includes incidents from 1996 to 2004) was presented. The following points were summarized:

- total of 99 incidents, of which 82 contained sufficient information to analyze
- 60% involved conventional cord lift systems, 40% continuous loop operation systems
- 3/4 involved pull cords, 1/4 involved inner cords
- most products appeared to be manufactured before standard became industry effective
- 1/3 involved loops caused by consumer alteration
- 2/3 involved loops that were part of the product design -- continuous cords, single tassels, etc.
- 85% did not conform to the voluntary standard
- of those that did conform to the std, consumer alteration defeated the provision
- 2 cases warrant further review; 1 involving a stop ball the other an inner cord loop formed by raising of the bottom rail

Samples -- Techstyles will present samples (of a break away device for multiple cords and a bottom rail lock) at the next meeting.

Voluntary Standard Requirements:
- Tom Merker and Caroleene Paul will work on definition for the term "passive"
- Tom Merker, C. Paul, and Phil McGreevy will revise section 4 to address cordless products, single cord products, and multiple cords with single tassel products
- The term "permanent" will be added to the label requirements per definition presented by IKEA

Appendix A -- Test Procedure For Cord Release Devices:
- the referenced anthropometric dummy is no longer available because it has been replaced
- Comfortex obtained the new replacement dummy and determined that the test procedures do not produce the same results as those for the original dummy; in fact, the test results with the replacement dummy are not consistent or repeatable
- the head/chin of the replacement dummy is very pliable (same section is rigid on original dummy) and difficult to maintain at a 45 degree angle as specified in the test procedures
- Comfortex recommends that the test procedure be reviewed to determine why the original dummy was specified, how the force applications were determined, and if a new test can be developed that does not require the original dummy
- C. Paul will investigate the rationale used to develop the original test procedure

Milestones
- WCMA would like to publish a revised standard by early 2006 -- therefore, all work should be completed by August 31st for review, with ballot submission sometime in mid-October

Next Meeting:

May 18, 2005 in Newark, NJ