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Where in the World is Wired Glass?



Thom Zaremba Roetzel & Andress

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NGA Glass Conference week of July 27, 2020

GlassBuild America, with Glazing Executives Forum Sept 15-17, 2020 Las Vegas, NV

April 16, 2020

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this webinar, you will be able to

- Define wired glass
- Describe where wired glass is installed
- Understand how wired glass behaves in a fire
- Describe how wired glass is used in safety glazing applications in the US and Canada
- Identify alternatives to wired glass





Wired Glass – What is it?

Polished annealed glass with a layer of wire embedded in the middle



Square (Georgian) pattern

Diamond pattern



Why is wire embedded in the glass?





What was/is wired glass used for?







Appearance of security: Jewelry display cases

Prevent broken glass from falling: Skylights Prevent glass breakage during fire: Fire-Rated applications



Why is wired glass used in fire rated applications?

Prevents flame, smoke and hot gasses from passing through for 45 minutes





What happens to wired glass in a fire?

Exposed to fire, wired glass cracks as its temperature reaches +/- 100° C or 212° F.

When the glass breaks, the wire in the glass holds it together in its frame.

As temperature increases, the glass softens & heals the cracks, all while being held together by the wire.



Hose Steam Test











Wired Glass Safety Glazing Regulations in the United States

IBC Chapter 24 Glass and Glazing

- **Safety Glazing-** minimize cutting or piercing injuries
 - Tempered or laminated glass
 - Monolithic wired glass not permitted
 - Consumer Product Safety Commission/ANSI Z97.1



Wired Glass Safety Glazing Regulations in Canada

- CAN/CGSB-12.1-2017 Safety Glazing
 - Tempered or laminated glass
 - Monolithic wired glass not permitted
- Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes of the National Research Council of Canada
 - Task group voted to adopt CAN/CGSB-12.1-2017 in 2020 edition of CNBC





Can wired glass pass Safety Glazing standards?





Alternatives to Wired Glass

Glass-Ceramic:

- Passes fire exposure up to 3 hours
- Zero coefficient of expansion: Does not expand or contract
- Passes hose stream test
- Requires organic coating in hazardous locations





Alternatives to Wired Glass

Intumescent Filled Glazing:

- Passes fire exposure up to 3 hours
- Prevents passage of flame, hot gasses and smoke
- Blocks thermal heat transfer
- Passes hose stream test
- Meets safety glazing requirements in hazardous locations





Pre-Existing Installations

- Pre-existing installations in hazardous locations:
 - What should I do?
 - Nothing?
 - Replace?
 - Modify?
- What if a pre-existing installation breaks? Is the result any different?







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presented by Marco Terry, Commercial Capital LLC









Thirsty Thursday April 16, 2020

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