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

**SUBJECT:** WCMA Technical Committee Meeting

**DATE OF MEETING:** May 13, 2010

**LOCATION:** Atlanta, GA

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

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** May 18, 2010

**CPSC ATTENDEES:** Rana Balci-Sinha, Human Factors  
Craig Masi, Compliance  
Renae Rauchschalbe, Compliance  
Suad Wanna-Nakamura, Health Sciences

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEES:** Contact WCMA for the list of attendees.

### SUMMARY OF MEETING:

- 1) Proposed roman shade test procedure:
  - a. Determination of Cord Accessibility:

An L-shaped hook with a straight portion longer than the previously suggested S-hook's is proposed to build the accessibility probe. Objective is to accurately simulate a child's finger length.
  - b. Hazardous Loop and Entanglement Scenarios:
    - i. ASTM F406 small head probe is to be used for both entanglement and hazardous loop scenarios.
    - ii. The cord will be pulled with a force of 5 lbs or less in hazardous loop creation scenario. The head probes will be inserted with a force of 10 lbs or less in both entanglement and hazardous loop scenarios.
    - iii. All openings up to a certain dimension below the head rail are to be tested. Twelve inches below the head rail was an agreeable dimension at the present time.
    - iv. WCMA is to commission a study to investigate children's pull strength that is applicable to corded window coverings.
    - v. To address Health Canada's concern with the restraining bar potentially impeding the passage of the head probe, which may occur in some borderline cases, an alternative plate/bar with thinner depth is being explored.

- c. Rear cord release device test procedure:
  - i. This test to be applied to any hazardous loop on the rear cord of roman shade. WCMA will commission a study to investigate the pressure around the neck, particularly in a cord wrap-around scenario. As soon as data is available, necessary changes will be made into the cord release device test procedure.
  - ii. Since the proposed breakaway test procedure is provisional and a further study is being planned, guidance needs to be given to the readers. Ralph Vasami will investigate the ANSI procedure to determine if this particular section can have an expiration date that is separate and sooner than the overall standard's, due to the procedure's interim nature.
  - iii. Health Canada raised a question on why an 8-lb weight is being used for the test procedure while a 3-lb release force is referenced in the cord release device procedure within the current standard. Patrick Foley responded that the nature of the roman shades and possible strangulation scenarios differed from lifting loops of the roll-up blinds or conventional operating cords. Therefore, a scientific study is needed to define the pressure around the child's neck in foreseeable inner cord strangulation scenarios and then the results of the study will be used to refine the breakaway test procedure applicable to roman shades.
- 2) Roll-up Blind Lifting Loops - Cord Release Test Procedure:
  - a. Cord release test procedure that is currently in the standard (section A1.3.4.4) has been specifically geared towards breakaway tassels in conventional operating cords. A separate language may be needed after a comparative force study is completed between breakaway devices located on the head rail of roll-up blinds and breakaway tassels on the conventional operating cords.
  - b. Robert LeBlanc who is leading the roll-up blind task group will draft a language for a test procedure regarding breakaway mechanisms on lifting loops.
- 3) Top-Down-Bottom-Up (TDBU) Shades:
 

The effort on addressing the risk factors and exploring possible solutions associated with TDBU shade has been delayed due to the work on roman shades.
- 4) Continuous Loop Control Systems:
  - a. CPSC reiterated the significant risk associated with continuous loop control systems (e.g., looped bead chains and looped nylon cords) based on past incident data. Health Canada concurred with CPSC's concern.
  - b. A new task group will be formed to investigate safety measures associated with the continuous loops and develop new requirements. This issue takes precedence over the TDBU shades if both issues cannot be worked on concurrently.
- 5) Warning Labels:
 

CPSC asked about the progress on adding a warning label on the packaging of in-stock products that have accessible cords or hazardous loops. Several approvals including legal are needed but the concept has been agreed upon.