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## **Certification Notes**

(CN IG1010)

### **Provisional Certification (PC)** (Formerly Interim Certification)

#### **1. General:**

IGCC®/IGMA® requires, as one of the conditions of certification, a passing test report for the specific model to be certified. The total IG unit testing is intended to 1) demonstrate performance of materials and components, 2) ensure compatibility of the assembled components as a system, and 3) ensure operator skill and workmanship is adequate to successfully fabricate the IG unit. With the adoption of IG certification requirements by NFRC and others, IG certification is becoming more mandatory and less voluntary. With ever increasing frequency a company cannot sell a window/door/skylight/other, without IG certification. Many IG designs lend themselves to allow a fabricator to purchase a small quantity of a new component or material to fabricate initial test units. A decision on final production and certification may be delayed until completion of testing (approximately 6 months). Other designs require capital investment, small or large, before test samples can be made. If IG certification is needed to sell the window product, in these situations, the production equipment would sit dormant for the 6-month test period.

The intent of this Certification Note and interpretation is to provide options for relief to this potential delay in production while still ensuring an adequate level of product/production research and development is performed.

#### **2. Current Guideline: (Excerpt from IGCC®/IGMA® Procedural Guide/CPD)**

## How Can You Become a Licensee?

The following steps must be accomplished before IGCC®/IGMA® can authorize a manufacturer to use the IGCC®/IGMA® permanent label:

- 1) The manufacturer must present a passing prototype report from an approved IGCC®/IGMA® testing laboratory to the office of certification (see also IGCC Certification Note CN IG1010 – Provisional Certification). Fabrication of prototype test samples shall be witnessed by a representative of the Administrator during a plant audit, ...

### **3. IGCC®/IGMA® Options and Interpretation**

In cases where a fabricator wishes to initially certify a new IG construction (model) at a specific fabrication location and guideline G.21 may not be applied, the following may be considered to possibly achieve certification sooner than full ASTM E2190 testing:

**Option 1- Supplier Assistance:** IGCC®/IGMA® shall permit portions of the test sample fabrication process to be performed at a supplier location (equipment, material, component), **or at a 3<sup>rd</sup> party fabricator location aided with in-person supplier assistance**. This fabrication does not need to be under auditor witness. A product development plan must be submitted and approved by the Administrator which will address as a minimum 1) schedule 2) personnel training on the new product process 3) any changes to the quality system as a result of the new product 4) general description of product R&D.

Fabrication at the intended certification location must be maximized. The resulting report of testing may be presented for Provisional Certification (PC) prior to completion of the final production process. Re-testing must be performed at the first certification audit within 45 days after completion of the final production process.

**Option 2 – Rapid Assessment Chamber (RAC):** Through an extensive research and development process IGCC has developed the Rapid Assessment Chamber (RAC). The RAC was developed to accelerate and simulate the most

detrimental long-term conditions an insulating glass unit might be exposed to. By encapsulating the test units in a UV rich, highly humid environment with elevated temperatures, and then oscillating pressure over a 14-day period, the units are durability tested to determine if defects (workmanship, materials, design, other) are present.

IGCC®/IGMA® shall permit fabrication of prototype test samples under auditor witness as normal except that a minimum of six (6) additional 14 X 20-inch test units shall be fabricated. The standard minimum number of IG units shall be submitted for full ASTM E2190 testing at an IGCC®/IGMA® Approved Testing Laboratory. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that the six (6) additional IG units be submitted for RAC testing at the same IGCC®/IGMA® Approved Testing Laboratory used for full ASTM E2190 testing. Upon initial gas testing (if applicable) and passing ASTM E2189 *Standard Test Method for Testing Resistance to Fogging in Insulating Glass Units* and RAC testing of the six (6) additional units, provisional certification (PC) may be granted prior to completion of the final ASTM E2190 testing. See below **Provisional Certification Workflow for New Products**.

If testing fails, (ASTM E2190 for Option 1 supplier assist, RAC for Option 2) authorization to certify this product will not be offered. If a product gains PC by RAC for a period of time, but then fails the parallel E2190 testing, the product will be decertified. PC may be attempted again after process adjustments.

#### **4. Certification Listing:**

If certified under either option 1 or option 2, normal product certification labelling may occur (authorization to label) but all certification listings (CPD, Website) and paperwork shall bare the “PC” designation until full auditor witness of test sample fabrication at the certified production facility and successful ASTM E2190 testing is completed.

#### **5. Specific Examples:**

A) Option 1: Intercept/Intercept Ultra – The equipment supplier may provide bent (dry) spacer that then could be used by the intended certification location to fabricate test units utilizing existing equipment for the remainder of the fabrication process.

B) Option 1: Thermal Plastic Spacer – Plant personnel could travel to an equipment supplier to build IG test units on like equipment under training conditions

C) Option 2: Fabricator wishes to switch to a different generic type of sealant or spacer and has the capability to fabricate with the new material

