

## **New Canadian Corded Window Coverings Regulations Proposed To Eliminate Strangulation Hazard**

On June 17, 2017, Health Canada published a draft of new Corded Window Coverings Regulations under Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA) in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I for review. Aiming to eliminate the strangulation hazard and to help reduce the rate of fatal strangulations associated with Corded Window Coverings, the proposed regulations establish requirements for construction, performance, labelling and other information across all market segments.

The proposed regulations, which are going to replace the current regulations, contain the following new requirements, among other things:

- any cord that can be reached must be too short to wrap around the neck of a one-year-old child's neck (i.e. not more than 22 cm in length) or form a loop that can be pulled over a one-year-old child's head (i.e. not more than 44 cm in perimeter)
- any cord that cannot be reached must remain unreachable throughout the useful life of the product
- a warning of the strangulation hazard with instructions to dispose of the product if the cord length or loop perimeter is not compliant with specifications should appear on the product, packaging, instructions and its advertisement

To provide flexibility for small businesses, it is proposed that the new Regulations come into force six months after the day on which they are published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II. During the transition period, the current Corded Window Coverings Regulations will continue to apply to all corded window coverings sold, advertised, imported or manufactured in Canada. This provision would allow the industry time to test their products for compliance and identify options for modifying them as necessary.

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