NFRC Labeling Requirements 2015 Seattle Energy Code

Updated December 18, 2017

What is NFRC?
NFRC, the National Fenestration Rating Council, maintains standards for rating the heat loss, solar heat gain, visible light transmittance, and other fenestration performance characteristics. “Fenestration” includes windows, doors, curtain walls, storefront glazing systems, skylights, and similar openings. For further information on the NFRC rating, labeling, and certification programs, see www.nfrc.org.

What the 2015 Seattle Energy Code Requires
Both the commercial and residential energy codes require almost all window glazing to have an NFRC label or label certificate. For both residential and commercial construction, the code provision reads: “U-factors of fenestration products (e.g. windows, doors, and skylights) shall be determined in accordance with NFRC 100 by an accredited, independent laboratory, and labeled and certified by the manufacturer.” The Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) must also be certified by NFRC.

There are a few exceptions:
- If no NFRC rating exists (such as for salvaged or owner-built windows), you may use the Default Value tables from Seattle Energy Code Chapter 3. (See Residential Tables R303.1.3(1) and R303.1.3(3) and Commercial Tables C303.1.3(1), C303.1.3(3) and C303.1.3(4))
- If a window is manufactured by a Washington State “small business,” defined as a business with fewer than 50 employees, you may use the small business tables to comply with the commercial or residential energy code. (See Tables R303.1.3(5) and C303.1.3(6).

Where to Find These Requirements in the 2015 Seattle Energy Code
Residential Buildings – Windows and other fenestration, Section R303.1.3

Note that the “residential buildings” portion of the energy code does not have an SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient) requirement. (“Residential buildings” include single-family and two-unit dwellings, plus multifamily buildings up to three stories above the grade plane.)

Commercial Buildings – Windows and other fenestration, Sections C303.1.3 and C402.4

The code allows higher SHGC where overhead projections partially shade the glazing – See Section C402.4.3.

You do not need to test or report air leakage of fenestration.

What to Include on Your Plans
You need to include fenestration and opaque door schedules on your plans. See pages 5 and 6 for typical schedule formats. As mentioned above, “fenestration” includes windows, glazed doors (more than half glass), curtain walls, glass blocks, skylights, and the like. (Opaque doors, including swinging doors, roll-up doors, sectional doors, etc., are no longer defined as “fenestration.”) For each distinct product, your schedule must include the following:
- Product type (fixed or operable, metal or non-metal frame)
- Dimensions and number of each type
- U-factor (and whether it is an NFRC-certified value or taken from the default value tables)
SHGC and VT (Visible Transmittance) for buildings covered by the “commercial buildings” portion of the energy code (which includes multifamily buildings over three stories), but not for “residential buildings.”

NFRC CPD (Certified Products Directory) number, for factory-built windows, as follows:

- We require the CPD number on plans only where the U-value claimed is lower (better) than the maximum allowable U-value, and you are using that lower U-value for UA trade-off or systems analysis calculations.

- You are not required to include the CPD number where you are simply meeting the prescriptive U-value in the code.

Note that frequently the only way to obtain a CPD number is to ask the manufacturer’s representative, who will get it from the factory.

Windows made by Washington State small businesses do not require NFRC certificates, but do require documentation of the manufacturer’s small business status. (See Tables R303.1.3(5) and C303.1.3(5).)

We will not accept manufacturer’s (non-NFRC) simulation reports and other product literature as substitutes for CPD numbers.

For curtain wall, storefront glazing, and other site-fabricated fenestration, you may submit an NFRC Component Modeling Approach (CMA) Bid Report for plan review instead of an NFRC simulation report or Label Certificate. For more information, see www.nfrc.org/industry/certification/product-certification-program/the-component-modeling-approach-program-cma/. If you provide a CMA Bid Report for plan review, note that you still need an NFRC label certificate to be available to inspectors on site before you install any portion of the fenestration assembly. The Label Certificate U-values and SHGC values must match those on the bid report.

We will not accept manufacturers’ simulation reports, product literature, or AAMA reports.

The prescriptive performance requirement and the Label Certificate are both based on the standard 78” X 78” panel size. However, you can base the performance for energy modeling purposes on the actual size, as shown on the label certificate. This performance will often be better for larger glass panel sizes, due to the smaller percentage of the glazing area that consists of metal framing.

Where factory U-values are not available, as is often the case with salvaged windows, use the default U-value tables (Tables C303.1.3(1), C303.1.3(3) and C303.1.3(4)) instead of NFRC ratings. Indicate for each distinct product whether it is fixed or operable, as well as the frame material, thermal break type, and number of glass planes.

Opaque doors don’t typically have U-value ratings from NFRC, so the “default” U-factors from Section A107 in Appendix A are commonly used. Section A107 includes tables for a wide variety of wood and steel doors, as well as overhead doors and even aircraft hangar doors.

The default U-factors for revolving doors from Table A107.1(2) are often used, since revolving door U-factors are not generally available from manufacturers.

Default U-values for spandrel panels in glass curtain walls are defined in Table C303.1.5 and rules for applying these values are described in Section C303.1.5.

What to Have Available for Inspectors at the Construction Site

- NFRC Label: Each factory-built fenestration product must have an NFRC label showing its CPD number.

- NFRC “Label Certificate”: Each distinct type of site-assembled fenestration, such as curtain wall, storefront, or ribbon window, must have a unique NFRC Label Certificate generated by an NFRC-accredited testing agency, specific to that product and that address. You must have a separate label or label certificate for each type of fixed window, operable window, glass entrance door, and sliding glass door installed on the job site. You must have the label certificate on site and show it to the inspector before you install any portion of the fenestration.

- Default table and small business products: Products that are unrated, either those manufactured by a small business or those using the default tables, must describe the frame type, thermal break type, and number of glass panes used in each prod-uct. This information enables the site inspector to verify that the installed fenestration types match those on your approved plans.
Basic Fenestration Performance Parameters

Understanding a few basic parameters of fenestration energy performance makes product comparisons easier. When heating is needed, the key rating parameter is the U-factor. When cooling is needed, the key rating parameter is the (SHGC). For residential spaces, heating and cooling typically shift with the seasons. Commercial buildings, however, frequently move from heating to cooling mode during the course of a day. Cooling occurs during the day when people are working and the lights and equipment are on, while heating occurs at night and during morning warm-up when there is little heat available. Good (VT) is important for daylighting.

Whole Product Performance: The NFRC performance factors below are based on “whole product performance,” which includes the glass, frame, and seals, not just the glass itself.

U-Factor: Lower U-factors indicate better performance and thus less heat transfer. Available U-factors range from 1.30 for the worst single-pane windows to 0.15 for the most advanced glazing systems. Typical U-values required by the energy code range from 0.28 to 0.40 for vertical glazing, and 0.45 for skylights.

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient: Lower SHGC values generally indicate better performance; less heat gain from direct sun. In some cases however, the additional passive solar heat gain through south-facing windows is beneficial in the winter. Seattle typically has overcast skies in winter and sunny skies in summer, so the passive solar benefit might be small compared to the unwanted extra heat in the summer. The maximum SHGC is 0.35 for buildings covered by the “commercial buildings” portion of the energy code. There is no SHGC requirement for single-family houses or for multifamily buildings up to three stories.

Visible Transmittance: Higher VT indicates better daylighting performance. VT is the percentage of the visible light striking the outside of the glass that passes through into the interior. The optimal glass combination has a high VT and a low SHGC, as well as a low U-value.

Low-e coatings: Low-e (low emissivity) coatings are applied to one of the inner surfaces of almost all double-paned glazing installed in Seattle. The coatings reflect heat back into the space while allowing light to pass through. Higher performance glazing units are also available with an additional “hard coat” low-e coating applied to the exposed room-side face of these units.

Inert gas fills: The space between the glass panes can be filled with argon or krypton, which increases the performance of the glazing unit. However, these gases could potentially leak out of the window unit over time and degrade performance.

Low conductivity spacers: The spacers that hold the glass panes apart can be made with materials that provide a better thermal break than aluminum (e.g., stainless steel or plastics). Since the edges of the glass unit transfer more heat than the center of glass, this can substantially improve performance.

Frame materials: Low-performing aluminum frames can lose more heat than the entire glass area. A frame with a thermal break will perform much better, as will wood, fiberglass, or vinyl frames. Since the whole fenestration unit, including glass, frame, and seals, is tested for U-value, aluminum frames without thermal breaks cannot generally meet the code requirements.

Dynamic glazing: Advanced glazing materials that are beginning to appear on the market are able to change their transmittance of solar heat and light based on daylight conditions. This “dynamic glazing” or “smart window” technology can potentially provide automatic shading when unwanted sun strikes the glass and then revert to clear glass at other times. As the cost of this technology decreases, it could become a significant energy-saving option.

Further Information

Further information on Seattle Energy Code requirements is available on the Energy Code website at http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/codes-we-enforce-(a-z)/energy-code.

Access to Information

Links to electronic versions of SDCI Tips, codes, and forms are available on the “Tools & Resources” page of our website at www.seattle.gov/sdci. Paper copies of these documents are available from our Public Resource Center, located on the 20th floor of Seattle Municipal Tower at 700 Fifth Ave. in downtown Seattle, (206) 684-8467.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This Tip should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. The applicant is responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described in this Tip.
Example of NFRC label.
### FENESTRATION AND OPAQUE DOOR SCHEDULE: NONRESIDENTIAL SPACES

#### FENESTRATION (VERTICAL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fenestration Number</th>
<th>Plan Page</th>
<th>Manufacturer/Model No. and Special Features</th>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Size W x H</th>
<th>Area (sq. ft.)</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Total VFA</th>
<th>U-factor</th>
<th>NFRC-CPD Bid Report or Default</th>
<th>VFA x U</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLW-1</td>
<td>A-3,4</td>
<td>EnergyInc/47: metal, double w/low-E &amp; argon</td>
<td>casement</td>
<td>3’0” x 5’0”</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>x 4</td>
<td>= 60</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>BEN-L-6-00037-00007</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLW-2</td>
<td>A-3,4</td>
<td>XY/1: mtl w/tb, dbl w/low-E0.10, argon, 0.5” gp</td>
<td>tilt-tum.</td>
<td>4’0” x 6’0”</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>x 2</td>
<td>= 48</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>Default Table C303.1.3(1)</td>
<td>28.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC-1</td>
<td>A-3</td>
<td>Curtain Wall Masters/87: dbl w/low-E &amp; argon</td>
<td>curtain wall</td>
<td>5’0” x 6’0”</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>x 80</td>
<td>= 2400</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>CCI-L-7-00005-00001 Bid Report P-EFC-4494</td>
<td>816.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total VFA = 2508  
Total VFA x U = 870.1

Area-Weighted Average Vertical Fenestration U-factor = (Total VFA x U) / (Total VFA) = 0.347

#### FENESTRATION (SKYLIGHTS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fenestration Number</th>
<th>Plan Page</th>
<th>Manufacturer/Model No. and Special Features</th>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Size W x H</th>
<th>Area (sq. ft.)</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Total SKA</th>
<th>U-factor</th>
<th>NFRC-CPD No. or Default</th>
<th>SKA x U</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATR-1</td>
<td>A-5</td>
<td>BigSky/57: metal w/tb, triple w/low-E, argon</td>
<td>sloped glass</td>
<td>3’0” x 5’0”</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>x 7</td>
<td>= 105</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>BIG-E-4-00003-00002</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATR-2</td>
<td>A-5</td>
<td>ZZ/7: mtl w/tb, tpl w/2low-E0.10, argon, 0.5” gp</td>
<td>sloped glass</td>
<td>5’0” x 6’0”</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>= 90</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>Default Table C303.1.3(4)</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total SKA = 195  
Total SKA x U = 76.7

Area-Weighted Average Skylight Fenestration U-factor = (Total SKA x U) / (Total SKA) = 0.393

#### OPAQUE DOOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Plan Page</th>
<th>Manufacturer/Model No. and Special Features</th>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Size W x H</th>
<th>Area (sq. ft.)</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Total ODA</th>
<th>U-factor</th>
<th>NFRC-CPD No. or Default</th>
<th>ODA x U</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDR-1</td>
<td>A-3</td>
<td>DoorPro/3: steel exit door 1-3/8” w/mineral wool</td>
<td>swing door</td>
<td>3’0” x 6’8”</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>x 2</td>
<td>= 40.0</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>Default Table A107.1(3)</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDR-2</td>
<td>A-3</td>
<td>GD/26: steel sectional tilt-up door 1-3/8” w/EPS</td>
<td>garage door</td>
<td>9’0” x 7’0”</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>x 1</td>
<td>= 63.0</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>Default Table A107.1(4)</td>
<td>24.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. See the following page for example for single-family residential spaces and multi-family buildings up to 3 stories above grade plane, which comply with the “residential” portion of the energy code. Multi-family residential buildings over 3 stories tall, plus all non-residential buildings, comply with the “commercial” portion of the energy code.

2. For vertical fenestration, area-weighted averaging must be done separately for nonresidential & residential spaces, and for nonmetal, metal fixed/operable, and metal entrance doors.

3. For skylights, area-weighted averaging must be done separately for nonresidential & residential spaces.

4. For opaque doors, area-weighted averaging must be done separately for nonresidential & residential spaces, and for opaque swinging doors and opaque non-swinging doors.
### GLAZING (VERTICAL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fenestration Number</th>
<th>Plan Page</th>
<th>Manufacturer/Model No. and Special Features</th>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Size W x H</th>
<th>Area (sq.ft.)</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Total VGA</th>
<th>U-factor</th>
<th>NFRC-CPD No. or Default Table</th>
<th>VFA x U =</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLW-1</td>
<td>A-3,4</td>
<td>Best Energy/123: triple w/low-E &amp; argon</td>
<td>slid. win.</td>
<td>3'0&quot; x 5'0&quot;</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>x 4</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>BEN-L-6-00037-00007</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLW-2</td>
<td>A-3,4</td>
<td>Best Energy/123: triple w/low-E &amp; argon</td>
<td>slid. win.</td>
<td>4’0” x 6’0”</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>x 2</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>BEN-L-6-00037-00007</td>
<td>28.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIC-1</td>
<td>A-3</td>
<td>Best Energy/253: triple w/low-E &amp; argon</td>
<td>fixed. win.</td>
<td>5’0” x 6’0”</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>x 2</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>BEN-L-4-00054-00011</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAR-1</td>
<td>A-3</td>
<td>Greenhouse: vinyl, dbl w/low-E, argon, 0.5” gap</td>
<td>garden win.</td>
<td>3’0” x 4’0”</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>x 1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Default Table 10-6A</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLD-1</td>
<td>A-3,4</td>
<td>Best Energy/433: triple w/low-E &amp; argon</td>
<td>lid. door</td>
<td>6’0” x 6’8”</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>x 1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Default Table 10-6E</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total VGA = 220**

**Total VGA x U = 65.1**

**Area-Weighted Average Vertical Glazing U-factor = (Total VGA x U) / (Total VGA) = 0.296**

### GLAZING (OVERHEAD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skylight Number</th>
<th>Plan Page</th>
<th>Manufacturer/Model No. and Special Features</th>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Size W x H</th>
<th>Area (sq.ft.)</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Total OGA</th>
<th>U-factor</th>
<th>NFRC-CPD No. or Default Table</th>
<th>SKA x U =</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SKY-1</td>
<td>A-5</td>
<td>Sky Systems/57: triple w/low-E</td>
<td>skylight</td>
<td>2’0” x 4’0”</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>x 2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>SKY-D-2-00004-00005</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKY-2</td>
<td>A-5</td>
<td>Dome/101: alum.clad wood, triple</td>
<td>skylight</td>
<td>2’0” x 2’0”</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>x 1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>Default Table 10-6E</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total OGA = 20**

**Total OGA x U = 9.7**

**Area-Weighted Average Overhead Glazing U-factor = (Total OGA x U) / (Total OGA) = 0.486**

### OPAQUE DOOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Plan Page</th>
<th>Manufacturer/Model No. and Special Features</th>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Size W x H</th>
<th>Area (sq. ft.)</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Total ODA</th>
<th>U-factor</th>
<th>NFRC-CPD No. or Default Table</th>
<th>ODA x U =</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INS-1</td>
<td>A-3</td>
<td>Insuldoor/VIZ: insul. fiberglass w/ wood frame</td>
<td>swing door</td>
<td>3’0” x 6’8”</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>x 2</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>Default Table A107.1(3)</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WD-2</td>
<td>A-3</td>
<td>Utilidoor/26: insul. steel w/wood edge &amp; frame</td>
<td>swing door</td>
<td>2’-8” x 6’-8”</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>x 1</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>Default Table A107.1(4)</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total ODA = 57.8**

**Total ODA x U = 8.8**

**Area-Weighted Average Opaque Door U-factor = (Total OGA x U) / (Total OGA) = 0.153**
NATIONAL FENESTRATION RATING COUNCIL
LABEL CERTIFICATE

PROJECT INFORMATION

LABEL CERTIFICATE ID: PJ-OBE-7589  Issuance Date: 8/31/2017

NFRC CERTIFIED PRODUCT RATING INFORMATION:
This is to be completed by an NFRC Approved Calculation Entity (ACE), based on information provided by the Specifying Authority and calculated in accordance with NFRC procedures.

PROJECT LOCATION:
Address: 1010 Park Avenue
City: New York  State: NY  Zip Code: 10028
Contact person: Phil Benes
Phone: 715.841.1435  Facsimile: 800-551-6174  Email: pbenes@obe.com
Project name (optional): 1010 Park Avenue

IDENTIFICATION NAME OF SPECIFYING AUTHORITY:
Company name: Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope  ID: OBE
Address: 803 Airport Rd
City: Terrell  State: TX  Zip Code: 75160
Contact person: James P Clark
Phone: 800-869-4567  Facsimile: 800-551-6174  Email: bclark@oldcastlebe.com

IDENTIFICATION NAME OF APPROVED CALCULATION ENTITY (ACE) ORGANIZATION:
Company name: Coast Consulting and Testing, Inc.  ID: QCT
Address: 1035 Indianhead Dr
City: Mosinee  State: wi  Zip Code: 54455
Contact person: Brian M Sasman
Phone: 715-693-83789  Facsimile: 715-693-689  Email: bsasman@qcandt.com

IDENTIFICATION NAME OF INSPECTION AGENCY (IA):
Company name: Not Required  ID: 
Address: 
City:  State:  Zip Code: 
Contact person: 
Phone:  Facsimile:  Email: 

Number of individual products listed on this label certificate: 3

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**PRODUCT LISTING**

**FRAME, GLAZING and SPACER ASSEMBLIES**

### FRAMING LISTING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Framing Ref</th>
<th>Supplier ID</th>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Frame Material</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FA-OBE-74381</td>
<td>OBE</td>
<td>Swinging Door</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>TerraSwing 62E-Ren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FA-OBE-74383</td>
<td>OBE</td>
<td>Casement</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>SIG5-REN Vent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FA-OBE-74385</td>
<td>OBE</td>
<td>Fixed</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>SIG5-REN Fixed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GLAZING LISTING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glazing Ref</th>
<th>Supplier ID</th>
<th># Layers</th>
<th>Low-e</th>
<th>Gap Fill</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GA-PPG-14195</td>
<td>PPG</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Air</td>
<td>1/4 Starphire SB60 #2, 1/2 Air, 5/16 Starphire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPACER LISTING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spacer Ref</th>
<th>Supplier ID</th>
<th>Sealant Config.</th>
<th>Spacer Material</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA-TCN-5099</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dual Seal</td>
<td>Thermo-plastic</td>
<td>TGI Wave Spacer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>