



AL-FAROOQ CORPORATION

CONSULTING ENGINEERS & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

FILED	
Department of Business and Professional Regulation Deputy Agency Clerk	
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File #	

PETITION FOR DECLARATORY STATEMENT BEFORE THE FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION

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Rep.: Self
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DS 2019-001

Statutory provision(s), agency rule(s), or agency order(s) on which the declaratory statement is sought:

- Florida Building Code, 6th Edition, Chapter 35.
- Florida Building Code, 6th Edition, 61G20-3
- ASTM E1996-14a.
- ASTM E1996-17.

Background:

Al-Farooq Corporation is a company which makes a variety of product approvals, primarily using method 1 option D through 61G20-3.

The purpose of this petition is to receive further clarity regarding a specific question for FL 28367 to include additional spacer options not currently shown but which meet Sect. A1.9.2 in ASTM E1996-17.

Florida Building Code, 6th Edition, Chapter 35 currently lists the following as reference standards:

- ASTM E1996—05, 06, 09, 2012a or 2014a.

Currently, ASTM E1996-17 is available, and is likely to be incorporated into the Florida Building Code, 7th Edition as a reference standard.

When compared with ASTM E1996-14a, ASTM E1996-17 includes a new line of text as follows:

- A1.9.2: "If the conditions in A1.8.1.3 are met, a change in spacer type, shape, or dimension is allowed automatically."

For reference,

- A1.8.1.3: “Substitutions for insulating glass shall only be made for systems with the impact resistant glazing structurally adhered to the frame or sash glazing leg or bed in the same manner and position as originally tested and approved.”

61G20-3.005(1)(d) allows for equivalency to be determined by a professional engineer; however, 61G20-3.005(1)(e) says that rational engineering cannot be used in lieu of a standard test required by the code. Since ASTM E1996-14a currently requires one additional test for spacers but ASTM E1996-17 does not when following A1.9.2, this seems to create a conflict.

Question:

Given that it is likely that ASTM E1996-17 will be incorporated into future versions of the Florida Building Code, and since this revision implies that it is not a structural issue for spacer substitutions following ASTM E1996-17 A.1.9.2, is it acceptable follow this new exemption for spacers, even though Florida Building Code, 6th Edition, Chapter 35 currently only lists ASTM E1996—05, 06, 09, 2012a or 2014a as reference standards?

Summary:

An affirmative answer will likely bring a significant time and cost savings to a client of ours who is interested in adding a new spacer option and currently meets A1.8.1.3. A representative example would be as applied to FL 28367 to include additional spacer options not currently shown but which comply with A1.9.2 in glass type G1i shown on sheet 2 of 8. A negative answer would require my client (and future clients with similar endeavors) to test additional units.

Very Truly Yours,



Jalal Fafoq, P.E.
CFO