



Bulletin 2013-002-BLD

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FENESTRATION STANDARDS FOR PART 9 BUILDINGS IN THE 2012 BC BUILDING CODE

The intent of this Bulletin is to advise homeowners, contractors, and building envelope designers of a recent change to the requirements governing windows, skylights and doors in the 2012 British Columbia Building Code (BCBC). This change applies to buildings that are constructed under Part 9 of Division B of the BCBC, such as one- and two-family dwellings, and apartment buildings up to three storeys in building height and less than 600 m² in building area.

On December 20, 2012, an updated version of the BCBC came into effect. As part of this update, a new harmonized regulation for manufactured doors, windows, and skylights, *AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/I.S.2/A440, "NAFS – North American Fenestration Standard/Specification for Windows, Doors, and Skylights"*, was introduced in Sentence 9.7.4.2.(1) of Division B. Known as NAFS or the "Harmonized Standard", the regulation combines several regulations in force throughout North America in an effort to simplify the regulatory environment governing fenestration products for both manufacturers and designers.

Compliance with the NAFS requires that manufacturers submit products to a certification process. In many circumstances, manufacturers have had insufficient time to complete this certification. As such, the BC Building Safety Standards Branch, through Ministerial Order MO 110/2013, has permitted the following phased compliance approach:

- Prior to December 20th, 2013: windows, doors, and skylights may be installed that conform with fenestration requirements in either the 2012 BCBC or the 2006 BCBC
- On or after December 20th, 2013: windows, doors, and skylights installed on or after this date shall conform to the new NAFS Standard, including the A440S1-09 Canadian supplement.

Projects choosing to comply with the 2006 BCBC fenestration regulations should be aware of the date mentioned above and plan accordingly.

Additional information is available on the Office of Housing and Construction Standards website at: <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/pub/bulletins/index.htm>. Should you require further clarification, please contact the Inspections Division.

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