

### **BLIND SAFETY LEGISLATION**

ROSPA figures show that there have been 29 child deaths as a result of being strangled by unsafe blind chords and so action has been taken to implement legislation to prevent safety risks. 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**

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?**

Any blinds which are installed with chords and chains have to be installed with breakaway connectors, cord and chain safety retainers or cleats.

Any blinds installed must be maintained at a minimum of 1.5 meters from the floor level and be secured with a compliant device – a device must be in place for compliance.

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BLINDS THAT ARE ALREADY FITTED?**

They must also comply with the above requirements.

There are a number of cheap and easy fixes to ensure the safety of such blinds:

- Wall mounted cleat hook to ensure the chord is secured out of reach
- Chain break connector, most blinds will have these fitted as part of the standard controls, they will release when tension is applied and are easy to reattach
- Wall mounted P clip to secure the chord.

Our clerks will highlight any non-compliant chords as part of the Inventory Check In report, generating a Landlord action for maintenance to take place to rectify. Landlords please note noncompliance could result in Criminal charges.

Examples of acceptable devices are below, for further information please visit: <https://bbsa.org.uk/home-owner>