



## Codes Update

The lazy days of summer don't seem to apply to several states that have adopted or are working towards adoption of the IECC. The 2000, 2003, and the most recent 2004 editions are all under consideration among the various states.

We asked Garrett Stone, Chairman of NFRC's Regulatory Affairs Committee about recent developments on the national model code level. He noted that the ICC recently published its 2004 codes supplement, which includes the new 2004 edition of the IECC. "The 2004 version of the IECC is a complete rewrite and simplification of the code," according to Stone. He elaborated on the revisions to the IECC. "Like previous editions, the 2004 IECC continues to require the use of high performance fenestration and NFRC ratings, but this version also includes key advances for the window industry. One of the main differences from previous editions is that there is unlimited glazing area allowed. A home can meet the prescriptive code without any glazing area restrictions, so long as high performance, NFRC-rated fenestration is used."

Due to the improvements and simplification in this IECC version, many states have expressed interest in reviewing and adopting this new version. In **New York**, the state Fire Prevention and Building Code Council has reactivated its technical subcommittee to review the energy code and has started its review with the new 2004 IECC.

Here's a breakdown of recent activity:

The **Delaware** Senate and House passed Bill 306 adopting the 2000 IECC for new detached one and two-story dwellings and

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## Focusing on Attachment Labels

**F**or a label to be effective, it must be easy to understand, clean in its design, and contain all the information needed by the appropriate audience. Needless to say, getting a label to meet all of these qualifications is no easy task.

The newest label making its way through NFRC's review process is the fenestration attachment label, i.e., window films. But before the label can be approved as the final version, it is important that we understand the habits, attitudes, and needs of three important audiences: homeowners, building code officials, and utility energy efficiency program managers. NFRC decided that a few strategic focus groups and interviews could provide the labeling subcommittee additional viewpoints and guidance as the label is crafted and finalized. At each focus group, three sample labels were shown and the participants then gave their feedback.

A quick note about focus groups: While they can provide qualitative data and identify preferences, they are not a substitute for the data that quantitative research provides. The information gleaned from them should be used to guide decisions but not necessarily make them.

That said, there were some interesting similarities and differences in what the focus group participants had to say.

The homeowners tended to focus their comments on editorial issues. They made recommendations such as "colorize the logo" or don't use the word "fenestration" since most people outside the window/building industry don't know what it means, bold the Web site address, etc. They also thought the label should look similar to the current whole product label so that it clearly carries the NFRC brand.

Building code officials, however, preferred a label that was different from the whole product label in terms of shape and color. They wanted to easily distinguish between the two. They also felt the attachment label included too

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## In This Issue

Is it possible that summer is already winding down? Where did the time go? Inside, you'll find important information on NFRC's own upcoming election, case against self certification, and partnerships forming across the country. Stay cool and enjoy the final days of the season.

## Step Up to the Plate!

The Commercial Windows Initiative (CWI) is partnering with Cardinal Glass, Mikron Industries, and Tecton Industries to promote its Step Up to the Plate 2004 campaign. Step Up to the Plate 2004 is a baseball-themed educational promotion targeting the Northwest region's factory-built window manufacturers. The promotion is designed to assist manufacturers in their efforts to communicate the benefits of energy-efficient window products to the regional architectural community.

"Window manufacturers have a lot of product knowledge they could offer during the design process that would result in better performing commercial buildings," said Gary Curtis, project manager for CWI.

For more information on CWI and the Step Up to the Plate 2004 program, visit [www.commercialwindowsinitiative.org](http://www.commercialwindowsinitiative.org).

## Fun with Acronyms:

### AIA Partners with the NIBS' BETEC to Form BECs

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the National Institute of Building Science's (NIBS) Building Environment and Thermal Envelope Council (BETEC)

forged a partnership intended to reinforce the design community's leadership in the area of building envelopes. The agreement, signed May 18, 2004 will establish a network of building enclosure councils (BEC's) in major cities across the United States.

The partnership is intended to:

- provide a forum at the local level for those interested in building envelopes and related building science;
- promote and encourage discussion, training, education, technology transfer, and local exchange of information;
- Initiate and promote cross-disciplinary/responsibility dialogue laterally between professions and vertically between designers, consultants, educators, manufacturers, suppliers, fabricators, constructors, building operators, developers, insurance, etc.; and
- facilitate process improvements, i.e., inspection, approvals, regulations, standards, liability, etc.

The initial targeted cities include Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Dallas, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, and Seattle. Interested parties should send an e-mail to [pchichowski@nibs.org](mailto:pchichowski@nibs.org) for more information. ■

## Focusing on Attachment Labels, *continued from page 1*

much information – they simply want to know whether the film helps the window meet code or not. They also asked NFRC to include a phone number so that an inspector in the field can quickly call a person for a quick answer.

The utility managers indicated that since they don't often see the labels, they are probably not a major audience.

The one area all three audiences had in common was the desire for more information and education. So whatever form NFRC adopts as its approved label, an extensive education campaign will need to be done with all the groups so that they can recognize, understand and appropriately use the label.

In response to the feedback received from the focus groups, the Labeling Subcommittee accepted several important changes and approved a draft label. The full Ratings Committee will consider the draft label at the Portland meeting in October, and then send it to the Board of Directors for final approval. ■

## Over the Transom, *continued from page 3*

### Need to Stock Up on NFRC Tear-Sheets and Label Brochures?

An additional benefit of NFRC membership is access to clear, easy-to-understand educational materials that manufacturers can share with their customers or potential customers. Tear sheets and label brochures that explain how to use and understand the NFRC label are available for purchase at a nominal fee. To order copies for your organization, contact NFRC at 301-589-1776, ext. 208.



## Upcoming Meetings

It's not too early to think about the upcoming NFRC Annual Fall Meeting and the spring 2005 Membership Meeting. SAVE THESE DATES!

## ANNUAL FALL MEETING

October 10 – 14, 2004

Portland, Oregon

Portland Marriott Downtown

## SPRING 2005 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 13 – 17, 2005

Waikoloa Beach, Hawaii (The "Big Island")

Waikoloa Beach Marriott

*For more information, stay tuned to NFRC's meeting information page at [www.nfrc.org](http://www.nfrc.org).*

## NFRC Welcomes Jessica Ferris to the Team

NFRC has a new manager of both the Product Certification Program (PCP) and the Certification Agency Program (CAP). Jessica Ferris is a Washington, D.C. native who received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Catholic University of America in 1984. After switching career gears by working as a paralegal for the Justice Department, she moved to the association and certification world. She previously worked for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy as an investigations program manager and later as the manager of credentialing services. She took over her new NFRC duties on July 26 and hasn't looked back since. She lives in Kensington, Md. with her three daughters. Jessica looks forward to working with everyone and can be reached at 301-589-1776, ext. 204 or [jferris@nfrc.org](mailto:jferris@nfrc.org).

## The International Window Film Association (IWFA) Featured in *Washington Post* Article

One of our members was recently quoted in the August 2<sup>nd</sup> *Washington Post* article titled, "Demand for Window Film Spikes After Terror Alerts." According to Darrell Smith, executive director of the IWFA, "prior to the terrorist attacks, sales of security film accounted for 1 to 3 percent of all window film sales, which includes films used for tinting and blocking UV rays. But today, security film accounts for as much as 15 percent of window film sales -- a \$1 billion-a-year industry." The article also mentions the additional energy savings consumers can expect from installing security window films. Read the complete article at [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com).



Tony Rygg

## NFRC's Election

With the political conventions upon us and the presidential campaign about to kick into high gear, it seems appropriate to take a few minutes to talk about our own upcoming election.

About this time last year, I wrote about the changes NFRC was making in response to member concerns about the way their Board of Directors operates. While some business must be conducted behind closed doors for obvious reasons of confidentiality (budgeting, staffing, etc.), we took to heart recommendations that the Board conduct more of its business out in the open. We've responded in many ways:

- The Board now holds almost all of its business meetings in open forums.
- We post approved minutes to the NFRC Web site.
- We created a new membership committee, Research and Technology, and added its chairman as an *ex officio* member of the Board.
- We changed the Board's slot designations to better define the three general interest categories and designated specific seats within the fenestration industry category for residential and non-residential window manufacturers .

At the same time, we've sought to explain the Board's fiduciary responsibilities as the governing entity of a 501c(3) organization established to serve the "public interest." Occasionally, these responsibilities require us to tell the membership "no" even when broad consensus may exist within the organization for a particular program or initiative.

## Now's Your Chance to Participate

I hope the membership recognizes the changes we have made. We're working in good faith to be the best Board we can be. And now the membership has a chance to help make that happen, as we head into Board elections this fall.

We have six openings for the Board terms that will be seated at the end of the Fall Meeting in Portland, one each in the following categories:

- Fenestration Industry Category - Members employed by or affiliated with the fenestration industry (this is a general fenestration industry seat referring to members involved in manufacturing fenestration

## The Case Against Self-Certification

### *The Debate Continues*

Since its inception, the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) has been closely linked with state and national code enforcement. In fact, it can honestly be said that NFRC was founded in large part to serve the needs of those who develop and enforce building codes.

The link began in the early 1990s, when the states of California, Oregon, and Washington became the first to reference NFRC in their codes. They even went one step further by requiring the use of labels on windows, doors, and skylights to assist building inspectors with determining whether or not a product met the code requirement (if they were not labeled, the code established punitive default ratings).

Since then, NFRC's role in the code arena has grown broader and deeper. The last time we redesigned our temporary energy performance label, we made changes specifically with building officials in mind. Our most recent survey of building officials, conducted in 2000, found that more than half relied on NFRC labels to determine if fenestration products met code. We can only assume that even more do so today, as NFRC certification references and requirements have spread to more and more states.

Despite NFRC's terrific progress, there is still a challenging road ahead. Even today, there are manufacturers attempting to "self-certify" and place non-NFRC labels on their products.

### NFRC Heads South for SHGC

NFRC's rating procedures began with U-factor. As enforcement of U-factor requirements expanded in the north and east, the use of NFRC's labels followed suit. However, NFRC labeling and certification did not grow as fast in the southern region of the country because strengthening U-factor performance is not perceived as important in warm weather states. The biggest issue in these states is, of course, air-conditioning loads, not heating bills.

California, again, led the way in recognizing the role that fenestration products played in admitting solar heat into buildings. Title 24 specified limited solar heat gain for glazed products in those climate zones with significant cooling requirements and relied upon NFRC 200 (its standard for determining fenestration product Solar Heat Gain Coefficient) as a reference for establishing those limits.

The major breakthrough came in 1998, when the first edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) established a prescriptive limit on the amount of solar heat gain through windows, patio doors, and skylights for the first

time. As with U-factor, the IECC relied on NFRC standards to ensure a uniform application of the ratings. The code also relied on NFRC labels to assure a means of enforcing the energy codes in cooling codes.

### Replacements, Remodeling, and Commercial

The 1998 IECC also brought other major national changes. For the first time, the code established prescriptive requirements, both U-factor and SHGC, for residential replacement windows. California has now followed a similar path for its 2005 standards.

As a result of all these changes, the code comprehensively covers the entire window market for the first time. The net effect of these requirements, along with those solidly in place for new construction, is to necessitate NFRC-rated products for most applications.

In 1999, NFRC approved a new standard to deal with site-built fenestration systems. The IECC and Title 24 were quick to adopt this new standard and to reference the use of NFRC Label Certificates for high-rise residential and non-residential construction. NFRC is presently working hard to improve its rating system for commercial windows.

The bottom line: as codes increasingly reference and require NFRC ratings for a wider spectrum of products, the importance of NFRC certification grows.

Self-certification threatens to roll back these advances. This practice places the entire burden of enforcement on building inspectors and the building code agency, even though they have no way to know if the manufacturer truly performed the required tests and simulations in accordance with NFRC standards and at accredited laboratories. A desire to self-certify ignores the painful history of the window industry, which led to the development of NFRC and independent, accredited laboratories in the first place. Self-certification takes us back to the '70s and '80s, when manufacturer claims and stated performance values were NOT credible (and we have already seen evidence of this fact), and NFRC strongly opposes the practice.

NFRC has worked and will continue to work closely with the building code organizations to educate them on the need to look for NFRC labels. We simply don't want to throw away all the progress we have made. ■



## 2004 Documents Published



By Ken Nittler, P.E., WESTLab, Chairman

By the time you read this, NFRC's 2004 Rating Documents will have been published and should be available on the Web site ([www.nfrc.org](http://www.nfrc.org)). Documents include all major NFRC ratings including 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, and additional

supporting documents. These documents were approved at our spring Miami meeting subject to editing and formatting with oversight from staff, committee, and subcommittee chairs. Significant effort went into improving the appearance

and consistency of our documents. My thanks to the subcommittee chairs and reviewers who made it possible to improve our technical documents. And special thanks to our document expert Arlene Stewart and staffer Bipin Shah for their contributions.

The 2004 documents are scheduled for implementation in January 2005. As changes from the 2001 documents are mostly limited to adding addenda and interpretations that have already been approved, it is expected that most products will receive the same rating as the current 2001 rating system. ■

### Chairman's Message, continued from page 3

products or components, or with members who are trade associations or other organizations formed to represent such manufacturers);

- Fenestration Industry Category - Members employed by or affiliated with a primary glass manufacturer;
- Laboratory Category - Members employed by or affiliated with a test or simulation laboratory (this is a two-year seat);
- General Interest Category - Members employed by or affiliated with an institution of research and higher education;
- General Interest Category - Members employed by or affiliated with not-for-profit consumer, environmental, energy efficiency or other public interest organizations (a two-year seat);
- General Interest Category - Members that purchase or specify fenestration products; are involved in the regulation of the use of fenestration products and/or have a significant interest in promoting building energy efficiency including, but not limited to, consumer or public interest organizations, energy service providers, builders and other construction contractors, architects, engineers, attorneys, specifiers, state or local energy offices, building code agencies, institutions of research and higher education and trade associations or other organizations formed to represent any of those groups.

While these seats are now occupied by current directors who are all eligible for re-election, I want to encourage other

members to throw their hats into the ring. This is your chance to participate in the process, to make your views known, and to influence the direction of the organization (even if you don't necessarily win the election). Above all, don't be discouraged: many Board members don't make it their first time.

If you don't want to run yourself but think one of your colleagues is a worthy candidate, we're looking for designated nominations. (*Note - all potential nominees' names must be forwarded to the NFRC office by August 20*). All who are designated for nomination will receive information on their fiduciary duties to NFRC if elected. They will also be required to post a biography on the NFRC Web site, complete a questionnaire that confirms their eligibility in the category for which they're seeking a seat, and disclose any significant professional affiliations that may create potential conflicts of interest in the category for which they've been nominated.

### Most Importantly, Please Vote

The Board needs your help in finding and nominating candidates. More importantly, the organization as a whole needs you to exercise your voting rights once the nominees are in place. Last year, we had to re-ballot Board elections because we lacked the requisite number of votes. Details on how to cast your ballot online will be forthcoming. Please take a couple of minutes to familiarize yourself with the procedures, and most of all, please take a few moments to vote. It's every member's biggest benefit and most solemn responsibility. ■

other new residential buildings three stories or less in height.

**Idaho's** legislature adopted the 2003 version of the I-Codes, including the IECC, as the minimum requirements for all Idaho schools, state owned buildings, and local jurisdictions that adopt and enforce the codes – effective January 1, 2005.

**Illinois'** legislature passed House Bill 4099, establishing the commercial provisions of the 2003 IECC as mandatory statewide. However, it is awaiting the Governor's signature for final approval. If the Governor takes no action by September 16, the legislation will become active and the code will become effective one-year after.

**Maine's** Public Utilities Commission began an inquiry into building construction standards and continues to move forward on legislation passed in April that includes an amendment allowing for compliance with the 2003 IECC to satisfy the current energy standards.

**Montana's** Building Codes Bureau of the Department of Labor and Industry adopted new building codes effective March 12, 2004. The Bureau will now enforce the 2003 International Building, Existing Building, Fuel Gas, Mechanical and Residential Codes. The state has also adopted revisions to its state-developed energy code, but the fenestration requirements are not expected to change. A proposal to adopt

the 2003 IECC is also being considered.

**Nebraska** signed legislation into law adopting the 2003 IECC. The decision was based on a cost/benefit study funded by DOE. The new code will become the state energy code for both residential and commercial buildings July 1, 2005.

**South Carolina's** Building Codes Council adopted the 2003 IECC on May 25, 2004. The code will go into effect January 1, 2005. ■

## How To Reach Us

*NFRC Update* is published five times a year by the National Fenestration Rating Council, Inc., a non-profit organization that administers a rating and labeling system that provides accurate and reliable energy performance information about windows, doors, and skylights. Any editorial comments, suggestions, or media inquiries should be addressed to Kristine Martin, 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 320, Silver Spring, MD, 20910, 301-589-1776. E-mail address: info@nfdc.org.



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