

Americas Glass Association's (formerly the California Glass Association) **Influence** for the US-Glass & Glazing Industry

Standard Setting and Code Affiliations:

AGA has been an active member of the Z97 Committee to offer its input in standardizing for safety glazing to the American National Standards Institute (**ANSI**). In addition, we are members of the American Society for Testing and Materials (**ASTM**), the National Fire Prevention Association (**NFPA**) and a professional member of the International Codes Conference (**ICC**). AGA has been a long standing participant with the Contractors State License Board (**CSLB**).

Disabled. AGA is a member of the California State Architect's Task Force on Disabled Accessibility. This group makes code changes for adoption by the state Building Commission and harmonizes (as best as possible) with the ADA.

ADA. AGA single handedly represented the glass & metal industries for over 3½ years to successfully amend the ANSI A117.1 '98 standard on accessibility. We were able to establish the 10" bottom rail, location of hardware and definition of a clear opening for doors.

The Source™ continues to be the hallmark of architectural glazing interpretation. The exact text of Chapter 24 (Glass and Glazing) with in depth interpretation. Continuing to amend the code for clarity and safety are a constant effort by AGA. Deflection, edge bite and clearance, the 9 sq.ft. rule, baluster top rails, exceptions reorganization, and other such items are on the list for change.

Bugging of Safety Glass. With the advent of the '94 UBC, all laminated glass must be "bugged" by the *manufacturer or installer*. AGA produces such a permanent etching system called "**Bug-It™**".

9 Sq. Ft. Exemption. The requirement that glass must be over nine sq. ft. to be safety glazed for "*other glazed panels*" continues to lead to accidents in residential construction. AGA has continuously lobbied for an amendment to this rule.

Mirrors. Specific industry standards are recommended for mirror installations and further defines locations where safety backed mirror must be used. In addition AGA produces an installation standards, "**Mirror Manual I™**."

OSHA Requirements. AGA and Cal-OSHA have joined forces on a joint venture for developing video, CD and manuals for industry safety procedures. These will be made available at least cost to members, including indoctrination through In-Service-Training programs.

AGA has embarked on an ambitious plan to develop training seminars for Cal-OSHA field inspectors to recognize the uses of special tools used in the glazing trade.

Elevator Glazing. AGA consults to both the **A17.1 Committee** in New York and the **Department of Industrial Relations** in San Francisco on glazing in elevators. We were instrumental in getting safety backed mirror approved for elevator car use.

Glazier Training. AGA has worked on the National Architectural Certification Program with NGA for over 12 years. We have produced the "**Glass & Glazing**" (an introductory text for architectural training), "**Mirror Manual I**" (measuring fabricating & installing of wall mirror).

Weights and Measures. In 1991, we successfully testified before the California Department of Weights and Measures and the National Conference on Weights and Measures to sustain the practice of rounding square footage to the nearest even inch. A lawsuit had tried to force the industry to use the fractional method of exact calculation. This clarification effected the entire country.

Insulating Glass. AGA has challenged SIGMA and the I.G. industry to establish a minimum 10 year warranty on I.G. product with warranty information passed on to the owner. This means that manufacturers of I.G. products should produce one quality of I.G. product....the best, and list compatible bedding sealants to their products.

Door Repairs. AGA has continuously cautioned glaziers through our magazine that the repair of annealed doors could create a liability. We have cautioned glaziers that the R & R of doors for repair of wheels or track or hinges and closers without replacing the existing annealed glass could place them in serious liability in the event of an injury accident arising from the product.

Technical Report

Wire Glass-Fire Label. AGA was the first to notify the glazing world when NFPA-80, '92 passed the requirement that polished wired glass certified for fire use must be permanently labeled. Despite our concerted efforts we were unable to "pass on" the certification established by the manufacturer. Each lite of wired glass for fire use must be identified by a certified distributor.

California Highway Patrol cites glass rack truck for being over width (1997). The CHP in a citation found a standard (Weldco) glass rack over width and in violation of the state's vehicle code (including most other state's codes). The arresting officer contended that the glass stakes violated the maximum width provision of 102". The case went to court. There are over 18,000 rack trucks so equipped in California alone. AGA responded to the court by citing that the glass stakes were a safety device and should be accepted under the 10" allowance for safety devices, such as mirrors. AGA added that the modern glass stake has saved numerous loss of loads as experience with rope or webbing tie-downs. The citation was overturned by the court and a major victory for AGA.

Auto Glass: Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR). AGA has established a working relationship with both the BAR and the **Insurance Commissioner's** office. Close scrutiny has been waged on kick backs, other illegal incentives, and any lack of repair of deteriorated pinch weld prior to installation. In January of 2004, The AGA with the Auto Body Association successfully passed **SB 551** into law that states:

"We (the insurance carrier) are prohibited by law from requiring that repairs be done at a specific automotive repair dealer. You are entitled to select the auto body repair shop to repair damage covered by us. We have recommended an automotive repair dealer that will repair your damaged vehicle. If you agree to use our recommended automotive repair dealer, we will cause the damaged vehicle to be restored to its condition prior to the loss at no additional cost to you other than as stated in the insurance policy or otherwise allowed by law. If you experience a problem with the repair of your vehicle, please contact us immediately for assistance." **This works for auto glass repair and replacement, it's the law!**

Glazier Certification for Installation of Fire Glazing. AGA is working with Chico State University and Intertech Testing Services (2005) to develop and maintain a Fire Glazing Certification program. This need has been ongoing for some time. Since fire-rated glass is tested as a glazed unit in its steel frame, the integrity of field glazing can be maintained only through certified installers.

5# force for entry doors. The California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) passed an amendment to Title 24 in the fall of 2002 changing the operating force of all exterior doors from 8½# to 5#. AGA has been working with the State Architect's Office (DSA), the Universal Design Committee, the Coalition of Disabled Professionals (CODAP) to amend this excessive requirement for the disabled. AGA has prevailed on the DSA to write a formal interpretation (**IR 11B-5, 2005**) that now requires that one door on an accessible route shall be operable with 5# effort. All other doors on that elevation shall operate @ 8-1/2#.

2005. Americas Glass Association formed by a name change from the California Glass Association. This change stemmed primarily from CGA's long standing glazing code support to the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO). When ICBO merged with the other two model code groups (SBCCI & BOCA) to form the International Codes Conference, the CGA board and membership supported a name that better represented the entire nation. The AGA mission is a simple one that promotes a one-on-one support for retail and contract glazing businesses.

2005. AGA created the Fire & Safety Glazing Council. The mission of this division of AGA is to create and amend building codes and standards. Our primary objective is to work with Building Officials throughout the US in developing safety and fire glazing codes to further life safety and reduce liability.

Task Groups. AGA is currently conducting four Task Groups on **Seismic, Railings & Balustrades, Frameless Shower Enclosures, Site-Built Glazed Openings, and Retrofit Windows** to establish voluntary industry standards where none exist. In 2006, AGA submitted an entire new Section to ICC for Shower Enclosures (**S109**).