



Navigating the NFRC Product Certification Program

Understanding the Process, Costs, and Benefits

The process for obtaining NFRC Certified Energy Performance Ratings can appear confusing. The purpose of this fact sheet is to explain how the program works and provide a guide to help simplify and streamline the various expenses involved. Please consider the program expense an investment in your product. Remember, anything of value has a price.

Benefits

- * Credibility to your brand, consumer trust, and potentially increased sales.
- * Assurance of code compliance – knowing that your product will be rated by the world's foremost expert in fenestration performance.
- * Fair competition in the marketplace through uniform and consistent treatment – whether you are a national or small-market producer.

Product Certification Process

1 Contact NFRC at 301-589-1776 or by email at pcp@nfdc.org to request a certification program packet, which contains information about the program, such as a list of NFRC-accredited laboratories and Independent Certification and Inspection Agencies (IA) and an NFRC license agreement.

2 Select an NFRC-licensed IA. Your IA will guide you through the process (including labeling). IAs review and validate test reports, issue Certification Authorization Reports (CAR), and inspect manufacturing plants.

3 Select an NFRC-accredited simulation and test lab. The labs will work with you to review your product catalog and determine the number of product lines to be rated based on the requirements of NFRC standards (typically representing operator type, frame type, etc.).

Remember to keep it simple: The more product lines and individual options you choose to have modeled, the higher the costs. Once the specific product lines are identified, the simulator models the product(s) and determines the energy performance characteristics (U-factor, Solar Heat Gain Coefficient, Visible Transmittance).

4 Send a randomly-selected product (baseline product) to the NFRC-accredited thermal test lab (one item for each product line). The test lab will validate the U-factor rating from the NFRC-accredited simulation lab. Please note that there are allowances that will help you to group product lines and reduce the number of required validation tests required.

Be sure to work closely with NFRC-accredited simulation and test labs and licensed IAs. In addition, do not begin any testing program until your product matrix is established. Baseline products vary in accordance with the results of products simulated.

5 Sign and return the completed NFRC License Agreement, schedules, and associated documents. The agreement covers the approved use of the NFRC name and logo on authorized products. The schedules and associated documents provide NFRC with contact information, the location of the manufacturing plant(s), and where product lines are produced.

6 The test and simulation labs prepare the results and will send copies to your IA. Your IA will review the results and compare them to the original drawings and specifications submitted by your accredited labs. Once the IA determines that the product meets NFRC requirements, they will issue a CAR to you.

7 Label those product(s) with an NFRC label approved by your IA. Products are certified for a period of four years from the test date. In addition, the certified products will be listed in NFRC's Certified Products Director (CPD), which is available at www.nfdc.org.

Questions? NFRC is here to support you.
Please contact us for additional information.

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NFRC Participation Costs

The cost for participating in NFRC's certification program is based on the licensee's total revenue from the sale of whole fenestration products. The sales revenue should include revenue from all whole fenestration products regardless of whether the products are NFRC certified. This amount shall also include the whole product fenestration sales revenue for any subsidiary of the licensee that does not have its own NFRC license agreement and plants listed on the licensee's Schedule I that do not have a separate license agreement with NFRC. Those Participants selling both whole products as well as components (i.e., slabs or door lite) shall provide only the revenue for whole product sales. NFRC is a non-profit membership organization; NFRC membership is separate and apart from participation in the NFRC Product Certification Program.

Fenestration Product Manufacturers	Members	Non-Members
<i>Sales Revenue</i>	<i>Annual Participation Fee</i>	
< \$2M	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
< \$2.01M - \$5M	\$ 2,325	\$ 3,125
< \$5.01M - \$10M	\$ 3,325	\$ 4,325
< \$10.01M - \$20M	\$ 4,325	\$ 5,625
< \$20.01M - \$30M	\$ 6,625	\$ 8,175
< \$30.01M - \$40M	\$10,325	\$12,125
< \$40.01M - \$50M	\$11,325	\$13,375
< \$50.01M - \$75M	\$13,325	\$15,875
< \$75.01M - \$100M	\$17,325	\$20,375
< \$100.01M - \$300M	\$29,825	\$34,750
< \$300.01M - \$500M	\$42,825	\$50,250
> \$500.01M	\$73,575	\$87,875
Reinstatement Fee	\$ 100	\$ 150

*Please contact NFRC for more information regarding product certification fees for applied film.

Site Built Program

Curtain wall and other site-built fenestration licensees use label certificates in lieu of temporary labels. Manufacturers of fenestration products and systems may use the label certificates in lieu of temporary labels when specified for use in buildings more than 3 stories above grade and with a minimum fenestration area of 930 square meters (10,000 square feet) that has been authorized for certification.

Site-Built Participation fees are \$250 per project. Label certificate fees are assessed based on the square footage of fenestration product area authorized for certification.

Label Certificate Fees (per project)

Certified Site-Built Fenestration Area	
≤ 1,000 ft ²	\$ 25.00
≥ 1,000 to 10,000 ft ²	\$ 200.00
≥ 10,000 to 50,000 ft ²	\$ 1,000.00
≥ 50,000 to 100,000 ft ²	\$ 2,000.00
≥ 100,000 ft ²	\$ 3,000.00

Other Program Costs

Participation costs vary from manufacturer to manufacturer and among the NFRC-accredited labs and licensed IAs. Here are some things to consider as you begin the process:

- ★ Keep your needs simple!
- ★ Time is money – The more time it takes for inspections, testing, and simulation, the higher the anticipated costs.
- ★ Consider grouping options when available.
- ★ Shop around for the best value – request several bids before choosing an accredited lab and IA.
- ★ Communicate regularly with your labs and IAs.

Licensed IA Fees

IA costs vary among the agencies. Costs may take into account how much information needs to be reviewed, the number of products per product line, how many product ratings need verification, as well as the number of CARs issued. Initial plant inspections will also contribute to the services provided by the IA and will affect pricing.

Accredited Simulation Lab Fees

Simulation lab costs vary from lab to lab. Costs take into account a review of the manufacturer's catalog, the number of product lines, and the complexity of the products. In addition, simulation labs provide the U-factor, Solar Heat Gain Coefficient, and Visible Transmittance ratings in according with NFRC standards for each product in the various product lines. These are the required ratings that appear on the NFRC labels. Again, consider grouping products when allowable and do not model products that you do not make or that will not be labeled!

Accredited Testing Lab Fees

Thermal testing costs differ among the various test labs. Remember that you may need validation tests for each product line. Using proper grouping techniques can reduce testing costs. Check with NFRC or an NFRC-licensed IA before conducting testing. Changing your product matrix (simulation lab report) may affect the baseline product to be tested.

NFRC administers an independent, uniform rating and labeling system for the energy performance of fenestration products, including windows, curtain walls, doors, and skylights.

For more information on NFRC, please visit our Website at www.nfrc.org or contact NFRC directly at 301.589.1776.