



PROGRAM OPERATIONS QUESTIONS

To: Industry/Organizations Requesting an NFRC Rating for a New Product
RE: Questionnaire to Completion

Dear Industry/Organization Representative:

Please review and provide written responses to the following questions. They will assist the NFRC Board of Directors in determining if the development of an NFRC rating for any given product is technically possible, economically feasible and within the mission of the National Fenestration Rating Council.

Product: Dynamic Attachment for Entry Doors

Submitted by:
Dave deBlock
ODL

“A summary essay”

The ODL door blinds and shades greatly improve the thermal performance of glazed residential entrance doors. The product is customer installed to the interior side of the door and includes a dynamic shade or blind captured by a tempered glass storm panel. The glass panel adds protection and therefore longevity to the shade or blind and an additional insulating layer to the door glazing.

Many customers are requesting thermal performance ratings and when the product is NFRC rated the improved energy performance will allow customers to more readily take advantage of tax incentives available.

NFRC is currently working to avail labeling of storm panels and any details learned here with the well-defined glazed entrance door application may fit there as well. The general public will benefit from certified improved thermal performance using this dynamic attachment.

The longevity of this product is assured by surrounding the blind or shade with tempered glass. The product is designed to last as long as the glazed entrance door attached to.

This product is an attachment and should be labeled according to NFRC established procedures. If the product is removed from the entrance door it will return to its inferior energy rating.

The product will be rated on a known popular glazed entrance door. Current research shows 55% of the 2264 framed full lite entrance doors in the field are clear ½” IG in a wood edged steel door and this one will be proposed for the “reference product”. The single glazed entrance door will show greater energy improvement with this product and the triple glazed decorative entrance door less. Simulation work is currently being completed on a variety of entrance doors using Therm 5 w/o the dynamic portion of the product and will be run using Therm 6 when it’s kinks are resolved.

Education showing how the product increases glazed entrance door thermal performance will be part of the literature as simulation is certified. As far as industry organizations for dynamic attachments mentioned in item 10 of the POQ there are currently none.

This product can be physically labeled with both permanent and temporary labels. The additional panel simulation and test methods exist in NFRC documents today and will only require document revision allowing their use. Therm 6 will allow the dynamic addition. The NFRC has the expertise on the board today with Michael Thoman of Architectural Testing and Jeff Baker of Westlab who are both involved in simulating and testing this dynamic attachment.

NFRC would be our first choice for Thermal Performance Rating and the product seems like an easy addition to the existing NFRC program that now includes dynamic glazing and attachments. There are no other rating systems available today.

The rating and labeling of this product should be easily understood by code officials, home buyers, and specifiers.

NFRC attachment rating seems to be working with film today and we believe communicating the energy improvement with this dynamic attachment will be easily taught. The increased privacy will be added feature to the increased energy performance.

As the leader in this industry, ODL will see the documentation and implementation through this development process. Dave De Block has driven the TDD process and will work to get the job done for ODL and the NFRC. The program should be complete in six months as the simulation and test methods are currently in the NFRC documents. We will need board approval for certification and labeling for this new dynamic attachment. Issues here will be worked out in the NFRC voting and resolution of negative process.

If the NFRC says it cannot provide these certified ratings, ODL will be forced to utilize another third party certification such as AAMA or NAMI to certify the NFRC methodology outlined above to rate these products.

1. Is the product to be rated a fenestration or fenestrated-related product? Please be sure to provide a description of the product.

ODL enclosed blinds and shades for entrance doors greatly improve the thermal performance of glazed residential entrance doors. The product is installed by a consumer to the interior side of the door and includes a dynamic shade or blind captured by a tempered glass storm panel. The glass panel adds protection and therefore longevity to the shade or blind and an additional insulating layer to the door glazing.

2. Is there a request for an energy or energy-related performance rating for this product?

Many consumers are requesting thermal performance ratings and when the product is NFRC rated the improved energy performance will allow consumers to more readily take advantage of tax incentives available.

3. Does this request come from industry? Is there a stated need for this rating from an industry organization or association?

Dynamic entrance door storm panels do not have an organization at the point in time.

4. If NFRC provides a rating for this product, does it create energy efficiency value for the general public or other NFRC stakeholder? If so, please provide justification.
The general public will benefit from certified improved thermal performance using this dynamic attachment. NFRC is currently working to avail labeling of storm panels and any details learned here with the well-defined glazed entrance door application may fit there as well.
5. What bodies of government / entities support this rating? If so, please provide contact persons and/or references.
Government bodies/ entities are not currently aware of this product
6. Is the rating for a durable product (i.e. last more than 3 years)?
The product has a 5 year warranty. The longevity of this product is assured by surrounding the blind or shade with tempered glass. The product is designed to last as long as the glazed entrance door it is attached to.
7. Is the product that desires a rating attached permanently to a fenestration product and/or part of the fenestration system?
This product is mechanically attached over a door lite frame and should be labeled according to NFRC established procedures for attachments.
8. Is the product removable? If so, how can (and how does) that affect it's rating?
The product can be removed. If the product is removed from an entrance door the door will return to its inferior energy rating.
9. Can the rating provide uniform, comparative information between products so as to better educate the consumer?
The product will be rated on a known popular glazed entrance door. Current research shows 55% of the 2264 framed full lite entrance doors in the field are clear 1/2" IG in a wood edged steel door and this one will be proposed for the "reference product". Any product mounted in this fashion can be comparably rated.
10. Is the industry/organization willing to support and promote an NFRC certification program for the technical rating?
Education showing how the product increases glazed entrance door thermal performance will be part of the literature as simulation is certified. As far as industry organizations for dynamic attachments, there are none today.
11. Can the product physically be labeled?
This product can be physically labeled with both permanent and temporary labels
12. Is it technically feasible for NFRC to supply a rating for this product? (i.e., is there the ability to develop either thermal performance test methods or computer software?)
The additional panel simulation and test methods exist in NFRC documents today and will only require document revision allowing their use. Therm 6 will allow the dynamic addition.
13. Does NFRC have the technical expertise to develop a rating for this product? If so, please provide name(s)/organizations with that expertise.
The NFRC has the expertise on the board today with Michael Thoman of Architectural Testing and Jeff Baker of Westlab who are both involved in simulating and testing this dynamic attachment.

14. Is there another entity better suited to providing a rating for this product?
NFRC is the first choice for Thermal Performance Rating. The product seems like an easy addition to the existing NFRC program that now includes dynamic glazing and attachments.
15. Is there already an available energy performance rating for this product?
There are no other rating systems available today
16. Will an NFRC rating of this product satisfy the needs of local, state or federal code officials?
Code officials should easily understand the rating and labeling of this product as any attachment or dynamic product is today.
17. Will an NFRC rating of this product satisfy the needs of other public stakeholders (homebuyers, builders, architects, specifiers)?
The rating and labeling of this product should be easily understood by builders, architects, homebuyers. and specifiers.
18. Can we communicate the proposed ratings to the public in a standardized and meaningful way that isn't misleading and allows them to make an educated choice / decision?
NFRC attachment rating seems to be working with film today and we believe communicating the energy improvement with this dynamic attachment will be easily taught. The increased privacy will be added feature to the increased energy performance.
19. Is there industry support for the development of an NFRC rating for this product? Are they willing to take a leadership role at NFRC in developing the technical rating and certification program needs? Please be sure to indicate those persons or organizations.
As the leader in this industry, ODL will see the documentation and implementation through this development process. Dave De Block has driven the TDD process and will work to get the job done for ODL and the NFRC.
20. Is NFRC likely to be able to achieve a consensus standard and rating? What is your anticipated (realistic) time frame?
The program should be complete in six months as the simulation and test methods are currently in the NFRC documents. We will need board approval for certification and labeling for this new dynamic attachment. Issues here will be worked out in the NFRC voting and resolution of negative process.
21. What are the legal ramifications for NFRC in developing a rating for this product?
NFRC has allowed attachments to be rated and labeled. This will be legally similar.
22. What is the anticipated cost for developing an NFRC rating for this product (i.e., staff time, software/DB development, etc)?
NFRC will have minimal cost as all that will change is the application of existing methods. For members it will be \$100/product line and \$0.01 per label.
23. What is the anticipated cost to industry for this rating (i.e., fee schedule for NFRC certification and labeling)?
NFRC standard product line and label costs would apply.

24. What will your industry/organization do if NFRC says it cannot provide the ratings as requested?

If the NFRC says it cannot provide these certified ratings, ODL will seek to utilize another third party certification.