



Our primary purpose has been to develop performance standards and certification programs that provide quality assurance for the fenestration industry.



CONTROL & TESTING  
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM  
ACCREDITED BY  
NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE  
MFR CODE:



CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW

American Architectural Manufacturers Association  
1827 Walden Office Square | Suite 550 | Schaumburg, IL 60173  
Phone: 847-303-5664 | [www.aamanet.org/certification](http://www.aamanet.org/certification)

©2008 AAMA | CMB-6.08 | Released October 2008

QUALITY  
AAMA CERT  
MEMBER  
AMERICAN NAT



## CERTIFICATION



Since 1936, the American Architectural Manufacturers Association has been a champion for quality in the fenestration industry. In support of this objective, AAMA members have written performance standards for windows, doors, skylights, curtain wall systems, components and framing materials. Based on these standards, we've established certification and verification programs that provide a comprehensive quality assurance system for the industry.

The AAMA Certification Program was developed through a consensus process as a method of testing window and door performance. In 1972, AAMA Certification became the first program of its kind to be accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and is the most established quality assurance program available to window and door manufacturers.

AAMA certification is a recognized sign of integrity and quality by builders, architects and specifiers. What's more, the certification label makes it easier for code officials to verify that a product meets local code requirements.



## UNBIASED TESTING



To ensure the highest quality standards, the AAMA Certification Program is independently administered and conducted without bias.

Only the AAMA Gold Label indicates all of the following:

- A sample of the product underwent testing per the performance-based, material-neutral requirements of the AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/I.S.2/A440-08 industry standard or its predecessors.
- Tests were performed at an independent AAMA-accredited testing lab and met these criteria:
  - Prescribed maximum levels of air leakage through the assembly.
  - No water penetration through the assembly at a specified simulated wind speed.
  - Prescribed levels of structural resistance to wind and other dynamic pressures.
  - Life cycle durability requirements as applicable based on the product's performance class designation.
  - Component performance verification to AAMA specifications.
- An independent third-party validator, through two unannounced plant inspections each year, has continually monitored the product production for compliance and quality assurance procedures.
- The manufacturer used the required certified profiles and verified components where performance standards for those particular parts and materials exist.



## THERMAL EFFICIENCY



Energy efficiency is becoming increasingly important to homeowners, builders and manufacturers. Recognizing this, AAMA offers optional certification for thermal performance and condensation resistance.

In addition to Gold Label Certification, manufacturers may certify thermal performance to the AAMA 1503 test method or through AAMA to NFRC\* requirements.

Manufacturers may certify their products for thermal performance with or without certifying for air, water, and structural performance. Those products certified for thermal performance only are designated with the AAMA Silver Certification Label.



## QUALITY INSTALLATION

Regardless of how well a product design has been proven to perform through testing and quality control oversight, the full potential of the product can only be realized if it's installed properly. That's why AAMA offers installation practices and supports its Wall Interface Council (WIC), a division that addresses standards and practices for integrating windows into various wall types and exterior facades. WIC committees and task groups deal with performance testing and national and regional requirements for flashing, sealants, glazing tapes, adhesives and related products.

\*National Fenestration Rating Council



## VERIFICATION



The AAMA Certification Program and its familiar Gold Label are accepted, if not required, by many federal, state and municipal building codes and administrators as an indication of product quality to builders, dealers, and building and home owners.

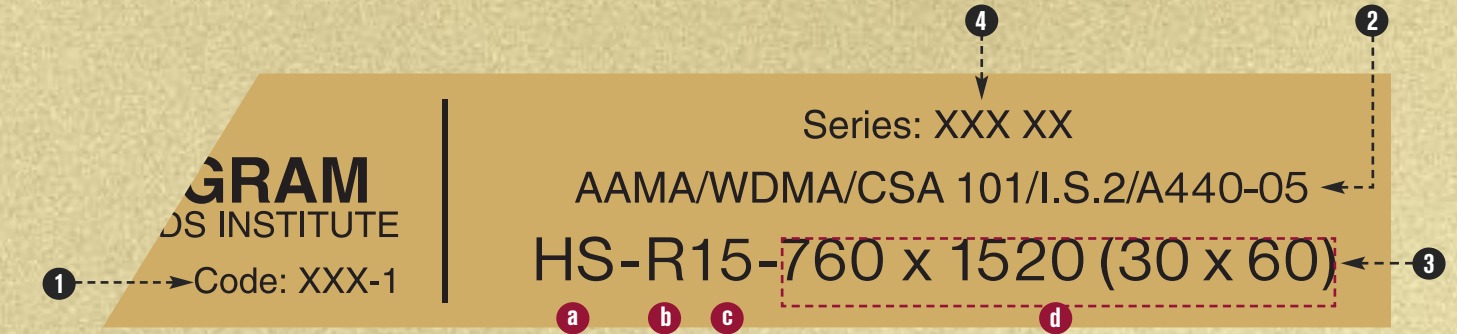
Given the value of the AAMA Gold Label, some manufacturers have been known to use imitation labels. To protect those companies who've passed the required rigorous testing within its certification program quality assurance system, AAMA offers its online Certified Products Directory, which catalogs all products currently authorized for certification through the AAMA program and the companies that manufacture them. The AAMA Web site ([www.aamanet.org](http://www.aamanet.org)) features the searchable online directory as well as lists of manufacturers of verified components and certified profiles, which can be accessed from the home page.



## ACTION

To begin the certification process for your products, call us at 847-303-5664 or go to [www.aamanet.org](http://www.aamanet.org).

## UNDERSTANDING THE AAMA CERTIFICATION GOLD LABEL



- 1** Manufacturer's Code
- 2** Specification Identification
- 3** Primary Designator
- 4** Manufacturer's Series Number

Using the key elements of product type, performance class, performance grade, and size tested, a performance rating is provided. The rating consists of a four-part designation.

- a** **Product Operator Type** This designates the construction of the window as it relates to usage. In this case, HS stands for Horizontal Sliding.
- b** **Performance Class** Historically, there have been 5 different performance classes (R, LC, C, HC, AW). Beginning in 2008, performance classes are R, LC, CW, and AW.
- c** **Performance Grade** A numerical designator that defines the performance of a product. It signifies that a product has passed all required performance tests at specific pressures for operating force (if applicable), air leakage resistance, water penetration resistance, uniform load deflection test, uniform load structural test, and forced-entry resistance (if applicable).
- d** **Maximum Size Tested** First measurement reflects millimeters. The second measurement (in parenthesis) reflects inches.

## UNDERSTANDING LABORATORY ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

Product testing for certification through the AAMA program must be conducted at an AAMA-accredited laboratory. To qualify as an AAMA accredited testing facility, the laboratory must:

- Be AAMA-inspected and accredited to specific ASTM International and AAMA test protocols.
- Formally apply for accreditation with AAMA.
- Contract with AAMA that it will properly and responsibly maintain the accreditation.
- Allow periodic lab inspections, quality and document control, calibration confirmations of testing apparatus, and technician evaluations by the Program Validator.

In addition, all accredited labs can have no business affiliation with the window and door manufacturers except for contracts for testing services. These requirements allow the testing to be unbiased and independent.

## UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF AN INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY VALIDATOR

The independent (third-party) validator:

- Is under contract with AAMA to act only as the Program's Validator.
- Has no other affiliation with AAMA except for its contracted functions.
- Cannot act as a window and door industry contract test laboratory for any manufacturer, except as a witness to testing performed at a manufacturer's own in-plant lab.