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DATE: 10 July 2006
TO: Spacer Rating Committee
FROM: Werner Lichtenberger
CC: Ray McGowan
REF: Scope, History & Direction

Following is intended as the “kick-off” for the TG charged with Spacer Rating at the San Diego meetings. Proposals were requested from all committee members and will form part of this activity.

HISTORY

For the past 10 years, the effect of spacer and component change on window performance was recognised and improvements were facilitated by Technical Interpretation TI 200 where a simple procedure was described permitting changes without significant modification to the window rating documentation.

With implementation of the current NFRC100 simulation rules, TI 200 was discarded in favour of a spacer/component change procedure by grouping involving significant additional cost even if no claim of improved performance was made.

It follows that a fair and credible procedure of minor change is required to again facilitate improvements without significant cost burden on the system.

Here is a proposed scope:

SCOPE

This procedure is applicable to insulating glass spacer systems. Insulating glass spacer systems have a significant effect on heat transfer across windows, particularly with respect to condensation on frame and edge of glass.

Changing spacers to improve thermal performance may be undertaken using the following procedures without the need for grouping.

Procedure:

Use generic frames. glass packages (including gas fills) to compare specific spacers/details/.

NFRC generic materials are currently in use for testing simulator skills & are viable for this approach.

If heat flow is reduced for a candidate spacer system, customer would be able to make change without further verification, of course, subject to legitimate challenge process.

No change to NFRC label (claiming the thermal performance improvement) could be made. Label changes would be made with subsequent NFRC cycle.

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