

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

**SUBJECT:** WCMA Technical Meeting on window covering cords

**DATE OF MEETING:** October 26, 2004

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Caroleene Paul *C.P.*

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** December 8, 2004

**LOCATION:** Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel, Newark, NJ

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Caroleene Paul, ESME

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):**

Cliff Birch	Levolor Kirsch
Richard Hudnut	WCMA
Carolynn Jennings	WCMA
Ren Judkins	Nien Made
Joseph Kovach	Hunter Douglas
David Levonick	RollEase
Tom Marusak	Comfortex
Phillip McGreevy	3 Day Blinds
Rory McNeil	TechStyles
John Morris	Springs
Chris Outlaw	Hunter Douglas
Howard Siegal	Achim Imports

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

*Inner Cord Pull Force Requirement*

C. Paul reported that the 10 lbf pull force requirement in the standard is consistent with the tension test in toy regulations for the same age group. CPSC is unlikely to compromise on this value without persuasive evidence. However, CPSC would highly encourage the use of an inner cord lock in the headrail in products where the 10 lbf pull requirement can be met. Especially if those products are involved in the majority of the inner cord fatalities reviewed in the special study. For products that cannot yet use an inner cord lock in the headrail that meets the 10 lbf pull requirement, use of the inner cord stops may continue to be used. The current wording of the standard requirements allow for inner cord locks in the headrail as well as inner cord stops on the pull cords.

*Test Procedures For Break Away Devices*

The current wording of the test procedures do not specify that all possible loops in a break away device must be tested. C. Paul, Tom Marusak, and Rory McNeil will draft wording to address this. Some

**CPSC (CIVIL) CLEARED for PUBLIC**

**NO UNAPPROVED OR  
PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED**

**EXCEPTED BY: PETITION  
RULEMAKING ADMIN. PROCDG**

**WITH PORTIONS REMOVED:**

*12-9-04*

concerns were raised that the manufacturer of the test dummy specified in the standard has replaced that model with an upgraded version. Tom Marusak will perform calibration tests on both the old and new dummies to verify that there is no effect on the test results.

#### *Glossary Of Terms*

Rory McNeil, Tom Marusak, and Ren Judkins will incorporate the draft glossary of terms into sections of the voluntary standard as appropriate.

#### *Warning Label For Inner Cord Stops*

A draft warning label from C.Paul and John Morris on the importance of properly adjusting inner cord stops was reviewed and discussed. It was decided that the warning information should be added to the operational hang tag instead of creating a new hang tag. C. Paul and John Morris will draft a new operational hang tag for stock products with inner cord stops.

#### *Request To Window Covering Safety Council (WCSC) Regarding Inner Cord Stops*

C. Jennings will draft a formal request to WCSC asking that they help raise awareness regarding the issue of "pooling" vanes.

#### *Tension Devices*

Tom Marusak presented draft requirement that window coverings with continuous cord operations be fully or partially inoperable if the provided tension device is not properly installed. The draft was discussed and it will be sent to ballot for formal comment.

#### *Top Down/Bottom Up Products*

The products' operation system was discussed at length. More discussion is required. At the next meeting, sample products will be provided to supplement the discussions.

#### *Warning Label Recommendations*

Table to next meeting.

#### *Next Steps*

- reconvene task group to review fatal reports for 2003; review shall occur before next full technical meeting
- ideas on how to ensure that all window covering manufacturers have a copy of ANSI/WCMA A100.1 in their possession

#### *Next Meeting*

January 27, 2005 in Los Angeles, CA