



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon David Clark	<b>Portfolio</b>	Commerce and Consumer Affairs
<b>Title of briefing</b>	Improving product safety: Updating safety standards for multipurpose ladders and consultation on options to address safety risks of corded window coverings	<b>Date to be published</b>	24 January 2023

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
December 2022	Improving product safety: Updating safety standards for multipurpose ladders and consultation on options to address safety risks of corded window coverings	Office of the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
December 2022	Annex One: Consultation document – Options to address safety risks of corded window coverings	MBIE
8 December 2022	GOV-22-MIN-0051 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**NO**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's and MFAT's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Annex One has been withheld as the final version of this discussion document has been publicly released.



# Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

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### Improving Product Safety: Updating Safety Standards for Multipurpose Ladders and Consultation on Options to Address Safety

**Portfolio**                      **Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

On 8 December 2022, the Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee:

#### **Corded window coverings**

- 1        **noted** that, in New Zealand, there have been three deaths of children in the past 10 years due to corded window coverings;
- 2        **noted** that the consultation document, Options to address safety risks of corded window coverings (the consultation document), attached to the submission under GOV-22-SUB-0051, seeks public feedback on a range of regulatory and non-regulatory options to address these safety concerns;
- 3        **noted** that the consultation document states that the Government's preferred approach is to regulate corded window coverings under the Fair Trading Act 1986 (the Act) to address the risk to young children, subject to further work and consultation;
- 4        **noted** that the consultation document includes preliminary social cost benefit analysis based on desktop research by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research, and that the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (the Minister) intends to use the consultation process to better understand the costs and benefits of each option;
- 5        **agreed** to the release of the consultation document;
- 6        **authorised** the Minister to make minor and technical changes to the consultation document before it is released if needed;

#### **Multi-purpose ladders**

- 7        **noted** that multi-purpose ladders are currently regulated by an unsafe goods notice under the Act;
- 8        **noted** the unsafe goods notice is due to expire on 5 April 2023;

- 9 **agreed** to require that multi-purpose ladders comply with the 2018 safety standard (AS 1892.1:2018), with modifications for New Zealand consistent with the Unsafe Goods Notice (Multipurpose ladders) 2021;
- 10 **agreed** to give effect to the above decisions through regulations under section 29 of the Act;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister to make decisions on minor or technical issues, consistent with the policy decisions under DEV-22-MIN-0278, that arise in drafting;
- 12 **invited** the Minister to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above paragraphs.

Vivien Meek  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Michael Wood  
Deborah Russell, MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for GOV