

NFRC Prepares to Welcome Window Film Certification

It's been a long time coming, but window film is at last approaching its seat at the NFRC certification table. Following the Board's approval of both the procedures for rating and certifying window film, and a new label last spring, NFRC's staff has been diligently working to bring all of the pieces together so that window film manufacturers can take advantage of the program. Those pieces include modifying NFRC's software and its Certified Products Directory. "We expect to have all the back-end work completed by July/August 2006," said Jessica Ferris, NFRC's certification manager. Once that is complete, manufacturers can begin the process of certification and labeling.

Added Credibility for Window Film Manufacturers

Having an NFRC-rated and certified window lends additional credibility for manufacturers and provides consumers with evaluation tools they can trust. Since NFRC's certification program provides an independent, third-party verification of the window film product, consumers will be able to compare window film products in an "apples-to-apples" fashion and make informed choices based on their energy performance needs.

"Certification puts window film manufacturers of all different sizes on a level playing field and shows potential customers that they went the extra step to verify the energy performance of their products," said Darrell Smith, executive director of the International Window Film Association.

The key to NFRC's program is that an independent, third-party certification process conducts the evaluation. NFRC does not determine the ratings nor do they set performance criteria that establishes a baseline performance value for each product. NFRC merely certifies what the actual performance measurements are, not what they should be.

Straightforward Process Guides Program

To earn NFRC certification, each participating manufacturer must follow a specific process.

- Contact NFRC and request certification.
- After receiving the packet of information, the manufacturer must sign and return the attached NFRC Film Attachments Manufacturer License Agreement before certification authorization is generated.
- Contact and choose an NFRC-accredited simulation laboratory, or test laboratory if testing is required.
- Contact and choose an NFRC-licensed certification and inspection agency (IA) to

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authorize the certification of the window film and conduct annual in-plant inspections of the manufacturing facility.

- The simulator performs the simulation in accordance with NFRC 200-2004 and then uploads the data to the NFRC Certified Products Database.
- The IA reviews the data for accuracy and conducts an in-plant inspection of the manufacturing location. After determining that all certification requirements have been met, the IA then generates a Certification Authorization Report to the film manufacturer.
- All NFRC-certified film attachments may then be labeled as such. Certification is for four years.

For more information about the window film certification and rating process, contact Jessica Ferris at 301-589-1776 x 204 or jferris@nffc.org

NFRC ATTACHMENT RATINGS

XYZ Applied Film Company • Deluxe Green Film
 CPD#000-x-000 (Interior)
 This rating uses reference product energy performance – actual product performance may vary.

**ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS –
 Solar Heat Gain Coefficient & Visible Transmittance Only**

Reference Product		Solar Heat Gain Coefficient	Visible Transmittance
Type	Glazing	With Film	With Film
Residential	Single Glazed Clear	0.64	0.67
	Double Glazed Clear	0.56	0.60
Non-Residential	Single Glazed Clear	0.68	0.69
	Single Glazed Grey	0.46	0.33
	Double Glazed Clear	0.58	0.64
	Double Glazed Grey	0.35	0.29

Manufacturer stipulates that these ratings conform to applicable NFRC procedures for determining whole product performance. NFRC ratings are determined for a fixed set of environmental conditions and a specific product size. NFRC does not recommend any product and does not warrant the suitability of any product for any specific use. Consult manufacturer's literature for other product performance information.
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