

Updated: 09/01/09

Americas Glass Association's *and its chapter*, the California Glass Association's Influence for the US-Glass & Glazing Industry

Current AGA Efforts

2001 to Present - 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.

2002 to Present - Accessible Doors , 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#. CGA 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. CGA has prevailed on the DSA to write a formal interpretation (IR 11B-5, 2005) that now requires that one door in eight on an accessible route shall be operable with 5# effort. All other doors on that elevation shall operate @ 8-1/2#.

2006 to Present – Cal/OSHA Reg. 341. Cal/OSHA issued an unadvertised regulation that affected the glazing industry in 2006. AGA “discovered” this regulation and immediately contacted Cal/OSHA for an interpretation. The regulation stated,

“(4). To conduct any of the following activities on a structure intended to be more than 36 feet high when completed, the Project Administrator shall hold a Project Permit and all other employees directly engaging in these activities shall hold an annual permit:

(C). Installation of curtain walls, precast panels, or fascia.

Interpretation: Note for the purpose of this requirement ‘curtain wall’ means exterior wall systems and components of wall system designed to support the exterior façade, and not designed primarily to support a roof or floor load. ‘Installation of curtain walls’ would include the installation of the exterior skin, regardless of whether this was glass, metal, or other material. Like other permit-required activities, a permit would be required for any such work on a building intended to be over 36 feet in height when completed, regardless of the height of the work itself. This would apply to any major alteration to curtain wall on a building of more than 36 feet in height. This would not apply to emergency glass repair.

The annual permit required for a glazing contractor is not expensive and may be obtained from any Cal/OSHA field office. The permit is good for one year at the job address.

2006 to Present – Frameless Shower Code. AGA developed a complete building code amendment for the IBC. At present there is no code for shower installations. In order to establish the size parameters by thickness and height for unsupported glass attachment, Mike Grossman and D. Harter used CRL's test facility in Vernon. We determined the maximum deflection that a frameless system could tolerate. We also developed a small brochure depicting different frameless systems with minimum anchoring designs. This entire work was offered to the Bath Enclosures Manufacturer's Association for their co-sponsorship. To date it has been held up by an ASTM standard development process.

2008 to Present - CGA/AGA joins Cal Fire, Wildland-Urban Interface Code to help establish glazing requirements in high fire hazard areas. California is adopting a new 8 minute test standard to offer minimum protection against flying embers. This standard will be presented to ICC for their adoption.

2009 to Present - AGA will produce an entry-level training text, “**Glazing 101**” for the architectural glazing trade. This text will display the tools and their uses for the trade and various steps for shop fabrication.

Ongoing

Standard Setting , Code Affiliations and other issues:

AGA/CGA 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/CGA 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.

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. CGA has worked on the National Architectural Certification Program with NGA for over 12 years.

Insulating Glass. AGA has challenged Sealed Insulating Glass Manufacturers (**SIGMA**) and the Insulating Glass (**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 make nothing less than a 10 year warranted product and list compatible bedding sealants to their products.

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.

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.

Category I safety glazing should be eliminated from the code. Why does ICC try so hard to reduce safety glazing when it has become so inexpensive? Life safety and liability reduction are the mainstay of the American glazing industry.

Industry Changing Accomplishments

1975-1977 – NGA was represented by Donn Harter at the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) hearings in Washington, D.C. in the formation of the 16-CFR 1201, safety glazing standard. This standard became effective July 6, 1977.

1978 – The Southern California Glass Dealers Association (SCGDA) was resurrected.

1980 –The SCGDA name was changed to the California Glass Association (CGA).

1982 – **CGA develops the first *Source*TM** . This is a tri-annual publication that continues to be the hallmark of architectural glazing interpretation. The exact text of Chapter 24 (Glass and Glazing) with in depth interpretation. is included with all other reference to glazing throughout the code. Continuing to amend the code for clarity and safety are a constant effort by CGA. 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.

1991 - "**Mirror Manual I**TM" was developed as a training text for intermediate and advanced glaziers on the measuring, fabricating, and installing of wall mirrors Specific industry standards are recommended for mirror installations and further defines locations where safety backed mirror must be used.

1991 - 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 affected the entire country.

1992 - Wire Glass-Fire Label. CGA 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.

1994 – 1998 Disabled Accessibility. CGA 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.

1996 - Bugging of Safety Glass. The first "bug" was developed by CGA. With the advent of the '94 UBC, all laminated glass must be "bugged" by the *manufacturer or installer*. CGA produces such a permanent etching system called "Bug-It™".

1997 - California Highway Patrol cites glass rack truck for being over width. 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. CGA 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. CGA 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 was a major victory for CGA.

2004 - Auto Glass: Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR). CGA 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 CGA 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!**

2005 - Glazier Certification for Installation of Fire Glazing. CGA is working with Chico State University and Intertech Testing Services 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.

2005 - Americas Glass Association was formed by making the California Glass Association a chapter. 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 CGA continues the CGA mission 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.

We will always be here working for you!