

## NFRC Board Approves Permanent Label Requirements Ballot

**D**uring the November meeting of the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) the board approved a motion for permanent label requirements. The ballot modified the permanent labeling requirements as outlined in section 6.7 of the NFRC Product Certification Program (PCP) document. The modifications to the PCP were proposed to provide window manufacturers additional flexibility in the format and location of the NFRC permanent label.

“The new permanent label requirements provide manufacturers with additional latitude in the manner in which the product being certified is marked or ‘labeled,’” explains John Lewis, technical director for the American Architectural Manufacturers As-

sociation, who also serves as chair of the NFRC permanent labeling task group. “Previously, manufacturers were required to affix a permanent label (which can be a label, a tab on a label or a series of marks or etchings that provide the end user—generally the homeowner—all of the information needed to trace the product back to the manufacturer) that was visible after the product was installed. The revisions to the NFRC requirements now allow the permanent label to be placed beneath a removable element of the window or door.”

According to Lewis, this is a significant change in that it continues the evolution of how certified products must be marked.

“Permanent marking cannot be sep-

arated from certification so, in a broader sense, the notion of what a certified product is continues to evolve as well. Industry-wide, I foresee other changes in permanent labels on the horizon; the goal is to provide options for manufacturers and homeowners while still providing the marking and traceability requirements for a viable certification program.”

The following are some of the other changes that were voted affirmatively:

- The requirement for making the permanent label visible after installation was made optional; if the permanent label is not visible after product installation, then the Certified Products Database (CPD) will identify the location of such a label. In addition, the permanent label’s location will be one that is accessible to the occupant or service provider;
- The “required information” wording was modified, and now provides examples of acceptable forms of licensee identification;
- The manufacturer’s product code also was made an acceptable way to identify entries in the CPD;
- In subsection G, further guidance is provided on the location of the permanent label. Requirements for locating on a surface not subject to direct sunlight and precipitation are also clarified; and
- Subsection H was deleted, as the requirements of this section are now addressed in other areas of section 6.7 in the PCP.

These changes will be required once the PCP is published with the approved modifications and notice is sent to all membership. A publication date for the revision language in the PCP has not yet been announced.

### ASTM Works on Standard for Safe Handling of Annealed Glass

**R**ecent accidents involving annealed glass along with requests from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have led ASTM International to form a new task group that will work on the development of a proposed standard guide for the safe handling of annealed glass. The task group is part of Committee E34 on Occupational Health and Safety.

“We received a request from OSHA because of two fatalities in the [past] 12 to 18 months in the glass industry. In response to this request, we had an initial meeting in Rossford, Ohio, to [meet with members of the] industry to see if they thought it was a worthwhile activity,” says Kevin Shanahan, manager, technical committee operations for ASTM International. “The response was yes and now we [have held] a meeting in August to discuss the title and scope of the new standard.”

The task group is focusing on practical personal protective equipment for employees as well as standardizing levels of protection for various tasks in handling annealed glass.



## AAMA's Skylight Council Publishes Fall Protection Paper

Responding to industry and public concerns about fall prevention, the American Architectural Manufacturers Association's (AAMA) Skylight Council has published its position paper entitled *Fall Protection*, which provides practical suggestions for minimizing and preventing falls through roof openings.

*Fall Protection* notes the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) work group's findings, which attribute most skylight injuries to incidents involving other products and conditions unrelated to skylight products. According to the paper, ASTM also is investigating the development of a skylight fall protection test standard, but its work group asserts that such development is somewhat premature, as there is insufficient data on the risk of skylight-related incidents.

"The issue as it has been presented by ASTM, and by inaccurate information disseminated through various industry organizations, does not correlate with the experiences of the manufacturer members of AAMA's Skylight Council," says John Westerfield of CrystaLite Inc., chair of the Skylight Fall Protection Task Group. "Until we get complete and reliable data, it will be difficult to discover and focus on the true hazards."

While the issue of fall protection raises numerous questions, the most important question from the Skylight Council's perspective is, "How can falls through roof openings be prevented?" *Fall Protection* provides several practical suggestions for minimizing and preventing such falls:

- Established safety procedures, properly implemented and followed, are the foundation for mitigating falls from roofs and roof openings. Special



**AAMA's new position paper provides several suggestions for minimizing and preventing falls through skylights.**

circumstances may call for the use of railings, grids or other products that meet fall protection standards.

- Because of the number of potential fall hazards present, roof access should be limited to construction and building maintenance professionals; it is up to building owners to take whatever reasonable means are necessary to achieve this.
- Strict compliance with all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations.
- Proper training on roof safety. All potential roof hazards, as well as any safety measures that must be implemented, have to be communicated to workers by qualified personnel, who also must ensure that they are understood. In turn, workers need to be competent, and have a sense of personal responsibility and safety.
- All access points to the roof should contain signage regarding roof safety and inherent dangers.
- Warning labels on skylights, which have been a universal building code requirement since 1986, are another fall prevention element. Such warnings can be further amplified by signage at all access points.

AAMA also has released its recently revised specification, *Voluntary Specification for Field Testing of Newly Installed Storefronts, Curtain Walls and*

*Sloped Glazing Systems*. AAMA 503-08 establishes the requirements for test specimens, apparatus, sampling, test procedures and test reports to be used in evaluating the performance of installed storefronts, curtainwalls and sloped glazing systems and their installation during construction, prior to issuance of the building occupancy permit, but no later than six months after issuance of the occupancy permit.

"The purpose of this specification is to provide a method which can be used to evaluate the installed performance of storefronts, curtainwalls and sloped glazing systems for resistance to water penetration under controllable and reproducible test conditions intended to simulate wind driven rain events," says Ken Brenden, AAMA technical standards manager. "This specification may also be used to evaluate the installed air leakage of 'punched opening' curtainwalls, storefronts and sloped glazing," he adds.

Specifically excluded from this specification are windows, glass doors and skylights as defined in AAMA AG-07 (if required, these systems shall be tested per AAMA 502). Also excluded from this specification are commercial entrance systems. Verifying the structural loading resistance performance of storefronts, curtainwalls and sloped glazing systems is beyond the scope of this specification.

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