

Buyers and users of blinds and window furnishings should be aware that looped cords and chains can pose a strangulation hazard to babies and young children and so the regulations regarding these operating methods are being implemented in 2014.

It is expected that the regulations will be effective 1st April 2014. However, we intend to provide products that are compliant to the child safety requirements of EN 13120. Blinds Boutique Ltd strongly recommend the use of “child safe” products. Customers should be fully aware of the child safety requirements of the standard and we advise that you take your own legal advice.

### SAFETY CODES WHERE CHILDREN COULD BE PRESENT

The CEN (European Committee for Standardisation) Official Standard is as follows: “Complete elimination of the strangulation risk can only be achieved by keeping cords, chains, tapes and similar out of the reach of children. Use of additional safety devices may reduce the risk of strangulation but cannot be considered foolproof. Motorisation eliminates the risk associated with looped and pull-cord operating mechanisms but the risk relating to inner tapes and cords (for relevant products) remains. Persons in charge of children are ultimately responsible for following the safety instructions provided by the manufacturer”

### OPERATING METHODS & CONTROL LENGTHS

Safety Codes	Device	Installation Height	Cord /Control Length	Test
3.1 Operating Loop	Breakaway System / Condensor	Known	Distance from floor to bottom of pull cords should be at least 600mm.	The hazardous loop shall be eliminated when a mass of 6kg is applied to the pull cord(s) gradually or within 5 seconds of application.
		Not Known	Less than equal to 2/3 drop of blind	
3.2 Operating Loop	Fixed Tensioning System	Known	Distance from floor to bottom of pull cords shall be at least 1.5m	The distance between the two strands of the loop shall not be more than 50mm at the point of exit from the fixed tensioning device.
		Not Known <2.5m	Length of pull cords shall be <1m	
		Not Known >2.5m	Shall be <drop of blind -1.5m	
3.3 Pull Cords Including single cords		Known	Distance from floor to bottom of pull cords shall be at least 1.5m	2 Pull cords: Cords shall not tangle, if they do loop eliminated under mass of 6kg with 5 s OR Pull cords connected to breakaway system (condensor) which eliminates hazardous loop under 6kg within 5 s. More than 2 Pull cords: Pull cords connected to breakaway system (condensor) which eliminates hazardous loop under 6kg within 5 s. More than 4 Pull Cords: in absence of a suitable breakaway connector it is accepted that the cords may be connected to a single pull cord on condition the connector is positioned at less than 50mm from the handrail where the internal blind is in the fully extended position.
		Not Known <2.5m	Length of pull cords shall be <1m	
		Not Known >2.5m	Shall be <drop of blind -1.5m	

Accumulation Device	<p>Unless at all positions of the blind the cords are as described in the cord length column of this table. An accumulation system shall be supplied so that pull cords can be stored out of reach of children. The accumulation system shall be designed so that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “The complete length of pull cord(s) can be accumulated and maintained when the internal blind is in the fully retracted position”</li> <li>2. “No more than 100mm of cord(s) is released after a force of 60N is applied to any of the cord(s) on either side of the accumulation device, the blind being in the fully retracted position”</li> </ol>
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## SAFETY CODES AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

We will only supply blinds, which conform to the child safety requirements of ESN 13120 ("Safety Codes"). However, the Safety Codes do not apply to blinds, which are to be installed in commercial buildings where it is unlikely that a young child will come in contact with them. Should any order you place with us be for such blinds and, as a result, you require that they vary in any material aspect or particular respect from blinds, which comply with the Safety Codes then the following, must apply:

YOU MUST STIPULATE CLEARLY THAT THIS IS THE CASE AT THE TIME OF ORDER AND ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR YOUR PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BLINDS AS A RESULT; AND YOU MUST CONFIRM THAT THE BLINDS ARE TO BE INSTALLED IN A COMMERCIAL BUILDING WHERE AS FAR AS YOU CAN REASONABLY ASCERTAIN, HAVING CARRIED OUT YOUR OWN RISK ASSESSMENT, AND THAT AS SUCH A CHILD IS UNLIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO THE BLINDS ONCE INSTALLED; AND

THE ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER A CHILD IS LIKELY TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE BLIND(S) IS SOLELY FOR YOUR DETERMINATION. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY FOR THE SAME WHATSOEVER.

IF YOU SHOULD FAIL TO PROVIDE THE CONFIRMATION AND DETAILS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THE ABOVE THEN THE BLINDS WE SUPPLY SHALL COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY CODES AND YOU SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO REJECT THE SAME NOR RAISE ANY REQUISITION IN RELATION TO THE SAME IN THE EVENT THAT THE BLIND(S) DO NOT SUBSEQUENTLY MEET THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH YOU INTENDED.

## KEY INTERPRETATION POINTS

Internal blinds presenting no hazardous loops and no hazardous cords are deemed to satisfy the child safety requirements of EN 13120 and so are "safe by design". All other internal blinds need to meet the child safety requirements of EN 13120 if used in a premises where children, aged up to 42 months, are likely to have access or be present.

If you do not know where the blinds are going to be installed you have to assume they will be used where children up to 42 months are likely to have access or be present.

## ALL homes require compliant products

Commercial buildings are unlikely to require full compliance but will need a notice to say products are not suitable for locations where children may be present – this will be detailed in the product instructions, other paperwork and/or a label in headrail etc. to the same effect.

Customers should be fully aware of the child safety requirements of the standard and we advise that you take your own legal advice.

### MADE TO MEASURE BLINDS

- Roman Blinds
- Roller Blinds
- Metal Blinds
- PVC Blinds
- Venetian Blinds
- Vertical Blinds
- Blackout Blinds
- Wooden Blinds
- Panel Blinds
- Door Blinds
- Skylight Blinds

### SPECIAL FEATURES

- Waterproof Blinds
- Flame Retardent Blinds
- Blackout Blinds
- Privacy Blinds
- Child Safety Blinds
- Sheer Blinds

### CUSTOMER SERVICES

- How to measure
- How to fit
- Delivery information
- Refunds & returns
- After sales
- FAQs
- Contact us

#### WE ACCEPT:



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