

Internal Window Blind Safety Requirements

1. What are the risks?

Risk of fatality where babies and young children become accidentally entangled with internal window blind cords and chains where a loop can be formed.

2. Where?

All homes, **All public building's** & some commercial buildings.

3. Outcome

New standards came into force on 28 February 2014 as required by the Consumer Product Safety Regulations. These Standard covers premises where children 0-42 months are likely to have access or to be present.

4. Standards applicable

BS EN 13120:2009+A1:2014 – Internal blinds: Performance requirements including safety

BS EN 16433:2014 – Internal blinds: Protection from strangulation hazards – Test methods

BS EN 16434:2014 – Internal blinds: Protection from strangulation hazards – Requirements and Test methods for safety devices

In summary the Standards require:

- all safety systems and safety critical items of internal blinds to be tested
- all products to be either inherently safe/'safe by design' (contain no dangerous loops or free hanging cords) or for cords and chains to be provided with safety device(s) at the point of manufacture
- all products containing cords/chains must be securely fitted with safety device(s) supplied during installation to eliminate any potential hazardous loops or entanglement
- all safety devices must be securely fitted at least 1.5m from the floor and as near to the headrail as possible (with the exception of breakaway devices – these can be as low as 0.6m from the floor)
- instructions must be left with the customer and all warning labels left on the product at the point of fitting

The installer/ instruction leaflet must inform you why the safety device(s) are necessary, how and where they need to be installed and how to correctly operate the blind.

For further guidance and information, please refer to the [British Blind & Shutter Association](#)