

# Fire & Safety Glazing Council

"Dedicated to Life Safety through improved Building Codes & Standards"



The Fire & Safety Glazing Council (*Council*) was organized to meet a growing need for a better understanding of and education in the complex glass and glazing industry.

The *Council's* goal: "To promote the development of codes and standards for fire and safety glazing and to educate the participants in the design, construction, and inspection of all buildings to ensure life safety."

The *Council* is a division of the **Americas Glass Association** (AGA), formerly known as, the California Glass Association. It's extensive work is well known to Building Officials through its glazing codes interpretation, "**the Source**™."

What sets the *Council* apart from other industry standard setting groups is its voting composition. The make-up of the steering committee represents a broad spectrum of the building industry. Dominance by manufacturers in other industry and standard setting groups, has often led to biased standards and building codes.

The following categories of the steering committee Members insures equal representation to develop guidelines, code, and expand education.

- Building Official
- Consumer Advocate
- Contract Glazing
- Design Professional
- Door & Window Industry
- Energy Consultant
- Fire Marshal
- Fire Glass Manufacturer
- Glass Association (AGA)
- Glass Distribution
- Institutional End User
- Insulating Glass Fabrication
- ICC
- Laminated Glass Fabrication
- NFPA
- Tempered Glass Fabrication
- Testing & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Certification
- Storefront & Curtainwall Manufacturers
- Window Films

The end result will be a code that is easier to follow by the glazing industry, plan checkers, and inspectors.

## Partners in Code Development

The following groups will significantly benefit from the *Council's* efforts:

### **Building Officials**

The *Council's* primary audience includes Building Officials and members of their staff by enlisting their support and participation in amending the IBC with new code and clarification of existing code. Requests for seminar presentations can be made to the *Council* directly.

Communication will be made through e-mail bulletins and seminars to ICC Chapters which will be offered at no cost throughout the US.

### **Contract Glaziers**

The *glazing contractor* (a subcontractor) is the real expert who must adhere to the IBC building codes

and design specifications. Glazing contractors provide the final testing ground for all glazing products.

When the design spec is not in accordance with building code, it is the responsibility of the *glazing contractor* to notify the general contractor, architect, or owner of a required change. The Council's objective is to *certify installers* to field glaze fire-rated glazing products, to assure that the manufacturer's procedures are being strictly followed and therefore reducing the completed product's liability.

Education to contract glaziers is done through E-mail bulletins and regional seminars throughout the US. A *Fire Glazing Installer Certification* program is also in the works.

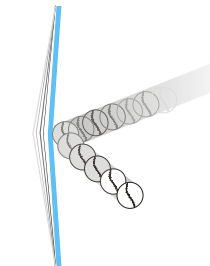
### **Design Professionals**

Often there is a delicate balance between design and code compliance. The *Council* will focus on both parties to establish a positive relationship and work through situations when the spec does not meet all codes and laws. The code is not intended to stifle creative design, but to preserve life safety....the *Council* believes that both goals can be met.

### **Manufacturers/Fabricators**

Support from manufacturers and fabricators is the backbone of the *Council*. We need their technical support and ingenuity to maintain fenestration, and at the same time, produce products that meet **energy, seismic, security** (blast, bullet, & burglary resistant), **human impact safety, wind design, and fire resistance**.

The *Council's* leadership together with manufacturers and fabricators will guarantee the highest integrity for the glazing industry and at the same time **reduce product liability**.



### The Environmental Elements

There are four basic types of safety glazing; **tempered glass, laminated glass, window films and certain plastics**. These products are designed for the following uses:

## Human Impact

These are glazed openings subject to accidental impact, known as *hazardous locations*. The *Council* will be initiating the addition of *continuously hazardous locations*, openings subject to constant impact, such as athletic facilities, dance studios, rest homes, medical facilities, etc... The *Council* recommends that any glazing subject to human impact shall adhere to the CPSC Standard 16 CFR 1201, Cat. II. The forces of **wind** and **security** are related to human impact, but are more extensive. Glazing products—designed to resist hurricane, blasts, bullets and burglary are a combination of laminated glass, tempered glass, polycarbonate, and films, or a combination of these products.

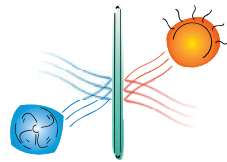
## Fire Resistance



When properly specified and installed, fire rated glass can protect lives and limit property loss. When glazed within fire doors and windows, (protected openings) or other fire resistive building elements, fire-rated glass provides effective passive fire resistance performance. This glazing is in compliance with standardized test methods and building codes. Transparent architecture, natural daylighting and visual security may be realized without compromising life safety.

The selection of appropriate fire duration and performance criteria is crucial. However, given the recent explosion of new product solutions in the marketplace, this decision can be very confusing. Our objective is to guide designers, contractors, building officials, and contract glaziers through this complex maze.

## Energy



In designing glazing for fire and impact safety, additional factors must be considered.

The reduction of heat/loss gain must also be incorporated into the design for impact and fire glazing.

## Seismic



**Seismic force** is an inexact science in relationship to building design. It is a problem to determine the forces applied

to the structure and its openings by current engineering principles. However, it has been proven that marine-type and silicone glazing reduces glass fall-out.

## A New Coalition Has Been Formed

The Fire and Safety Glazing Council invites you to participate in this coalition of public officials, construction industry professionals, glass and glazing experts, and glass manufacturers.

**The results from this Council's efforts can bring more meaningful input to the code change and standard setting process than ever before attained in this country.**

The Fire and Safety Glazing Council is a Division of the *Americas Glass Association*

## Interested in Participating?

The Council needs interested individuals from the building and inspection industries who are concerned with glazing codes and standards.

To find out more about the Council and how you may join our efforts, please contact us at our office or our website, which will soon be finished.

We will be glad to e-mail, FAX or mail you detailed information on how you may participate.

Other exciting news is the completion of a new section for Chapter 24 dealing with **shower enclosures**. This Section is sorely needed to guide the design and installation of frameless shower enclosures. This will be an amendment for the 2009 IBC. The complete text of amendments and a user manual will be available to building jurisdictions for immediate adoption.

## How to reach us:

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and the

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