ZIPPER AND GLOBAL STANDARDS

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ABSTRACT

The research is about the zipper manufacturers of India and their huge gap in quality with their global competitors.

The study involves the consumer perception about our Indian Zipper products. Basically our products are considered to be very inferior to the International manufacturers like YKK, TALON, Ideal, Opti etc., How best we could improve the understanding about the requirement of the consumer in the world.

KEYWORDS: Product Safety of Zips, Ecological Requirements Zip, Legal Implication, Compliance of Eco Parameters in Zip Manufacturing

INTRODUCTION

Zipper now is almost 200 years old but our manufacturers in India are not up to the international standards. Rather they are not considered in Par with the international player like YKK Japan.

This is due to the poor factory maintenance, poor labour, Laws, Bad working conditions, Weak governmental Laws and Policies, Most of our governmental Laws are not strictly following the ecological compliances. The effluent treatment from the factories are not properly Managed. The sludge and other wastes are discharged directly in the River without hesitation. These are said to be heinous crimes in Europe and other first world countries. These are being photographed by the foreign journals and being published in the TV’s and broadcasted in the governmental offices. These kind of careless mistakes are very vehemently affecting our Image and our products in the international scenario. We should be seriously aware that World is watching each and every move of our country and our living conditions. They are keen only on the environmental issues. They are not bothered about our culture and civilization. The product we do should not affect the Environment we live and Earth should be preserved of its resources for the forth coming generation.

UNCERTAINTIES THAT CURB THE USE OF ZIPPER

Whenever a Garment designer thinks of creating a garment, he wants to attach a zipper so that it adds a lots of decorative aspect to the garment and is made more attractive. Consequently his worry is all about the failure of the zipper in action.

Whenever the zipper fails in its action the following are the consequences.

POSSIBLE THREATS

Plastic zippers used in children’s garments sometimes break and get locked at a point this will cause choking to infants and even cause death. Since the kid is so young he doesn’t know how to recover from the lock and automatically chokes .This is viewed very seriously in USA and Europe. Even in the case of adults when a person dresses in beautiful shades and attends a party. If suppose his zipper breaks and opens in front of people in the party it’s a shame for him and the decorum of the party is spoiled. The designer takes no risk in changing the zipper manufacturer unnecessarily just for
few pennies in fact he is ready to pay the highest price for the best zipper because once the zipper is lost the entire garment becomes a waste.

In USA there is a governmental organization called CPSC-THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISION OF UNITED STATES had asked the consumer to return log zip puller for infants which can cause even death if the puller comes out and the zipper will lock and this may cause choking to the child. The CPSC banned the product and asked the bigger malls like WALL MART, TESCO etc., to stop selling these products. The consumers were asked to return the goods and get refund for the garment.

MEASURE TO BE TAKEN

A smooth running zipper requires careful craftsmanship. Among the causes of zipper “A heavier grade fabric, like denim or leather ,that require a lot of support need a supportive zipper suppliers”. If not you start getting breaks .said Craig of Scovill Fasteners a reputed zipper manufacture and stud buttons made of metal.

Designer ELie Tahari favours using exposed metal zipper on dresses. It’s the way of mixing hard and soft in garment.”I worked closely with my technical designers and factories “.Sometime the result is style combined with function.”I use gros grain ribbon on many garments as reinforcement. Not only it supports the zipper on the more delicate fabrics, it also is aesthetically pleasing.

Much rides on the working relationship between the zipper supplier and the designer or brand .Sometimes a designer may want zipper puller, or handle, for a certain aesthetic, which may be too weak or too heavy for the garment’s fabric. Ideally Zipper suppliers know what type of look the brands are going for the garment’s fabric and advise them on what is realistic.

The strength of the zipper is called as gauge which is identified numerically. The higher the number the bigger and stronger the Zipper’s teeth. We cannot put a giant size puller tab on a no 2 zipper, it wont work, “said David global marketing manager YKK USA. Designer Joseph says “We are mindful that we are producing luxury garments and zippers while being very small element in design construction of a garment, actually serve an important purpose. The large polished zipper on dresses and skirts in his fall 2013 show were a “play on the idea of undressing”. But also served as an embellishment Point that really elevates the product.

In general Metal zippers Gold, Bronze, aluninum and plastic zippers are more likely to become stuck and break than polyester nylon coil zippers.

The nylon coil zipper is more smooth and user friendly and durable. Allowing the zipper to” self heal” means the coils reconnect back into place after the zipper’s slider passes over the problem spot said Johnson, the designer. Metal zipper and plastic have individual teeth attached to the zipper tape while nylon coil zippers are continuous polyester sewn to the tape.

SUGGESTIONS

While shopping run the zipper up and down a few times. Some people mistakenlly think a zipper that is little difficult at first on a clothing item will get easier overtime.”If in beginning It’s tough and requires some work, don’t get it. Opinion of Mr. Marco a technician at the school of Fashion persons the new School for Design in New York.

In the event the zipper gets stuck “don’t try to go up. Try it down gainMr Viteri said. “pull the lining out from the zipper, then slide the slider down little by little”. If you go up you are more likely to catch more fabric in the zipper.
If the zipper is too hard to move add little wax coating to the teeth this will smoothen the opening and closing. Lorraine More, director of textile testing and research services at the dry cleaning & Laundry Institute, a trade association for garment care professionals, advises rubbing a bar of soap or wax along the teeth.

If zipper is nylon or plastic avoid too much heat while ironing.

**STATEMENT POLICY ON LEAD CONTENT**

Testing and Certification of Lead content in Children’s Products, this statement of policy is issued by the commission to provide guidance on the testing and certification of children’s products for compliance with the lead content limits established in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act 2008 (“CPSIA”). The commission has received a number of questions on compliance. It does not impose legal requirements beyond those already contained CPSIA OR OTHER AGENCY REGULATION. What does Lead content Law require? The CPSIA provides improvement act 2008 to level of 300ppm lead content limit.90mm limit in lead content in paint used in children zip pullers while painting the puller metal.

The labels in the children garment also should be without lead, tin, antimony, free. The ink used in printed label should be Lead free.

**LEAD POISONONG**

Exposure to lead causes a variety of health effects, and affects children in particular. Lead is a metal with no biological benefits to humans. Lead damages the nervous system, reproductive system, affects the kidney, and mainly causes high blood pressure in children and cause massive heart attack. Causes learning disabilities, coma etc overall is very dangerous to children. The paint done on the metal sliders should be lead free. Because there are chances Infants can swallow unknowingly.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The overall study reveals the compliances to be followed according to the European Laws and USA laws.

Until and unless our manufacturers follow the strict discipline in maintaining quality as well use quality raw materials to upgrade the standard of our products. The confidence level of designers and consumers only can boost our product sale and development overall.

**REFERENCES**

LAW OFFICES OF W.T JOHNSON, CONSUMER FORUM SAFETY COMMISSION USA OEKO TEX, ECO TEX, TEXTEX, aepc, SITRA.