

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

*Approved for Release by NSA on 05-08-2013 pursuant to E.O. 13526*

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** February 6, 2003

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Caroleene Paul c.p.

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** February 10, 2003

**LOCATION:** WCMA headquarters, New York, NY

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

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

Joseph F. Jankoski	Hunter Douglas Window Fashions
Carolynn R. Jennings	WCMA
Thomas J. Marusak	Comfortex Window Fashions
Barbara Miller	Sumner Rider & Associates
John E. Morris	Springs Window Fashions
Raymond E. Randall	Comfortex Window Fashions

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

Industry representatives expressed an interest in collaboration with the CPSC to establish root causes of the deaths associated with window covering cords. The diversity of products in the current market may preclude a blanket solution to eliminating hazards associated with window covering products.

CPSC staff proposed a review of all incident reports from 1991 to the present by both industry representatives and CPSC staff. A structured outline for analysis of the data will be agreed upon by both parties. Any differences in opinions of specific incidents will be resolved through cooperative discussion/analysis. Each report will be reference by its IDI number. Information from each report will be sequentially coded following the outline.

CPSC 5 (b)(1) Cleared 2-14-03  
 No Mfrs/PrvtLblrs or  
Products Identified  
\_\_\_\_ Excepted by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Firms Notified, \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments Processed.

A preliminary outline was drafted as follows:

Field	Description/Title	Rationale
1.	Type of product -- vertical, horizontal, cellular, shades, etc.	identifies what type of products are involved
2a.	Operating system type -- lift cords, continuous cord, etc.	identifies what components are present to pose hazard
2b.	Operating system design -- looped operating cords, multiple cords, cord stop, etc.	explains how system works, why certain components are present
3.	Loop formation (includes cord wrap around neck)	
	• victim caused	explains if child formed loop or wrapped cord around neck
	• consumer caused	explains if consumer tied up cords or improperly installed safety device
	• product design (meets standard)	identifies products designed with loop that meet standard
	• product design (does not meet standard)	identifies products designed with loops that do not meet standard

The priority and purpose of data analysis will be identification of product characteristics that contributed to loop formation that resulted in strangulation. CPSC staff emphasized that elimination of cords or limitation of exposed cords to 7.25 inches are two direct solutions to cord strangulation regardless of the circumstances surrounding the incident. However, CPSC staff is willing to concede that data analysis may reveal an alternative solution. Industry representatives conceded that data analysis may fully support cord elimination or exposed cord limitations as the only possible solution.

#### Schedules:

CPSC staff and industry representatives will finalize the outline via a conference call meeting on March 25, 2003. Industry representatives will provide comprehensive descriptions of the possible operating system types (Field 2a.) and operating system designs (Field 2b.).

Although CPSC staff will begin analysis of data before the WCMA sub-committee, review and agreement of each incident will be a continuous process. It is not the intent that CPSC will first review the data en masse and then provide to WCMA sub-committee for review and agreement.