

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

SUBJECT: WCMA Roman Shade task group meeting

DATE OF MEETING: October 1, 2008

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

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: October 8, 2008

LOCATION: WCMA headquarters, New York, NY

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Caroleene Paul, ESME

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Jim Anthony	Hunter Douglas
Joe Cannaverde	RollEase
Patrick Foley	Levolor Kirsch
Joe Jankoski	Hunter Douglas
Brian Johnson	Levolor Kirsch
Ren Judkins	Consultant
Robert LeBlanc	Lewis Hyman, Inc.
Rory McNeil	Consultant
Tom Merker	Springs Window Fashions
Caroleene Paul	CPSC
Tim Bennett	WCMA Staff
Michael Tierney	WCMA Staff

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The group viewed a news video which highlighted the hazards on inner cords of Roman Shade and the lack of warning to consumers of those hazards to children.

The group developed a list of factors that influence the risks on Roman Shades. Possible design solutions that address those factors were presented and discussed. The risks in stock versus non-stock products were discussed as well.

The voluntary standard definition of a loop was discussed at length, along with the exact mechanism by which strangulation occurs. CPSC staff pointed out the different intentions behind the 6" loop criteria (which is intended to prevent a head from entering a loop) and the mechanism by which strangulation occurs (pressure of cord on neck).

The group discussed short term and long term goals. Short term goals would address consumer, retailer, and manufacturer awareness by way of some kind of safety alert and immediate development and use of a warning hang tag. Tom Merker and Joe Jankoski offered to develop the warning message and hang tag.

Long term goals would address the hazard through product design and revision of the voluntary standard. Jim Anthony offered to chair a task group to develop test methods and criteria (for eventual adoption in the voluntary standard) to address the identified hazards/risks in Roman Shades.

Recommendations will be made at the next Technical Committee meeting scheduled for October 8, 2008 (via teleconference call and online GoToMeeting).

**WCMA Task Group
October 1, 2008
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET**

Attendees

Jim Anthony	Hunter Douglas
Joe Cannaverde	RollEase
Patrick Foley	Levolor Kirsch
Joe Jankoski	Hunter Douglas
Brian Johnson	Levolor Kirsch
Ren Judkins	Consultant
Robert LeBlanc	Lewis Hyman, Inc.
Rory McNeil	Consultant
Tom Merker	Springs Window Fashions
Caroleene Paul	CPSC
Tim Bennett	WCMA Staff
Michael Tierney	WCMA Staff

Tom Merker called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and Tim Bennett reviewed the antitrust guidelines.

The attendees planned the session to focus on roman shades. Future task group efforts would come back to roll-up, natural, and top-down-bottom up designs. The day's goal would be to provide recommendations to the technical committee.

All related loop and cord definitions were reviewed for their applicability to roman shade designs and testing, resulting in the proposed changes and additions below:

Accessible Cords "Accessible" cords are the cords, which can be accessed and pulled, to create a free standing cord loop.

Accessible Inner Cords "Accessible" inner cords are the inner cords, which can be accessed and pulled, to create a free standing cord loop.

Cord or Bead Loop A curving or doubling of a bead chain or cord.

Combined Loop A loop formed by a combination of cord and blind, or cord and shade material that results in an opening between the parts comprising the loop.

A news video which included discussion of roman shades was viewed by the group.

The committee then performed a review of risk factors and possible design alternatives. A number of roman shades were provided by members and examined. Jim Anthony offered to chair a task group that would develop test methods and criteria to evaluate aspects of roman shades. Tom Merker, Joe Cannaverde, Patrick Foley, Robert Leblanc, and Ren Judkins volunteered to serve on the subgroup.

For consideration by the full committee, the task group also identified a number of actions which could be implemented prior to the completion of the standard:

Creation of an inner cord warning tag: The tag would be long enough to show to the lower front of the shade, bringing purchaser's attention to the tag. New product would be required to include the tag. The requirement would also be added to the draft standard for future publication. Tom Merker will develop the pictographs.

Communication of potential roman shade inner cord danger: Announcements and bulletins would be distributed to manufacturers, retailers, and consumers, through WCSC and other effective outlets. Joe Jankowski offered to draft language and coordinate.