




STATE OF WASHINGTON
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POLICY MEMORANDUM

August 2, 2007

TO: Child Care Licensing Staff

FROM: Jone Bosworth, JD 
Director

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAPTER 299, LAWS OF 2007
WINDOW BLIND CORDS – CHILD CARE SETTINGS

On July 22, 2007, Chapter 299, Laws of 2007 takes effect. This law prohibits the use of window blinds or other window coverings with pull cords or inner cords capable of forming a loop and posing a risk of strangulation to young children. This statute applies to licensed Family Child Care Homes, Child Care Centers and School-age Centers. An RCW number has not been assigned. We will inform you when we have this information.

What is allowable in child care

Window blinds and other coverings that have been manufactured, or properly retrofitted, in a manner that eliminates the formation of loops posing a risk of strangulation are allowable in child care.

Other information and resources

Following are links to the bill that established the regulation and useful resources for information about this hazard. The Window Covering Safety Council offers free retrofitting kits.

Substitute House Bill 1256, Chapter 299, Laws of 2007:
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Law%202007/1256-S.SL.pdf>

US Consumer Products Safety Commission alert:
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/5114.pdf>

Window Covering Safety Council:
<http://www.windowcoverings.org/>

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Licensors' responsibilities

Please check window blind cords on all licensing visits and inform applicants and providers of the regulation at orientations. If you identify window blind cords that do not meet the regulation:

- take action immediately
- provide technical assistance
- issue a compliance agreement, citing Chapter 299, Laws of 2007
- follow up to verify compliance with this regulation

Thank you for your assistance in implementing this important regulation to protect children in care. This policy memorandum is in effect immediately.

JMB:pks