



TM

**make it  
safe**

**BBSA**®  
BRITISH BLIND & SHUTTER ASSOCIATION



## **Legal requirements for internal window blinds**

**Surveyor and installer guide for  
made-to-measure blinds**

# “Make it Safe”

says Mum of three, Rachael Maynard



“My daughter, Megan, became entangled in a window blind chain in her bedroom when she was two and a half years old. She spent four days in hospital on a life support machine before we knew she was going to recover. Something as simple as an unrestrained window blind cord or chain can present a real danger to young children but with awareness and by taking some simple actions, any hazard can be eliminated.

**Make sure you always Make it Safe.”**

# It's the Law!

## Which products?


All internal blinds with cords or chains which could create a hazard.

## Where?

- All homes
- All public buildings
- Areas of commercial buildings where children aged between 0-42 months are likely to have access or be present

## What?

- Limitations on cord and chain lengths
- The installation of safety devices on cords or chains
- Testing of safety devices
- Product warning notices
- Product instructions



The General Product Safety Regulations, 2005 place an obligation on all businesses to supply and professionally install safe products. The revision to BS EN 13120:2009+A 1:2014 defines a safe product within these Regulations.

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[www.makeitsafe.org.uk](http://www.makeitsafe.org.uk)

# Introduction

The 2014 changes to the child safety requirements of BS EN 13120:2009+A1:2014 place an obligation on all in the industry to sell and install compliant products.

The requirements affect all homes and all public buildings and possibly some areas of commercial buildings.

## Surveyors

- Sell inherently child safe products first - often called Safe by Design - especially if access to the cords is difficult, for example: obstructions or if the client has a disability
- If you have to use a blind that requires safety devices - either integral (built in) or non-integral (require separate fitting) you must advise the customer and agree how and where such devices will be used/fitted

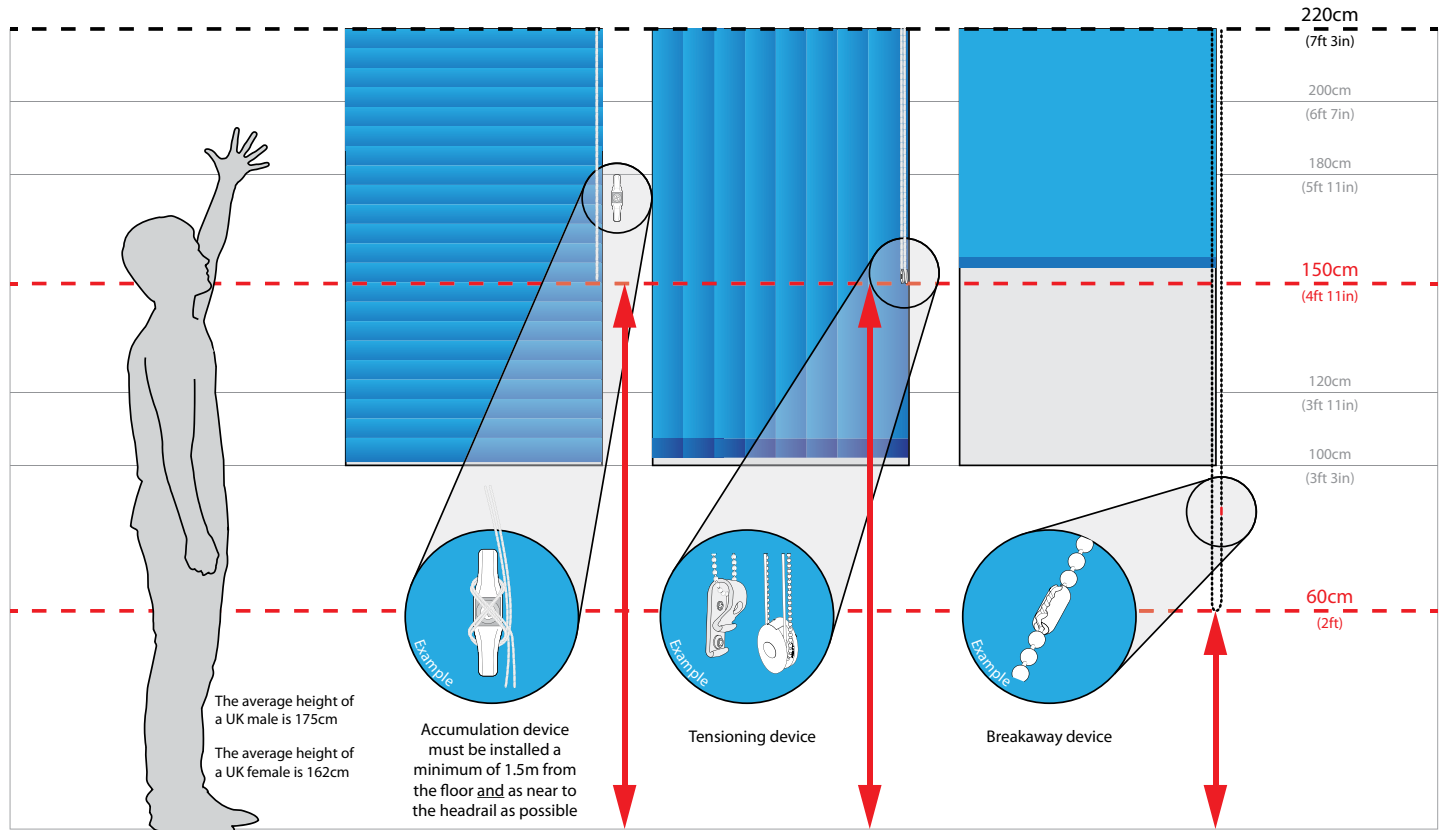
## Installers

You must install the blinds as required by the standard.

- Any supplementary safety devices must be securely fitted
- All warnings should be left on the product
- Product instructions must be left with the customer
- The customer should be shown how the blind and safety device(s) work



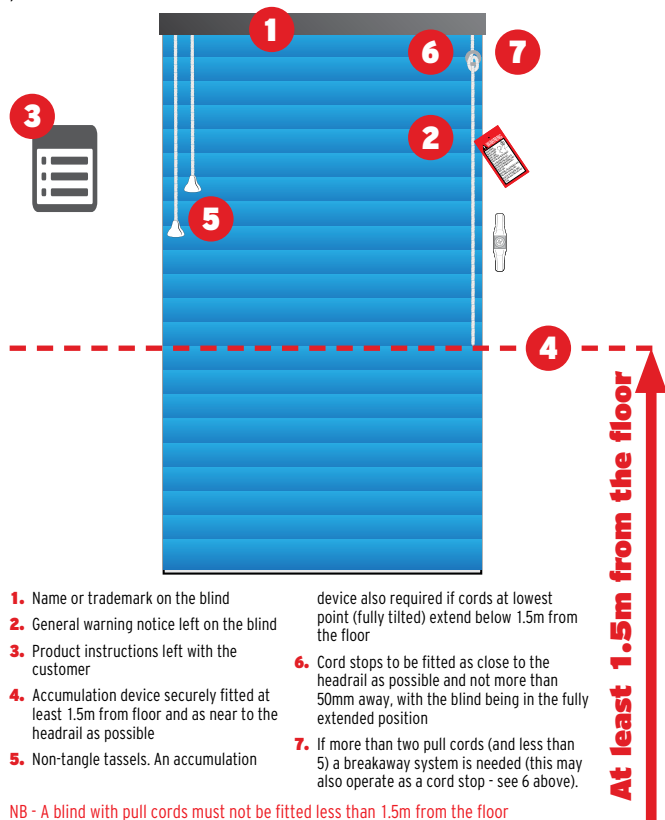
# Maximum cord and chain lengths where fitting height is known



# Blinds with pull cords

## accumulation devices

Examples - Blinds with/without cord locks such as venetian, roman and pleated



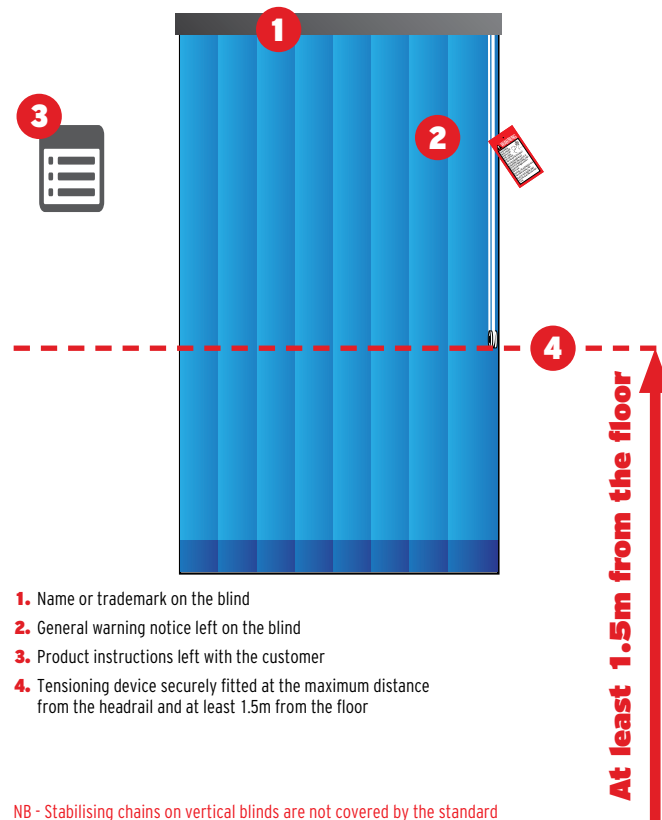
1. Name or trademark on the blind
2. General warning notice left on the blind
3. Product instructions left with the customer
4. Accumulation device securely fitted at least 1.5m from floor and as near to the headrail as possible
5. Non-tangle tassels. An accumulation device also required if cords at lowest point (fully tilted) extend below 1.5m from the floor
6. Cord stops to be fitted as close to the headrail as possible and not more than 50mm away, with the blind being in the fully extended position
7. If more than two pull cords (and less than 5) a breakaway system is needed (this may also operate as a cord stop - see 6 above).

NB - A blind with pull cords must not be fitted less than 1.5m from the floor

# Blinds with looped cords/chains

## tensioning devices

Examples - Blinds with side chain/cord operation such as rollers, verticals, romans and venetians

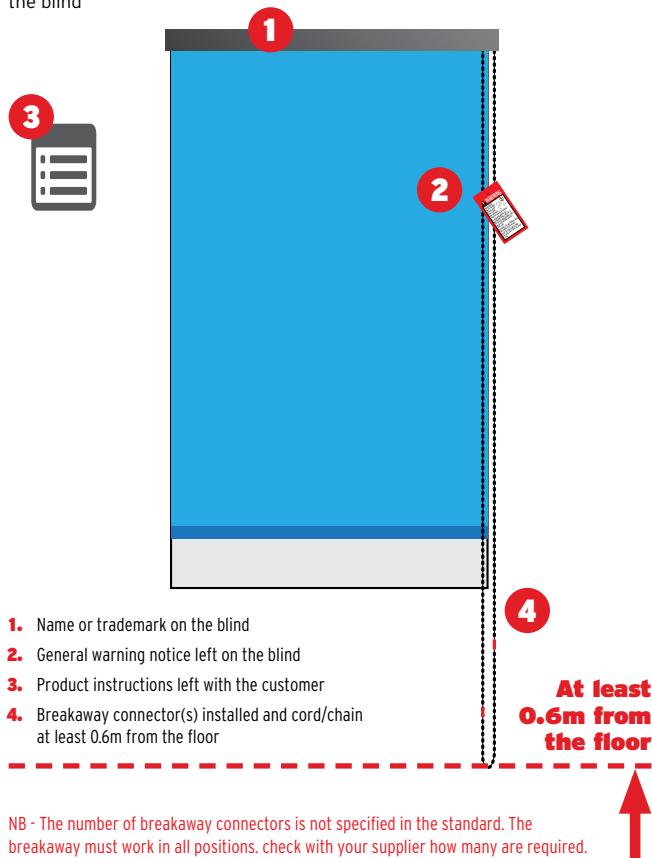


1. Name or trademark on the blind
2. General warning notice left on the blind
3. Product instructions left with the customer
4. Tensioning device securely fitted at the maximum distance from the headrail and at least 1.5m from the floor

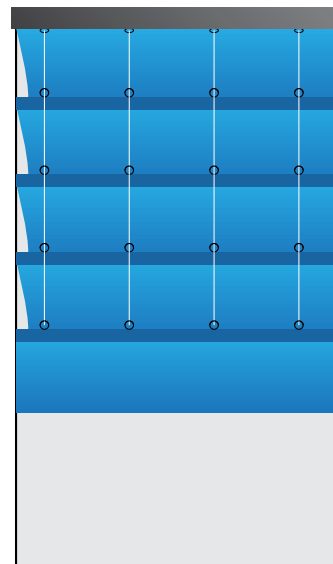
NB - Stabilising chains on vertical blinds are not covered by the standard

# Blinds with breakaway devices

**Examples** - Blinds with side chain/cord operation where the full length of the cord or chain does not go through the mechanism to fully raise/lower the blind



# Roman blind lift cords



If the maximum distance between two consecutive attachment/retention points of inner cords is less than or equal to 200mm and it is not possible to insert the head probe then you should not need a breakaway system.

**<= 200mm**

If the blind does not meet these criteria a compliant safety system must be used on the lift/rear cords.

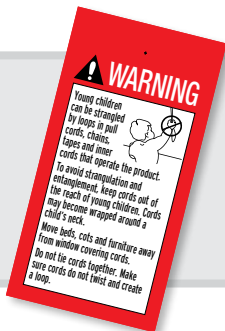
## Operating cords and chains

The requirements for operating cords and chains will be dependent on the safety device(s) used - see pages 8 to 10.

# Warning notices

## General warning notice

Wording and size of text is determined by the standard



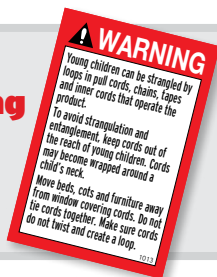
## Non-integral warning notice

Children can strangle if this safety device is not installed. Always use this device to keep cords or chains out of reach of children.

Wording and size of text is determined by the standard

## Warning notice (label) on packaging directed to the consumer

Wording is determined by the standard



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