

WDMA / AWS Comparison Chart

Prepared by the Window & Door Manufacturers Association -- April 2015

Specifiers need to be aware that "Premium Grade" doors under the AWS, WDMA and QSI specifications have face veneer requirements that can significantly affect door costs. QSI Premium doors require wider flitch width than WDMA and AWS Premium doors. Premium doors under WDMA and AWS standard require higher veneer grade than Custom doors. Specifiers and distributors need to be aware of both the physical and cost-related differences between each of the standards and veneer grades when ordering and furnishing Premium doors. Specifiers should use the current/latest edition of the WDMA standard and AWS standards (with errata) in lieu of older WDMA standards or QSI.

The Architectural Woodwork Standards (AWS) are typically used in installations where the doors are blueprint matched with wall paneling and/or the doors are adjacent to millwork. Therefore, these standards match requirements on the doors to be consistent with the surrounding millwork. However, most architectural and commercial doors are not directly associated with panels/millwork. Thus, the requirements in ANSI/WDMA I.S.1A-13 are more than adequate to assure consistent appearance amongst doors.

WDMA has prepared this comparison table to identify the major construction, aesthetic and other differences between the QSI, AWI, and current and previous ANSI/WDMA I.S.1A standards. There are other minor differences between the QSI, AWS and WDMA standards not listed here which do not materially affect this comparison.

Industry Standard		QSI 8th Edition (2003)	WDMA I.S.1A-04	AWS 2009*	ANSI/WDMA I.S.1A-13	AWS 2nd Edition
Construction						
Door Performance	Solid wood stile	Prescriptive standards	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level Testing	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level Testing	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level Testing	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level Testing
Stile Dimensions	Particle core	13/16" Lock Stile - 1" Hinge Stile	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level testing	Per mfrs. Performance Duty Level testing. Wood veneer or HPDL banding requires 1" hardwood backing or material qualified per WDMA TM 15	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level testing	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level testing
	Stave, SCL Core	3/8" Hinge and Lock Stile				
Stile Construction	Non rated doors	Hardwood - solid, laminated or veneered. SCL allowed if laminated to hardwood	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level testing	Per mfrs. Performance Duty Level testing. Wood veneer or HPDL banding requires 1" hardwood backing or material qualified per WDMA TM 15	Per mfrs. Performance Duty Level testing. Edge veneer backing other than hardwood must be qualified per WDMA TM 15	Per mfrs. Performance Duty Level testing. Wood veneer or HPDL banding requires 1" hardwood backing or material qualified per WDMA TM 15
	Fire rated doors	Special construction per label requirements				
Rail Dimensions	Particle core	13/16" Top & Bottom Rails	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level testing	Per mfrs. Performance Duty Level testing. Wood veneer or HPDL banding requires 1" hardwood backing or material qualified per WDMA TM 15	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level testing	Per mfrs. Performance Duty Level testing. Wood veneer or HPDL banding requires 1" hardwood backing or material qualified per WDMA TM 15
	Stave	3/8" Top & Bottom Rails				
	SCLC					
Rail Construction	Non rated doors	Wood, or SCL oriented with compressed face out.	Per manufacturers Performance Duty Level testing	Per mfrs. Performance Duty Level testing. Wood veneer or HPDL banding requires 1" hardwood backing or material qualified per WDMA TM 15	Per mfrs. Performance Duty Level testing. Edge veneer backing other than hardwood must be qualified per WDMA TM 15	Per mfrs. Performance Duty Level testing. Wood veneer or HPDL banding requires 1" hardwood backing or material qualified per WDMA TM 15
	Fire rated doors	Special construction per label requirements				
Door / Transom Rail Requirements	Premium	no requirement	no requirement	Type 1 Transom Bottom Rail	no requirement	Type 1 Transom Bottom Rail (full width)
	Custom	no requirement	no requirement	Type 1 or Type 2 Transom Bottom Rail	no requirement	Type 2 Transom Bottom Rail (side rail run through)

Industry Standard		QSI 8th Edition (2003)	WDMA I.S.1A-04	AWS 2009*	ANSI/WDMA I.S.1A-13	AWS 2nd Edition
Other Criteria						
Finishing System Descriptors	Extra Heavy Duty (Example)	Custom Grade	Standard (TR-6)	Manufacturer's Option	Standard (TR-6)	Manufacturer's Option
	Rail Edge and Hardware Prep Areas	Sealed and/or finished top and bottom if required per mfrs. standard warranty	no requirement	Top/bottom edges and hardware prep areas at hinges and lock edges to be sealed	no requirement	Top/bottom edges and hardware prep areas to be sealed
ANSI Approval		No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Appearance						
Face Grade	Premium	AA	A	AA	AA	AA
	Custom	A	A or other if specified	A	A or other if specified	A
	Economy	B	Not Available -- Use Custom	Not Available -- Use Custom	Not Available -- Use Custom	Not Available -- Use Custom
Veneer Species Charts		Ash, Birch, Maple, Poplar, Mahogany, Luan, Meranti, Red and White Oak, Pecan, Hickory, Walnut, Butternut, Cherry	Ash, Beech, Birch, Maple, Poplar, Mahogany, Anegre, Makore, Sapele, Red and White Oak, Pecan, Hickory, Walnut, Cherry	Ash, Beech, Birch, Maple, Poplar, Mahogany, Anegre, Makore, Sapele, Red and White Oak, Pecan, Hickory, Walnut, Cherry, White Pine, Douglas Fir, Redwood	Ash, Beech, Birch, Maple, Poplar, Mahogany, Anegre, Makore, Sapele, Red and White Oak, Pecan, Hickory, Walnut, Cherry, Western Red Alder, White Pine, Douglas Fir, Redwood	Ash, Beech, Birch, Maple, Poplar, Mahogany, Anegre, Makore, Sapele, Red and White Oak, Pecan, Hickory, Walnut, Cherry
Minimum Flitch Leaf Width	AA	Rotary / PI Sliced 6" Quartered 3"	Rotary / PI Sliced 5" Quartered 3"	Rotary / PI Sliced 5" Quartered 3"	Rotary / PI Sliced 5" Quartered 3"	Rotary / PI Sliced 5" Quartered 3"
	A	Rotary / PI Sliced 5" Quartered 3"	Rotary / PI Sliced 4" Quartered 3"	Rotary / PI Sliced 4" Quartered 3"	Rotary / PI Sliced 4" Quartered 3"	Rotary / PI Sliced 4" Quartered 3"
Laminate Face Grades		HPDL	HPDL and LPDL	HPDL	HPDL and LPDL	HPDL and PVC
Face Lay-up	Premium	Center Balance Match	Running Match	Center Balance Match	Center Balance Match	Center Balance Match
	Custom	Running Match	Running Match	Running Match	Running Match	Running Match
Color and grain matching - doors in the same room or area	Premium	no requirement	no requirement	Compatible Color and Grain. Coordination is responsibility of door furnisher.	no requirement	Compatible Color and Grain. Coordination is responsibility of door furnisher.
	Custom	no requirement	no requirement	no requirement	no requirement	no requirement
Molding Requirements	Premium	Same Species	Same Specie	Well Matched Color & Grain	Same Specie	Well Matched Color & Grain
	Custom	Compatible Species	Compatible Specie	Compatible Color and Grain	Compatible Specie	Compatible Color and Grain
Door / Transom Matching	Premium	Continuous or End Match	Continuous or End Match	Continuous Match	Continuous Match	Continuous Match
	Custom	Continuous or End Match	Continuous or End Match	Continuous or End Match	Continuous or End Match	Continuous or End Match

* Including AWS errata in effect as of the date of this comparison table.