This ATI Informational Bulletin provides a general overview and summary of the most recent update to the North American Fenestration Standard/Specification for windows, doors and skylights known as AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/I.S.2/A440-08. For simplicity sake, let's call the latest version the NAFS-08 document.

**The Progression of Changes**

The predecessors to the NAFS-08 document over the past 10 years have all been part of a long-term effort by the American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA), the Window and Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) to unify the fenestration industry's standards and specifications into one North American standard.

The effort to combine these three associations' standards and specifications into one document has always been thought of as somewhat of a heroic effort, considering all of the various entities involved in the process. Let there be no mistake, there are many stakeholders and end users that are taken into consideration when proposing and/or adopting these changes. Even so, the effort to make changes is painstaking, often grueling work that typically requires those in the trenches to be willing to compromise on what is best for the entire industry and our customers.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have been willing to volunteer their time and effort to get into the trenches and do the work! But enough about that, those on the other side of the fence could also say, “Yea fine, but when is enough, enough?” To that, let's just say, “Hopefully we are getting closer.”

With that in mind, ATI's customers are faced once again with the need to keep up with the changes taking place. This article is meant to make you aware of the changes so you can plan ahead and keep your fenestration testing current with the most recent version of the specification.
Summary of Changes

Some of the changes to this document are very minor, while others are quite significant and will take a bit of getting used to. Please keep in mind, this article is not meant to explain or justify any particular change, just to make you aware of what the changes entail. AAMA has published a comprehensive comparison of all the changes and it is available on the AAMA website (www.aamanet.org) or you may copy the following into your internet browser:

http://www.aamanet.org/general.asp?sect=2&id=45

Perhaps the most significant change is the elimination of two of the former product classifications and the addition of one new classification. You will recall from the latest version that there were five performance classifications; R, LC, C, HC and AW. There are now four classifications, known as R, LC, CW and AW. This change is being introduced to you first, as having an understanding of the change to the class designators is helpful in understanding some of the rest of the changes that follow.

Another fundamental change and key to understanding the remaining changes is the use of the designator “PG”, which stands for “performance grade”. The performance grade is really nothing new to the industry it's just a different way of stating the associated design pressure (formerly DP). Actually when you see “PG” it represents that a performance grade; including design pressure, associated water test pressure and a corresponding structural test pressure has been attained.

The third significant change is the allowance of the “Alternative Minimum Test Size” and associated “Minimum Performance Grades (PG) for “R” class products. This is completely new and was set up for “R” classification products only. The change is actually quite interesting. This change allows you to test a “smaller” test specimen size, “as long as you meet the minimum “PG” specified. The minimum PG has been increased from what is defined as the minimum “gateway criteria” in order to essentially offset the allowance to test to a smaller size. Yes, you can test to a smaller than gateway size for the first time but only when testing “R” class windows.

There are plenty of other relatively minor changes, including the following:

- A new product operator type – Tubular Daylighting Devices (TDDs) has been added, making a total of 31 operator designations.
- The PG (performance grade cap and associated design pressure) has been increased to 100 psf for the R, LC and CW classifications. The AW is not limited.
- The new CW window classification along with AW is limited in terms of frame/sash deflection. This is really not new, but the class designator has changed.
- The frame and sash “permanent deformation” criteria of 0.3% now apply to the CW classification in lieu of what used to be the HC class.
- The “force to latch” test for a side hinged door (SHD) is now “tested and recorded only”; there are no pass/fail criteria.
- The number of operation cycles per AAMA 920 for AW products has been reduced down to 500,000 cycles, except for Architectural Terrace Doors (ATD) which remains 25,000 cycles.
- An exception for the testing of side-hinged exterior glass door glazing has been added. This exception requires the use of either
the heaviest glass makeup or adding sufficient weight to the glass during testing to make it equivalent to the heaviest glazing that is to be qualified.

- **Some rules have been added with regard to the use of secondary designators.**

- The way products are designated has also changed (to match the previously noted revisions). The designation for a Class R – Casement window as an example will now appear as “Class R-PG25: Size tested 760 X 1520 mm (30 x 60 in) - Casement”.

All in all, there are relatively few changes, even though the changes are pretty significant in some cases. These changes will require each of us to become familiar with the revised document and then re-educate our employees and customers.

Copies of the document are available by contacting any of the organizations who co-authored the document.

**Implementation Schedule**

AAMA has authorized optional certification to the new NAFS-08 specification/standard as of March 1, 2008. Meanwhile a phase-out has been directed for the previous AAMA/NWWDA101/LS.2-97 specification. This means that as of March 1, 2012 you will no longer be able to test to the 97 version, however if you test prior to that date your test report will still be good for the entire four year period.

**Code Adoption?**

The plan, according to AAMA, is to seek adoption in the 2009 I-Codes, however even if it is adopted by that time, it will still take time for the states and municipalities to adopt the most recent version of the I-Code. Until such a time, certifying to this standard is only optional and the current requirements for AAMA product certification remain the same.

**Need More Information?**

The purpose of this ATI Informational Bulletin is to introduce the changes based on the latest version of the standard/specification. The information contained herein is not manufacturer or product specific and is provided as advisory information to our customers.

As always, the professional staff at Architectural Testing is available to answer any questions or concerns.

Contact us if you would like to request a reprint of this article.