

Corded Internal Window Coverings

Legislation

In March 2014 the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission issued a new safety standard named the Competition and Consumer (Corded Internal Window Coverings) Safety Standard 2014 under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010. This safety standard took effect as of January 01st 2015 and is to ensure the safety of children and infants with regards to the risk of strangulation from loop cord systems attached to window coverings including but not limited to vertical, venetian, roman blinds and curtains, curtain rods and tracking systems. Cords can be a rope, strap, string, chain, line or wire used to manipulate a corded window covering.

The ACCC deemed any window furnishings with cords able to form a loop of 220mm or greater that hang 1600mm or lower from the floor pose a possible risk of strangulation to a child therefore needs to be secured or tensioned to the wall at a height of 1600mm or greater from the floor.

Annual Service \$65

(\$130 if Combined with Smoke Alarm Service)

As part of our service Qld Fire Alarms and Compliance can inspect all corded window coverings in your rental property. Where cords do not comply with the current legislation, our inspectors will carry out the necessary workmanship on your behalf by installing cleats, chain safes and or tensioning devices.

Our annual fee of \$65 (gst inclusive) includes an initial inspection and rectification of works where necessarily, provision of safety information and instructions for tenants, a compliance statement and re-inspection with every tenancy renewal / change of tenancy. This service can be coupled with our annual Fire Alarm Compliance service at a discounted rate of \$130 (inc gst) for both services.

Landlord Obligation

- Landlords are responsible for ensuring that the property and the products they provide work effectively and safely and that products come with instructions and safety information where necessary. This includes window covering cords.
- A breach of the Trade Practices Mandatory Safety Standards carries penalties of up to \$220,000 for individuals and \$1.1 million for companies, as well as the risk of compensation claims.
- The owner of the property also has a duty of care at common law which may expose them to litigation.