



Blind Safety

As of 1st October 2014 all pull cords for all blinds (whether old or newly fitted) must be 1.5m from the floor to avoid posing a health and safety issue. Any blind that has cords that form a loop must have either a small safety bracket or cleat hook on the wall to enable the cords to be secured/taut, with no 'give' to pose a possible choking problem.

All Inventory Clerks should now make a note on all jobs if the cords are overlong and if there is a securing 'mechanism' (i.e. 'no cleat or 'no securing bracket' etc.). This must be treated the same way as fire labels on furniture now, just note the presence or not of a safety fixing for the cord and if cords are over long.

It is now illegal to supply or professionally install an internal window blind which does not comply with the child safety requirements of :- **BS EN 13120:2009 + A1:2014**

A Brief Guide to 2014 Blind Safety Regulations

- According to RoSPA, 29 children have been strangled by blind cords in recent years. Blinds in all properties should now be child safe.
- New blinds will be either safe by design, have in built safety systems, or be supplied with separate safety systems. Limitations are now placed on cord lengths and safety devices will prevent cords/chains from forming a hazardous loop.

Blinds already fitted must also comply.

Blind cords should be secured at least 1.5 meters from the floor. The cord should be fixed in a taut position. There are a number of safety devices available that are cheap and easy to fix:

- Something simple such as a cleat hook, fixed to the wall, can enable to cord to be secured out of reach.
- Chain break connector – many blinds already have these as part of the pulley controls. These break apart when pressure is applied but can be snapped back together each time. These can easily be fitted in a couple of minutes.
- Cord/chain tidy - these can be fixed to the wall so that the cord is taut, high enough to be out of a child's reach.



For more information on blind cord safety and pictures/video of various safety devices go to: www.bbsa.org.uk

Blind Safety and AIIC Members

All AIIC members have a duty of care to report any safety issues in a property. You are required to make statements on all inventories and check out reports regarding any potential hazards concerning dangerous blind cords – or any other health and safety issue observed e.g. 'cords overlong, no safety device present' or similar wording.