WINDOW COVERING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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Window Covering Manufacturers Association Announces Update to Window Covering Safety Standard

New York, NY, January 27, 2023 – The Window Covering Manufacturers Association (WCMA) announced today the approval of the updated voluntary window covering safety standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) that will require the vast majority of all window covering products sold in the United States to be cordless or to have inaccessible or short cords. The revised updated safety standard, ANSI/WCMA A100.1-2022, strengthens window-covering safety by eliminating the use of free hanging operating cords, free hanging tilt cords and multiple cord connectors on all made-to-order custom window covering products. The revised standard will require over 95% of all window covering products sold in the U.S. to be cordless or have inaccessible cords once compliance with the new safety standard is in place. Stock products, which are pre-packaged products sold in stores and online and are only available in select product types and in a limited range of sizes, account for more than 80 percent of all window covering products sold in the U.S. These products are already required to be cordless or have inaccessible cords or short cords as a result of WCMA's 2018 update to the standard.

In addition, the 2022 revision to the standard prohibits the use of continuous cord loops and bead chains on all horizontal slatted custom products and adds enhanced performance requirements for permitted categories of custom products utilizing retractable cord operating systems, rigid shrouds, and continuous cord loop operating systems with tension devices.

The compliance date for the new standard for all companies manufacturing, distributing or selling window covering products in the U.S. is June 1, 2024. This means that all products manufactured after this date must comply with the new standard.

"The revised safety standard addresses U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) incident data showing these changes will have the most significant and immediate impact on reducing the strangulation risk to young children from certain window covering cords," said WCMA Executive Director, Ralph Vasami.

Corded window coverings will only be available as custom-order products using retractable cord or continuous cord loop operating systems with tension devices, as corded products are still needed by a specific range of consumers, including the elderly and those with disabilities, those short in stature, those with large windows or windows in hard-to-reach locations, and in commercial buildings.

"All companies who manufacture, distribute, or sell window coverings in the U.S. must comply with ANSI/WCMA standard or face enforcement action by the CPSC and/or be open to legal action if non-compliant products are sold," said Vasami. "'Voluntary' simply signifies that industry worked cooperatively with the CPSC, safety experts, and others under the auspices of ANSI to develop the standard."

The revised standard was updated in strict accordance with the internationally respected American National Standards Institute (ANSI) process. ANSI requirements mandate an open and balanced process with public review opportunities. The process required assembling a consensus body (the canvass group), submitting

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the draft standard to the canvass group for ballot and comment, addressing the comments received, re-balloting, a public review period and then finally achieving approval of the standard.

"I congratulate WCMA member companies and all stakeholders who worked on this important update to the standard," continued Vasami. "The elimination of free hanging operating cords, free hanging tilt cords and multiple cord connectors on all custom window covering products is a direct result of ongoing industry innovation, technological advances and new product development."

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About WCMA

Organized in the 1950s as the Venetian Blind Council, the Window Covering Manufacturers Association (WCMA) represents the interests of the window covering industry manufacturers, fabricators and assemblers. Industry products include blinds, shades, shutters, curtains, curtain rods, drapes, drapery hardware and other window treatments. Visit us on the web at www.wcmanet.com.