

WFCP Report on ANSI/WCMA Progress

Corded Products Standards Update

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Some of you may be aware that on September 3, 2010, WCMA published a new standard for corded shade products. Below is a list of the most important additions, deletions and revisions in the standards, including those in Section 3 which details new and/or revised definitions for hazardous loops, combined loops and accessible cord. **Note: In the following section, revised text is underlined.**

In section 3.1, Accessible Cords have been revised as follows: Cords which are exposed from the front, back, or side of a properly installed window covering product and can be reached and pulled. This language was added to address the liners that are being added to cover back cords. In order to be tested for compliance, this language needed to be added.

In section 3.4, Combined Loop has been added and defined as: A loop formed by a combination of cord and blind material, or cord and shade material that results in an opening between the parts comprising the loop. Bottom line, a hazardous loop is NO LONGER just a loop created from a cord alone. This was added because of issues with Roman shades. It now means a loop can be created that is part cord and part shade or blind material, and if you are using breakaway rings to comply you no longer meet requirements –even if they break away, the loop formed from the fabric and the cord can be defined as a hazardous loop.

In section 3.12, Hazardous Loop has been added and is defined as: With reference to Roman-style shades, roll-up style shades, and cord shroud devices, a combined loop that can be formed on a properly installed window-covering product by reasonable foreseeable manipulation of the accessible cord by the ability of young children that would be large enough to fit over their head to create a strangulation hazard. Loops that are formed by excessive or intricate manipulations, including damaging the product or using tools, of the accessible cord shall be considered as exempt.

In section 3.16, Lift Cord is defined as: The cord(s) used to raise and lower a blind or shade. An internal lift cord is contained inside the body and rails of the blind or shade. An external lift cord is exposed and is not contained within the body or rails of the blind or shade.

In section 3.23, Rear Cord is defined as: A cord that is on the window-facing side of a shade or blind.

In section 3.26, Roman Style Shades definition has been expanded to include those products referenced and commonly known as Austrian shades, balloon shades, soft shades, natural shades, and woven woods. Roman style shades often consist of a flexible fabric with rings, clips, or attachment devices attached to the back. The rings are aligned in columns, and spaced so that the fabric folds or gathers as desired. The fabric is suspended from a headrail that contains hardware for guiding cords and operating the shade. Cords run from the headrail, through a column of rings, and are attached to the lowest ring. As the shade is raised, the fabric gathers from the bottom upwards towards the headrail.

The first thing the standards did was to define and revise terms commonly used terms for corded shade products. Next, the standard deleted prescriptive Roman-style shades requirements and replaced them with performance requirements for determining hazardous loops. Because the standard shifted to a performance requirement, new test requirements were added. In other words, you first test the shade product for accessible cords, and, if the cords are determined accessible, then you test to see if they will form a hazardous loop. If they do, they are NOT COMPLIANT and should not be sold.

For current updates and additional details on the important topic, go to [NEED A LINK HERE](#). **V**

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