

NFRC Certification Q&A

Q: What does NFRC stand for?

A: NFRC stands for the National Fenestration Rating Council.

Q: Why does NFRC exist?

A: Back in the early 1980s, window, door and skylight manufacturers introduced new technologies designed to improve the energy performance of their products. Unfortunately, consumers had no good way to judge the effectiveness of these technologies, or to compare the performance of different products accurately and reliably. With the federal government beginning to think about establishing an independent agency to rate fenestration energy performance, the industry decided to take the initiative and formed NFRC in 1989.

Q: Is NFRC affiliated with the government?

A: No. NFRC is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, formed to service the public good through education and research. The National Energy Policy Act of 1992 directs the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to monitor and support NFRC's activities, and DOE provides a small amount of funding each year that is used mainly to support NFRC's research efforts. A DOE representative also sits on the NFRC Board of Directors as a non-voting member.

Q: What is fenestration?

A: According to Wikipedia, fenestration includes “products that fill openings in a building envelope, such as windows, doors, skylights, curtain walls, etc., designed to permit the passage of air, light, vehicles, or people.”

Q: What are the benefits of film certification?

A: This certification will give CPFilms increased credibility and increased value to the consumer in addition to demonstrating the commitment of CPFilms to show potential customers that we went the extra step to verify the energy performance of our products. This gives a level playing field for manufacturers, whether large or small, so they can show their products' certified energy performance ratings. Certification was also necessary to enable the industry to work with the Dept. of Energy on developing Energy Star Qualified window film products. DOE needed a method of ensuring film on glass performance for qualified products before they would start working on an Energy Star program.

Q: What difference will I see in the boxes?

A: On the end of the box there will be an additional label, called the permanent label, which will include what is referred to as the CPD (Certified Product Designation) number. In addition to this, on the top of the box, near the regular label, there will be a temporary label which will include the CPD number as well as the product performance numbers for that particular film on several glass types for both residential and commercial.

Q: Why is the label on top called the temporary label if it cannot be removed from the box?

A: The NFRC has traditionally labeled window units. On a window, the temporary label will be left on the glass once it is installed so that the home or business owners can remove it and save it for their records. With window film this cannot be done since there are so many windows and different houses done with each roll that there would have to be an unlimited supply of temporary labels which could get switched or lost very easily.

Q: Why is there a difference in the residential and commercial numbers when it appears that they are on the same glass type?

A: The NFRC considers residential to be 1/8" thick glass whereas the commercial column represents the film on 1/4" glass, so the glass types are actually slightly different.

Q: What performance numbers will be printed on the labels?

A: The Visible Light Transmission (VLT) and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) will be on the labels. The VLT is the amount of visible light that will come through the glass once it is applied to that particular glass type. The SHGC is related to Total Solar Energy Rejection (TSER). SHGC indicates the amount of heat that is transmitted into the room once the film is applied to that particular glass type, whereas TSER indicates the amount of heat rejected and not allowed to be transmitted into the room. For any other product performance definitions, or a more detailed definition of any of the terms listed above, refer to the dictionary on llumartech.com.

Q: What do I have to do differently, as a dealer?

A: You will now be required to put the CPD number on the warranty forms, along with the lot number, so that this can be cross-referenced.

Q: Is this for all CPFilms products?

A: No. There are several Llummar and Vista architectural films that will be certified. Not all of the films are currently certified. We will be adding new products periodically, so dealers will need to look at the box to determine if the product is NFRC certified and if the CPD number is available to be placed on the warranty forms.

Q: How can customers get a copy of the temporary label?

A: On the newly updated warranty forms there will be a place for the CPD number. The customer can send an email to either llumar@cpfilms.com or vista@cpfilms.com, fax a request to 276-627-3032, or mail a request to our 4210 The Great Rd, Fieldale, VA 24089 location to request a copy. This will be a written request asking to receive a copy of the temporary label and include a copy of the warranty form, which must include both the CPD number and CPFilms lot number.

Q: How many manufacturers certify their products?

A: The Directory includes energy performance ratings for over 1.67 million product options from more than 500 manufacturers (program participants), and the list of participants grows every month.

Q: Why do manufacturers certify their products?

A: Mostly because they recognize that energy performance is very important to their customers, and they want to provide them with accurate and reliable information. In addition, NFRC Certified Products carry the NFRC Temporary Label that provides building inspectors the ability to confirm that the product meets or exceeds local energy code requirements. NFRC certification is strictly voluntary, although to meet the criteria for becoming an ENERGY STAR® product according to the federal government, a product must be NFRC-certified.