BBSA
The Authority on UK Shading

PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS GUIDE

CASSETTED (FRAME) DIM-OUT BLINDS

This document has been produced by the British Blind and Shutter Association (BBSA) to highlight the key characteristics of cassetted dim-out blinds to help you make an informed choice when buying your blinds. The characteristics detailed below represent the state of the art and any relevant standard.

General

The window behind the blind should not be left open if the blind is in the lowered position as this can create a vacuum that can suck the fabric out of the frame of the blind.

Fabrics

Where the blind is bigger than the available width of the fabric, the fabric will need to be joined or turned. With multiple blinds, the pattern on the fabric may not match adjacent blinds and may not be centralised on the blind.

The fabric might not appear totally flat. There may be rippling to the sides or 'V' shaped ripples and this is due to the fabric being secured on all edges but expanding and contracting as temperatures change.

Fitting in a bay window

There will be some gaps where the headboxes of the neighbouring blinds butt against each other. As the blinds use side channels in which the fabric runs, there should be no exposed glass but the channels may not abut each other on adjacent blinds.

Fitting inside the reveal (window recess)

Blinds fitted inside a reveal may require either a timber frame or packer to ensure it is fitted square.

To ensure a seal against light ingress between the edge of the reveal and the frame of the cassette, either expanding foam, or a sealant may be used.

Reveal (recess) not dimensionally consistent

A cassetted roller blind must be fitted square, however in reality reveals are often not. The head of the window and/or sill may not be level and the distances between the side walls of the reveal often vary.

The distance from the edge of the reveal to the window may also vary, so blinds will either be fitted to run parallel to the window or to the edge of the reveal.

Dim out

Cassetted dimout blinds have a housing at the top of the blind, channels to either side and sometimes a bottom channel and/or a heavy bottom bar with a light seal strip.

Fitted with a blackout fabric, this blind style will provide the highest degree of dimout of any blind, especially if fitted outside the reveal as this typically improves the level of dimout.

However, cassetted blinds are not 100% blackout as there will still be a very small amount of light ingressing around the side channels and possibly other areas.

Motorisation

There is a wide range of motorised solutions available for your comfort and convenience and each system will have its own characteristics. Some points to consider are:

- **Speed and alignment:** Blinds in the same installation may not travel at the same speed and may not line up if stopped during the travel of the blinds due to mechanical and electrical tolerances.
- **Noise:** Some noise will be emitted from the motor operating the blind particularly on 240v powered blinds. Quiet motors may be available.
- **Wiring:** Some surface wiring may be required. Where 240V mains power is involved, a competent person, who can certify the works, will be required to provide a power feed unless the blinds can be powered from a plug inserted into an existing socket.
- **Motor protection:** For safety reasons, most motors are fitted with a thermal cut-out to protect them from getting too hot (usually from over-use). When cooled sufficiently, the motor will start working again.

Always ensure you read and carefully follow the operating and maintenance instructions.

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Smart Home Hub

Where a smart home hub is used the signals to the blinds may occasionally be interrupted by other wireless devices in the home such as smart speakers or doorbells. This can affect the operation, or seamless operation of the blind.

Child safety

Blinds with cords or chains could pose a risk of strangulation to young children. The BBSA recommends inherently safe products - (safe by design).

If you choose a product with additional child safety devices these must be securely fitted as advised. For further information on window blind safety visit **www.makeitsafe.org.uk**.

make it safe™

Visual product inspection

When checking the overall visual characteristics and aesthetics, the following should be observed:

Viewing distance and lighting

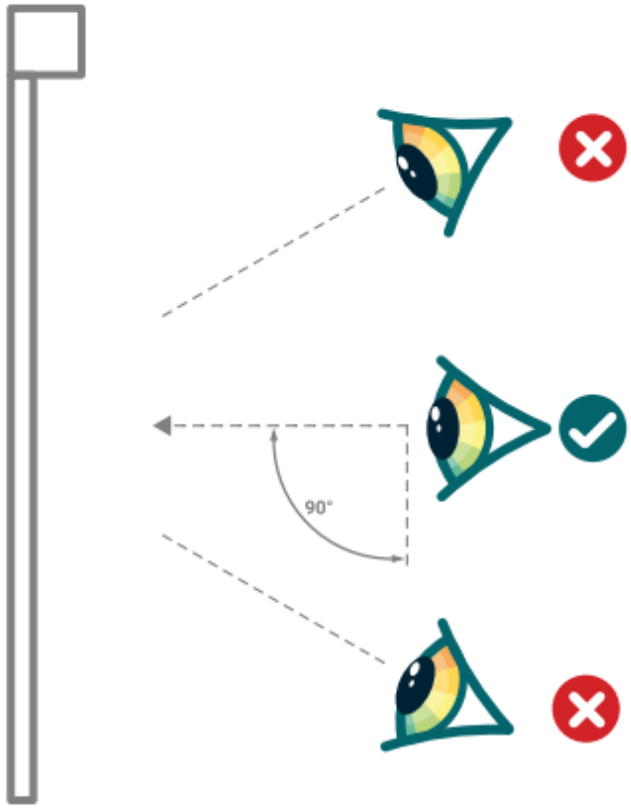
3m for exterior products in diffuse daylight;
2m for interior products with lighting suitable for normal room use.

Viewing angle

Perpendicular to the surface being checked.

Viewing aids

Naked eye (and any corrective glasses if applicable).



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