



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

SAFETY ALERT

Blind and curtain cords



**Loose
blind and
curtain cords
can kill**

**Fix them out of reach so kids
are out of danger**

Blind and curtain cord hazards

Loose blind and curtain cords/chains—particularly those with loops—are dangerous.

Children have died when the loop went over their head or they got tangled in loose cords while:

- sleeping in a cot or bed where cords are hanging
- playing near cords
- standing on a chair, sofa or bed to look out a window.

Children do not understand that a cord/chain wrapped around their neck can tighten and strangle them in just a few minutes if they sit down, roll around or climb down to the floor.

Between 2001 and 2008 at least 71 children have died in this way. Nine of these were children under three years of age. In the US, a child aged between seven months and 10 years dies each month after being strangled on curtain and blind cords.



Steps for protecting children

Take these four simple steps to ensure that blind and curtain cords/chains are out of reach of children, particularly from children under six.

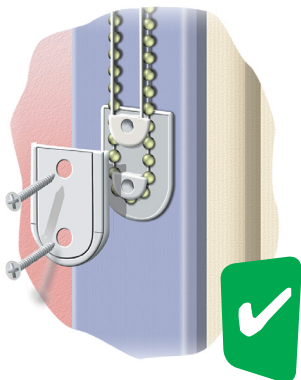
1. Check your blind and curtain cords

- Check for loose or looped cords that your child can reach from the floor or by climbing on furniture.
- Immediately tie cords out of reach and move away any furniture children might climb on to reach them.

Do this anywhere you are staying, including on holiday.

2. Secure your cords out of reach

- Buy cleats or tensioning devices for securing cords from a hardware store or curtain and blind shop.
- Use screws to fix each cleat or tensioning device in a place that is out of reach of children.
- Never secure these devices with materials that may fail when a load is placed on them, such as double-sided tape or glue.



If you cannot fix your unsafe cords and chains out of reach yourself, get a reliable tradesperson to do it for you. If you are renting your home, seek help from your landlord or agent.

3. Choose safe blinds and curtains

Buy new curtains and blinds which:

- comply with the national mandatory standard
- have warning labels to remind you of dangers to children
- provide a way to secure cords/chains so there are no loops or strands that children can reach, or
- operate without exposed cords/chains

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4. Keep children away from all cords/chains

- Move anything a young child can sit in, stand or climb on (like cots, highchairs, beds, sofas, tables, chairs and bookshelves) away from cords/chains—even those tied around a cleat, as your child may be able to untie them.
- Do not let children play near cords/chains they can reach.
- Never leave children alone in a room with cords/chains they can reach.



Further information

For more information about mandatory standards, bans, recalls and emerging issues—and to subscribe to email alerts and RSS feeds—visit our websites:

www.productsafety.gov.au

www.recalls.gov.au

ACCC Infocentre: 1300 302 502

Callers who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact the ACCC through the National Relay Service: www.relayservice.com.au

Voice-only (speak and listen) users phone: 1300 555 727 and ask for 1300 302 502.

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Trade Practices (Consumer Product Safety Standard — Corded Internal Window Coverings) Regulations 2010

Select Legislative Instrument 2010 No.212 as amended

made under the

Trade Practices Act 1974

This compilation was prepared on 27 November 2010 taking into account amendments up to 2010 No. 306

Prepared by the Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing,
Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

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1 Name of Regulations [see Note 1]

These Regulations are the *Trade Practices (Consumer Product Safety Standard — Corded Internal Window Coverings) Regulations 2010*.

2 Commencement [see Note 1]

These Regulations commence on the day after they are registered.

3 Purpose

For subsection 65C (2) of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*, these Regulations prescribe a consumer product safety standard for corded internal window coverings.

4 Application

These Regulations apply to corded internal window coverings supplied after 30 December 2010.

4A Transitional

Starting on 31 December 2010 and ending at the end of 30 June 2011, compliance with an instrument or provision of an instrument mentioned in the following table is taken to be compliance with regulations 6 to 9 if:

- (a) corded internal window coverings are supplied in a State or Territory; and
- (b) the compliance is with the instrument or provision of the instrument made in that State or Territory.

Item Name of instrument

- | Item | Name of instrument |
|------|--|
| 1 | <i>Fair Trading Regulation 2007</i> (NSW), regulation 77 |
| 2 | Fixed term ban order prohibiting the supply of dangerous goods, published in the Victoria Government Gazette No. S 396 on 31 December 2008 |

Regulation 5

Item	Name of instrument
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- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 | <i>Fair Trading Regulation 2001</i> (Qld), Schedule 5B |
| 4 | Order (Curtain Blind Cords), published in the Government Gazette of Western Australia No. 15 on 23 January 2004, and Amendment to Order (Curtain Blind Cords), published in the Government Gazette of Western Australia No. 65 on 16 April 2004 |
| 5 | Declaration of Dangerous Goods, published in the South Australian Government Gazette No. 6 on 22 January 2009 |
| 6 | Sale of Hazardous Goods Order 2004 (Tas), Part 3 |
| 7 | <i>Fair Trading (Consumer Product Safety Standards) Regulation 2009</i> (ACT), Schedule 11 |
| 8 | Prohibition of Supply of Goods, dated 13 February 2009 (NT) |
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5 Definitions

In these Regulations:

cleat means a device that has a bar with arms around which a cord can be wound, and that can be attached to a wall or other structure.

cord means a rope, strap, string, chain, line or wire used to manipulate a corded internal window covering.

corded internal window covering means:

- (a) a window covering such as a curtain or blind; or
- (b) fittings used with a window covering, such as a traverse rod or track;

that can be used inside a building and has a cord.

cord guide means a device designed to retract, tension or secure a cord.

retail packaging means the packaging in which a corded internal window covering is supplied when it is offered for retail sale.

6 Standard — corded internal window covering

- (1) The supply of a corded internal window covering must be accompanied by:

-
- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 | <i>Trade Practices (Consumer Product Safety Standard — Corded Internal Window Coverings) Regulations 2010</i> |
|---|---|

- (a) if the window covering is in retail packaging — a warning label on the retail packaging; and
 - (b) a warning label or swing tag attached to the cord; and
 - (c) installation instructions containing the information mentioned in regulation 9; and
 - (d) any components specified in the installation instructions as necessary for cord safety requirements.
- (2) If a cord guide is supplied with a corded internal window covering, the cord guide must be designed:
- (a) to remain firmly attached to a wall or other structure specified in the installation instructions when subjected to a tension force of 70 N applied in any direction for 10 seconds; and
 - (b) to prevent the possibility of a cord forming a loop 220 mm or longer at a height of less than 1 600 mm above floor level.

7 Standard — warning on retail package

- (1) The warning label mentioned in paragraph 6(1)(a) must contain the words: ‘WARNING: CURTAIN AND BLIND CORDS HAVE CAUSED THE DEATH OF YOUNG CHILDREN AND MUST BE INSTALLED SO THAT THEY ARE NOT A STRANGLATION HAZARD. FOLLOW THE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS’.
- (2) The words specified in subregulation (1) must be legible, in red upper case letters at least 5 mm high on a white background.

8 Standard — warning on cord

- (1) The warning label or swing tag mentioned in paragraph 6(1)(b) must contain the words: ‘WARNING: Young children have died by wrapping loose curtain and blind cords or chains around their necks. Secure cords or chains with cord guides or keep them out of reach by winding them around a cleat. Move cots and furniture away from window covering cords or chains. Do not remove this label’.

- (2) The words specified in subregulation (1) must be legible, with the word 'WARNING' in upper case letters at least 5 mm high and the other words in lower case letters at least 1.5 mm high.

9 Standard — installation instructions

The installation instructions mentioned in paragraph 6 (1) (c) must include:

- (a) a statement that, to avoid creating a possible strangulation hazard for children, the corded internal window covering must be installed in such a way that a loose cord cannot form a loop 220 mm or longer at a height of less than 1 600 mm above floor level; and
- (b) practical suggestions on how to install the corded internal window covering to ensure compliance with paragraph (a), including:
- (i) a statement that a cord guide may be installed lower than 1 600 mm above floor level if the cord is sufficiently secured or tensioned to prevent a loop 220 mm or longer from being formed; and
 - (ii) a statement that if a cord guide is installed lower than 1 600 mm above floor level it must be designed to prevent a child from being able to remove the cord; and
 - (iii) a statement that if a cleat is used to secure the cord it must be at least 1 600 mm above floor level because a child is capable of unwinding a cord from a cleat.

Table of Instruments

Notes to the *Trade Practices (Consumer Product Safety Standard — Corded Internal Window Coverings) Regulations 2010*

Note 1

The *Trade Practices (Consumer Product Safety Standard — Corded Internal Window Coverings) Regulations 2010* (in force under the *Trade Practices Act 1974*) as shown in this compilation comprise Select Legislative Instrument 2010 No. 212 amended as indicated in the Tables below.

Table of Instruments

Year and Number	Date of FRLI registration	Date of commencement	Application, saving or transitional provisions
2010 No. 212	9 July 2010 (see F2010L01930)	10 Jul 2010	
2010 No. 306	26 Nov 2010 (see F2010L03089)	27 Nov 2010	—

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Table of Amendments

Table of Amendments

ad. = added or inserted am. = amended rep. = repealed rs. = repealed and substituted

Provision affected	How affected
R. 4A.....	ad. 2010 No. 306

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