
BULLETIN 2003-005-BU

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(Revised)

SAFETY GLASS IN PART 9 BUILDINGS

This bulletin is intended to outline some of the requirements for safety glass as referenced in the Vancouver Building By-law (VBBL), particularly for houses and other smaller Part 9, Division B buildings.

Safety glass is used where additional fire safety or personal safety is required :

- 9.6.6.2.(2)(a) All sidelights and windows located within 915mm of doors described in Article 9.6.8.1., glass in storm doors and glass in sliding doors within or at every entrance to a dwelling unit and in public areas shall be safety glass of the tempered or laminated type conforming to CAN/CGSB-12.1-M, "Tempered or Laminated Safety Glass".
- 9.6.6.5.(1) Glass other than safety glass shall not be used for a shower or bathtub enclosure.
- 9.7.7.4.(1) All skylights shall be glazed with wired glass, laminated safety glass or combustible glazing, properly anchored to their frames, so as to effectively reduce hazards to occupants below them.
- 9.10.14.5.(2) Where a building of residential occupancy is sprinklered using acceptable quick-response heads and the limiting distance is less than 1.2 m, but not less than 1 m, the maximum percentage of unprotected openings may be 10% if windows are glazed with tempered, wire or laminated glass or glass block.

In addition to the above minimum code requirements, designers are advised to consider specifying safety glass wherever there is a potential for human impact.

Safety glass of the tempered or laminated type must comply with CAN/CGSB-12.1-M90, "Tempered or Laminated Safety Glass". Under this standard, section 5.6 for Product Marking states " ...the specimens which conform, shall be legibly and permanently marked with the manufacturer's name and/or trademarks, and the characters "CAN/CGSB 12.1-M" if the product meets the requirements of the standard for..."

These markers are usually etched on and located at one of the 4 corners of the glass. Any self-adhered sticker used by itself, without a permanent marking on the glass, does not meet the standard and is NOT acceptable. Contractors and/or homeowners should be aware of this to avoid delays and additional inspection charges.

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