

Child Safety – Revised standards (status December 2012)

In light of the [EU Commission Decision of 27 July 2011](#), the standard for internal blinds, EN 13120, is under revision. The project of amendment of the standard has been submitted to public enquiry through all member states from April to September 2012. The CEN working group is now studying the comments submitted by all interested parties (manufacturers, installers, consumer associations...). This work should be completed in January 2013.

When published, probably in 2013, the requirements regarding child safety with internal window blinds will be mandatory and will come into effect immediately upon publication of the standard.

There is no doubt that the amendment to EN 13120 will impact the industry as significant modifications in the design of products will have to be made. In addition, revised requirements will apply to packaging and instructions given by manufacturers to their customers.

Some of the key changes for internal blinds operated by cords, ball-chains or similar that may form a hazardous loop will be:

- New requirements, including restrictions on the length of the operating cords or ball-chains, and related tests to verify that no hazardous loops can be formed
- Safety warnings on products and in instruction leaflets
- Requirements for name or trademark of manufacturer or importer and professional installer to be displayed on the product
- New requirements related to safety devices to be integrated in complete internal blinds as well as delivered as such for the retrofit market

The scope of the revised standard has also been expanded to cover all internal window blind types.

To be noted also that EN13120 will be accompanied by two new standards: EN 16433 which deals with the test methods associated to protection from strangulation for complete products and EN 16434 which covers specific requirements related to safety devices integrated in internal blinds.

ES-SO strongly suggest that all involved in internal window blind design, manufacture, supply or installation make sure that they are aware of the anticipated changes so that they can plan to ensure compliance when the standard is published.

More information can be obtained from the national trade associations who are members of ES-SO or national standards bodies in each member state.

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