



Blind Safety Guide

Diffusion is a long-standing member of the BBSA and has always been committed to child safety and backed the very successful Make it Safe campaign.



Overview:

New EU legislation **EN13120** came into effect from **28th February 2014** and sets out the performance criteria for any internal blind/shading device. Within this regulation are two testing method standards **EN16433 & EN16434**.

These two standards have been developed to better regulate and improve the safety aspects of blinds, in particular for children between 0 and 42 months of age. They set out the minimum requirements for protection from strangulation hazards.

This regulation applies to all products using a chain, or cord accumulation device.

Single Source Purchasing for Blind Makers:

For blind manufacturers, it is clear that within EN13120 there is no requirement to buy all their products from a single source. They must however ensure that any safety devices purchased are compliant to EN13120 and the two test standards EN16433 & EN16434 and self-certify their product offering.

Recommendation:

All made-to-measure blinds supplied by Diffusion will be compliant, but Blind Retailers, Soft Furnishing shops and Fitters need to be aware of their responsibilities in terms of fitting requirements. In the general course of a sale it is also recommended that you point out to your client the usual standard common sense safety advice of trying to keep cots and sofas, out of reach of any loops there may be on any of their shading products whether new or existing.

Roller blinds

Chain Break

Diffusion will default to using breakaway connectors on the roller blinds it will supply; there will be two of these on each loop. The loop will measure 2/3 of the drop of the blind ordered unless stated otherwise by the customer on order. Chains can still be ordered in our existing plastic or metal options.

Note: It is the responsibility of the company or professional installer to ensure/adjust that the bottom of this loop is greater than 600mm up from floor height.



Continuous Loop

Diffusion will still supply roller blinds with a continuous loop if requested. These blinds will be supplied with our approved safety tensioning device. If a continuous loop is requested but the length is not specified at order, Diffusion will supply blinds with a loop of 1 metre, as per EN13120.

Note: It is the responsibility of the company or professional installer to ensure/adjust that the bottom of this loop is greater than 1500mm up from floor height.

Vertical Blinds

Wand Control

Diffusion will default to a wand control system (described as typically safe by design). These can be provided with either white, grey, black or clear wands.

Wands will be supplied on both single and split draws, so you need to ensure your customer will understand how this will look in the centre of a blind. Both single and split draws will only have a single wand in the centre of the blind.

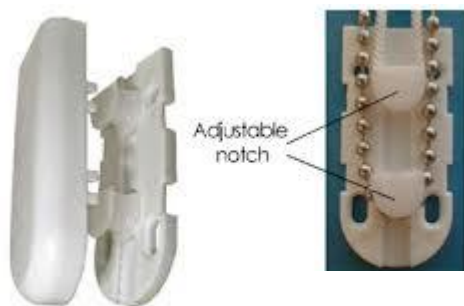
Blinds up to a drop of 1250mm will be supplied with wands approx 700mm.

Blinds with a drop of in excess 1250mm will be supplied with wands approx 1000mm.
A specific wand length can be specified on order.



Cord and Chain

Diffusion will continue to supply cord and chain operated vertical blinds if requested, these will be supplied with our standard twin tensioning device that has been passed by Bureau Veritas.



Note: These orders will only be processed if the drop of the chain & cord has been specified on order. Where the customer has ensured that the bottom of this loop will be 1500mm up from floor height.

The wand system is also our default with both Panel Blinds and Trapezium blinds.

Roman Blinds

Made-to-Measure

All made-to-measure roman blinds will be supplied with continuous metal chain loops along with an approved **tensioning device**. On the back of the blinds, all cords will be attached to the fabric using an approved **breakaway safety hinge** to prevent loops forming in this area of the blind. This complete

system of headrail and breakaway devices has been fully approved by Bureau Veritas.

Note: It is the responsibility of the company or professional installer to ensure that the bottom of this loop is greater than 1500mm up from floor height. The fact that all blinds are supplied with metal chain removes the need for multiple lengths of plastic loops to be stocked, as the metal chains can be quickly adjusted using the appropriate jointing pliers.

Unless the chain length is specified when ordering to allow for the 1500mm clearance from floor level, Diffusion is required to supply a chain length of 1m.

Roman Kits

Diffusion's current roman headrail system has been approved by Bureau Veritas. Until our new kit format is in stock, we will continue to supply the headrail with a 1.3m metal chain, which must be adjusted to allow for the required 1500mm clearance from floor level. We will also provide breakaway safety hinges for the cords at the back of the blind, a P clip and relevant safety tags.

The new kit format has been developed which will contain the approved headrail system, velcro, rods, bottom bar, fitting instructions, safety tags, breakaway safety hinges, and a 1m metal loop as standard. This kit will be supplied as a complete pack, and can also be sold to the public as a fully compliant roman kit. This will become a standard kit supplied to trade customers, who can adjust chain lengths as required using appropriate jointing pliers. Diffusion will advise when stocks of the new kits arrive.



Aluminium Venetian Blinds

25mm Venetian Blinds

These Venetians will be supplied with the cords attached to a **breakaway consolidator**. A single cord with pull will subsequently drop from this connector. A **safety cleat** which needs to be fitted 1500mm from the floor will also be supplied.



Note: Diffusion will supply all 25mm Venetians with a maximum drop of lift cords of 1000mm unless otherwise requested on order. It is the responsibility of the company or professional installer to ensure that the positioning of the cleat is greater than 1500mm up from floor height.

Currently breakaway consolidators are available in limited colours. This range will expand as time progresses and there is time to manufacture and test other colours.

35mm/50mm Venetians

These will also be supplied with a **breakaway consolidator**, the traditional cord loop for tilt will be split and supplied with **anti-tangle pulls**.