

ROLLER SHADE Tension Device

THINGS TO KNOW



WHAT THE LAW CHANGED: Prior to June '24, custom manufactured treatments controlled by a chain (think roller shades and roman shades) were required to have a chain retainer securing the chain to wall, but did not require the chain be under constant tension. Post June '24, ANSI/WCMA now requires all future chain-operated treatments remain under continuous tension.



IMPLICATIONS: This significant change now reduces the length of chain we can provide (minimizing reach and access) and almost ensures the use of two hands to operate the mechanism's clutch. Chains are no longer able to be pulled toward the room, and guests will not be able to successfully operate the shade unless they pull the chain completely vertically.



NOW WHAT? This practically means all shades just became harder to operate; therefore, size(s) and weight(s) need to be reduced to ensure functionality. Guests must also have unimpeded access to these chains, they will no longer be able to operate treatments with a single hand easily and efficiently, and therefore unable to reach over or around FF&E.



REGULATION AHEAD: As cords and chains continue to draw increased oversight, this is likely not the last restriction placed on these treatments. All internal and external cords have already been eliminated from stock (non-custom) window coverings, and regulations will likely continue to tighten around custom-manufactured products. It's also wise to consider all entities are aligned nationwide to prevent state-to-state variances, and indicative of agreement between manufacturers and regulators (i.e., these restrictions aren't going away).



THINGS TO LOOK FOR: This likely means we're headed towards more motorization. Fortunately, battery-powered motors are lowering in cost while improving in capability and performance, and new construction planning is often capturing electrical needs at the window for motorized treatments going forward. Signage will also become more important as we direct guests to control locations and guide them toward successful usage initially.