



Canadian Glass Association

“Working together for the betterment of the Canadian glass industry”

November 25, 2015

CGA Wired Glass Advisory

Traditional wired glass is not an impact-safe glass and should not be used in locations subject to human impact.

Background

Wired glass is a fire protection glass, not an impact-safety glass. There have been hundreds of injuries associated with human impact with wired glass.

Wired glass has been used for decades in fire-rated applications such hollow metal fire doors in schools. With the emergence of modern fire protection glasses, the trade off between fire protection and impact-safety is no longer necessary. Wired glass should no longer be used in human traffic locations.

The US Standard for impact safety, ANSI Z97.1, has been regularly updated. Wired glass does not pass ANSI Z97.1 and is not considered an impact-safety rated glass in the US. In 2006 the International Building Code removed the impact safety exemption that had permitted wired glass to be used in human impact locations. As a result wired glass is no longer used in human impact locations in the US and most countries in the world. Canada one of the last countries still permitting the use of wired glass in human impact locations.

Canadian Standard CGSB 12.11 M90 covering wired glass was last published in 1990. Many Canadian building codes refer to this old standard and still permit the use of wired glass. The Canadian standards and building code groups are aware of the issue. The CGA recommends that the standards and building codes be updated as soon as possible to eliminate the use of wired glass in human impact locations to avoid further injuries to Canadians.

There have been several lawsuits recently against Canadian building owners, operators, builders and suppliers who have installed or supplied wired glass. People are being sued because they continued to use wired glass. The CGA recommends immediately not using wired glass in any location subject to human impact.

For more information, contact the CGA.



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Appendix

All fire-rated wired glass used in Canada currently comes from Japan. Each crate of glass arriving from Japan has a warning label that the glass is NOT a safety glazing material and should NOT be used in locations subject to human impact. See photo of label case of wired glass from Central Glass Co, Japan.

