



MEMO

TO: All Building Officials in Miami-Dade County

FROM: Michael L. Goolsby *MLG*  
Director, Board and Code Administration Division

DATE: January 10, 2011

SUBJECT: Safety Glazing Around Doors

Please be aware of existing provisions in the Florida Building Code (FBC) that require the use of safety glazing on units installed adjacent to doors. Specific requirements can be found in sections 2406 and 2411.4, which read as follows:

**2411.4 Glazed panel safeguards. Glazed panels shall be protected in accordance with this section.**

2411.4.1 *Where there is a drop of 4 feet (1219 mm) or more on the far side of fixed glazed panel 24 inches (610 mm) or more in width, the bottom of which is less than 36 inches (914 mm) above the near side walking surface, safeguards as set forth in Section 1618.4 shall be provided.*

2411.4.2 *Where there is a drop of less than 4 feet (1219 mm) on opposite sides of an operable or nonoperable glazed panel 24 inches (610 mm) or more in width and 9 square feet (0.84 m<sup>2</sup>) or more in area, one of the following safeguards shall be provided where persons might walk into or through such glazing:*

1. *Safety glazing conforming to federal standard 16 CFR 1201.*
2. *An opaque bulkhead not less than 18 inches (457 mm) higher than the upper level.*
3. *A single horizontal bar of handrail strength requirements not less than 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) in width measured parallel to the plane of the glazing and located between 24 inches and 36 inches (610 and 914 mm) above the upper level.*
4. *A planter with plantings not less than 18 inches (457 mm) higher than the upper level.*

**2411.4.3 Glazed panels located adjacent to, or in doors, shall be of safety glazing, in accordance with the following:**

1. *All glazed panels through which a 3-inch-diameter (76 mm) sphere is able to pass.*
2. *In all occupancies, any glazing material adjacent to door within 48 inches (1219 mm) of the door in the closed position and below the top of the door.*

*Exceptions:*

1. *Wired glass in fire doors.*
2. *Leaded glass of 30 square inches (.02 m<sup>2</sup>) or less.*
3. *Curved glass in revolving doors.*
4. *Commercial refrigerated cabinet doors.*
5. *A solar screen may serve as a safeguard where such screen complies with strength requirements of railings.*

Some large missile impact rated storefront, curtain wall, and window wall NOAs have been approved that may not have considered this limitation. Of specific concern are NOAs that detail the option of installing a door (indicated to be covered under separate approval) adjacent to the approved non-safety glazed system, and the NOA does not contain an option for installing safety glazing.

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Substituting a safety lite for the heat strengthened or annealed lite in an IG unit can only be done if the substitute lite is part of the NOA's limits of use; otherwise the NOA is violated. Therefore, if the NOA does not contain a glazing option that satisfies this requirement, a revision to amend the NOA would be required or a door cannot be installed as part of the glazed storefront, curtain wall or window wall system.

If you have any questions or if we can be of additional assistance please contact the Product Control Section at 786-315-2590.

Thank you.

cc: Jaime D. Gascon, P.E., Supervisor, Product Control Section

*Administrative/Support/Logistics*