Irish Standard
I.S. 387:2012

Internal Corded Window Products – Safety Requirements

I.S. 387:2012

Incorporating amendments/corrigenda/National Annexes issued since publication:

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I.S. xxx: Irish Standard – national specification based on the consensus of an expert panel and subject to public consultation.

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Údarás um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann

DECLARATION

OF

SPECIFICATION

ENTITLED

INTERNAL CORDED WINDOW PRODUCTS –

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

AS

THE IRISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR

INTERNAL CORDED WINDOW PRODUCTS –

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

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NSAI in exercise of the power conferred by section 16 (3) of the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act, 1996 (No. 28 of 1996) and with the consent of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, hereby declare as follows:

1. This instrument may be cited as the Standard Specification (Internal corded window products – Safety requirements) Declaration, 2012.

2. (1) The Specification set forth in the Schedule to this declaration is hereby declared to be the standard specification for Internal corded window products – Safety requirements.

(2) The said standard specification may be cited as Irish Standard 387:2012 or as I.S. 387:2012.

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Foreword

This Standard has been prepared by the NSAI Technical Committee on the "Safety of Internal Window Blinds".

This Standard specifies safety requirements for products not included in I.S. EN 13120:2009. Internal blinds – Performance requirements including safety in relation to the manufacture of internal window blinds including safety in use requirements.

I.S. EN 13120:2009 is being revised to cover many of the products specified in this standard.

This Standard will be withdrawn when an EN is published dealing with the same products.

Attention is drawn to I.S. 386, Safety of Corded window products - Guidance for procurement, measuring, manufacture, installation and retrofitting.

Introduction

Many homes have blinds and other window coverings with cords that are used to raise or lower the product (operating cord) or to connect its different parts (inner cord). These cords pose a strangulation hazard to children, as loops can be formed and children can become entangled in them, while playing near the window. Children can also climb on window sills or furniture to access the cords.

Accidents can also happen when beds or cots are placed near windows where cords are within reach of children. In 1998, in a sample of hospitals in the Member States of the European Union, 129 children were hospitalised due to an injury involving a window blind loop or drapery cord. In the United Kingdom, it is estimated that one or two children die every year after becoming entangled in the cords of a blind. More recently, the Commission has become aware of ten fatal accidents involving children aged between 15 and 36 months that occurred in Ireland, Finland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Turkey in the period 2008 to 2010. In the United States 119 fatalities and 111 near-misses involving corded window coverings were reported to have occurred since 1999. In Canada, 28 fatalities and 23 near-misses have been linked to the same products since 1986. In Australia, at least 10 children have been accidentally strangled by blind cords since 2000. However, these figures capture only a part of the problem, as many such accidents are not reported.

Research indicates that most accidental deaths involving internal corded window products happen in bedrooms and the children concerned are aged between 16 months and 36 months. Over half these accidents happen to children around 23 months. Although fully mobile at that age, children find it difficult to free themselves if they become entangled in the cords, as their heads still weigh more in proportion to their bodies compared to adults, and their muscular control is not yet fully developed. In addition, their windpipes have not yet fully developed and are thus smaller and less rigid than in adults and older children, so that they suffocate more quickly if their necks are constricted.

Motorisation can eliminate the risks associated with the operating cords, but not the risks relating to the inner cords. Other window coverings with hazardous cords exposed pose a similar risk to children.

Reports of cord-related accidents give the cause of death as internal asphyxiation. Existing European standards relating to window coverings and blinds do not contain requirements to address this risk. To cover the risk of incorrect installation or lack of installation, manufacturers should improve the design of the safety systems or the window coverings to prevent the product being used if the safety systems are not properly installed. It is therefore necessary to lay down safety requirements to ensure that internal blinds and other corded window coverings are inherently safe for children, eliminating the risk of strangulation and internal asphyxiation due to accessible cords and small parts. In addition to requirements concerning the safe operation of internal corded window products, requirements and product safety information must be also developed for the safety systems.

SCHEDULE

Internal Corded Window Products – Safety Requirements

1 Scope

This standard specifies the safety requirements for internal corded window products (blinds and draperies with accessible cord, chain, ball-chain or similar).

It applies to the following, whatever their design and the nature of the materials used, such as:

— honeycomb and pleated blinds, free hanging, guided and laterally moving;

— Roman shades;

— Austrian blinds / Festoon blinds;

— panel blinds;

— plantation shutters;

— roll-up blinds;

— draperies.

For all other internal blinds (window corded products) please refer to I.S. EN 13120:2009.

These products may be operated manually, with or without compensating springs, or by means of electric motors (power operated products).

This standard is not applicable to internal corded window products (blinds and draperies) which are manufactured before the date of publication of this standard.

This standard should be read in conjunction with I.S. EN 13120:2009, Internal blinds - Performance requirements including safety and I.S. 386:2012, Safety of Corded window products - Guidance for procurement, measuring, manufacture, installation and retrofitting.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

I.S. EN 13120, *Internal blinds – Performance requirements including safety*