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## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

### **Fenestration Industry Emphasizes New Terminology in Latest Standard for Windows, Doors and Skylights**

CHICAGO - - In early 2008 the Window and Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA), The American Architectural Association (AAMA) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) jointly released AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/I.S. 2/A440-08, North American Fenestration Standard/Specification for windows, doors and skylights (the “Standard”). It has been adopted by numerous references in the 2009 IBC and IRC, and includes a number of improvements over the previous (2005) version. This release is intended to define and describe the use of updated terminology relating to four performance rating names:

- 1) Design Pressure
- 2) DP
- 3) Performance Grade
- 4) PG

#### Design Pressure

The Standard uses this term to describe a manufactured product’s capacity to withstand uniform loads caused by wind, and in the case of skylights, snow. It is intended to be weighed against applied “design pressures”, as determined by the user in accordance with structural design standards such as ASCE 7.

In the Standard, a “Design Pressure” rating is limited strictly to structural performance.

#### DP

The term “DP” has historically been interpreted inconsistently among building industry professionals. The reality is that “DP” is simply a convenient abbreviation for “design pressure.” This means that “DP” refers only to the structural performance of a product in relation to uniform design loads imposed on the building envelope and *does not indicate any tested performance levels* relative to air infiltration resistance, water penetration resistance or any other performance criteria specified in the Standard. This critical clarification is specifically stated in the Standard in an effort to alleviate user confusion and preclude specifying the wrong product for a given building application.

(continued)

## Performance Grade

According to the Standard, a product qualifies for a “Performance Grade” rating only if that product complies with all pertinent performance requirements of the Standard. This means that not only does the product have to comply with the structural performance provisions, but it also must comply with other performance requirements such as air infiltration resistance, water penetration resistance, ease of operation, durability, weatherability, and resistance to forced entry.

A “Performance Grade” rating provides a comprehensive look at a product’s overall *tested performance* by addressing all of the applicable requirements of the Standard.

## PG

The term “PG” is was introduced in this edition of the Standard as a convenient abbreviation for “Performance Grade.”

In an effort to communicate this terminology consistently, the performance designation for product labels and product literature has changed. An example casement product designation per the prior version of the Standard, would appear as follows:

C-R25 760x1520 mm (30x60 in)

Per the latest version of the Standard, this same product may be designated as either:

Class R – PG25: Size Tested 760x1520 mm (30x60 in); or

Class R – PG25: Size Tested 760x1520 mm (30x60 in) – Casement; or

Class R – PG25: Size Tested 760x1520 mm (30x60 in) – Type C

Note: These are the Primary Designators available. Secondary designators are also allowed by the Standard in accordance with prescribed formats. DP or Design Pressure ratings, if used, would appear in the secondary designator entries selected by the manufacturer or private labeler.

## **About WDMA**

The Window and Door Manufacturers Association is a trade association representing the leading producers of sash, frames, window units (roof and wall), skylights, TDDs, residential, commercial and architectural interior doors, interior flush doors, molded doors, stile and rail doors, and exterior doors and patio doors for the domestic and export markets. Members sell to distributors, dealers, builders, remodelers, architects, contractors and other specifiers in residential, commercial and institutional markets. WDMA members manufacture high performance products designed and built to performance-based standards. For more information, please visit [www.wdma.com](http://www.wdma.com).