

**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 *cq.*

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

~~CPSC (BANK) CLEARED FOR PUBLIC~~

* NO MFRS/PRTLBLRS OR PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED

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

~~WITH PORTIONS REMOVED:~~

4-14-05
SB



- 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