

20th August 2012

IAEM again calls for a ban on looped blind cords

The Irish Association for Emergency Medicine (IAEM) reiterates its call for a ban on blinds with a looped cord system as initially sought in its [Press Release in September 2011](#). Following the further fatality of a toddler last year, asphyxiated by such a device, concerns had been raised by the Dublin City Coroner and these concerns were shared by the Association.

The National Standards Authority of Ireland has recently published [two new standards: I.S. 386 and I.S. 387](#) which set out additional Irish safety requirements not currently specified in the European Standard EN 13120. This is in anticipation of a revised European Standard which is expected to supersede these new Irish standards. However, the ultimate solution to this problem lies in **an outright ban** on blinds with a looped cord system.

In the absence of such a ban, IAEM wishes to again remind parents of the importance of following the manufacturer's safety instructions when using the closed loop system for their blinds. There are a number of simple steps that may be immediately taken to remove any potential hazards that looped cord blinds can pose to young children:

- Where an alternative is available, do not purchase a closed loop system;
- Replace cords with curtain or blind wands;
- Otherwise, where possible cut the cord to get rid of the loop and install tassels instead;
- Where cords cannot be cut, a tie down or tension device can be used to pull the cord tight and secure it to the floor or wall;
- Cords should end at least 1.6 metres above the ground so children cannot reach them;
- Never put a cot, bed, high chair or playpen near a window or patio door where a child can reach a curtain or blind cord;
- Keep sofas, chairs, tables, shelves or bookcases away from windows to prevent children climbing up and reaching curtain or blind cords.

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