

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES, SOFTLINES

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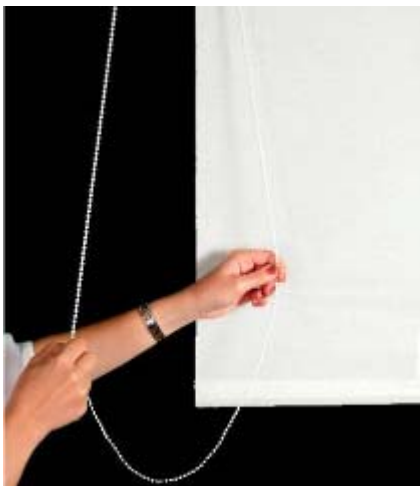
NEW REVISION ANSI/WCMA A100.1-2010 SAFETY OF CORDED WINDOW COVERING PRODUCTS

There have been many recalls in the past years within the U.S. and Canada because of strangulation hazard caused by the looped cords. To reduce the risk of injury/strangulation among young children using certain products having flexible loop, the members of the Window Covering Manufacturers Association, Inc. (WCMA), have developed a voluntary industry Standard. The standard has been adopted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and published as the American National Standard for Safety of Corded Window Covering Products ANSI/WCMA A100.1. The WCMA Standard calls for safety devices to eliminate, separate, shield or pull tight any looped cords on window coverings as well as four different warning tags or labels.

ANSI/WCMA A100.1-2010 affects all interior drapery hardware and window covering products that incorporate bead chains, cords, or any type of flexible looped device in their operation. The standard applies to all horizontal, vertical and roll-up blinds; cellular, pleated, Roman and roller shades; and traverse drapery rods etc. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has worked with WCMA in providing technical support towards the development of the performance requirements and test methods included in ANSI/WCMA 100.1.



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Hazard

Photo source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerele/prhtml11/11036.html>

Summary of revisions to the updated standard include:

- Added or revised several definitions including a new definition for hazardous loops,
- Added a roll-up style shade warning tag,
- Revised requirements for instructions for length adjustable products, cord shroud devices, tension devices, stock blinds, Roman style shades,
- Added Appendix E note concerning wide lift cords.

The new version was approved on September 3rd, 2010 under the procedures for the publication for a Provisional Standard. The standard includes a compliance deadline at the 6 month mark for roman shades that are manufactured with breakaway devices and continuous loop and bead chain products being manufactured with tension devices. These tension devices must comply with the Section 6.5 of the updated standard by March, 3rd 2011, six months after the approval of the updated standard.

SGS has full capability and experienced test engineers for testing window covering products. Please contact us for your testing needs and further in depth information regarding changes to the standard.

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