



Health Canada's Letter to the Corded Window Covering Product Industry

October 16, 2020

Dear Interested Party,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of Health Canada's planned approach to enforcing the upcoming new requirements for corded window coverings set out in the *Corded Window Coverings Regulations* (CWCR) under the *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act* (CCPSA).

Requirements under the CWCR serve an important purpose to help eliminate the strangulation hazard associated with corded window coverings and help protect the health and safety of children. More specifically, the CWCR seek to address the root cause of the pathway to injury or death by strangulation by restricting the length of reachable cords and the size of loops that can be created by a cord.

The Government of Canada is aware that the COVID-19 pandemic, and the measures that governments across Canada have implemented to manage it, have had an impact on the normal operations of Canadian businesses.

The CWCR comes into force on May 1, 2021. Health Canada expects industry to continue to make best efforts to comply with these upcoming Regulations despite the circumstances, and is not delaying the coming-into-force date.

That said, Health Canada recognizes the unprecedented circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and will take into account the impact it is having on the ability of businesses to comply with the CWCR requirements when addressing non-compliance with the CWCR, among other relevant factors. In response to the disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Canada plans to take the following approach to compliance and enforcement regarding the new CWCR requirements:

- From May 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022, Health Canada intends to prioritize promoting awareness of and compliance with the CWCR. We will also be monitoring progress towards compliance; and
- Beginning on May 1, 2022, Health Canada intends to increase its compliance monitoring activities and take appropriate enforcement action, where necessary, to address identified instances of non-compliance to the CWCR.

The Department's planned approach was decided after considering a number of factors, including input from stakeholder consultations.

Notwithstanding the above, the Department will enforce the CWCR anytime on or after May 1, 2021, if warranted, based on incidents, complaints, or the level of risk. However, Health Canada's proactive activities will be focused on compliance promotion looking toward May 1, 2022.

Protecting Canada's children and the health and safety of Canadians is a collective responsibility. It is Health Canada's expectation that the corded window covering industry plays a strong and visible role in this regard.

Health Canada would like to take this opportunity to remind manufacturers, importers and retailers of corded window coverings of their obligations under the CCPSA. Health Canada calls on the corded window covering industry to take actions to comply with existing and upcoming regulatory requirements that help protect the health and safety of Canadians. We continue to welcome any opportunities to work together as we work to provide awareness of and compliance with the CWCR, and answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Charland', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Roger Charland
Director General
Consumer and Hazardous Products Safety Directorate
Healthy Environment and Consumer Safety Branch
Health Canada