



National Fenestration Rating Council Bulletin

www.nfrc.org

September 17, 2013

Subject: Revised Requirements for Air Leakage Ratings

This bulletin relates to the revised requirements for Air Leakage (AL) ratings published in [NFRC 400-2010: Procedure for Determining Fenestration Product Air Leakage](#) and [NFRC 700-2013: Product Certification Program](#).

The NFRC board has approved delaying the requirement to use the new AL ratings (≤ 0.3 for windows, skylights, and sliding glass doors and ≤ 0.5 for swinging doors) until January 1, 2015 based on the following:

- Updates to the National Fenestration Rating Council's (NFRC) Certified Products Directory (CPD)
- For staff to implement processes to recognize non-accredited labs to provide AL ratings
- Modifications to NFRC documents are primarily based on the [ENERGY STAR[®] requirements](#) (Version 6) that products have an AL rating

To assist our participants, the following is a list of items for completion and their deadlines:

- Lab recognition process – 1/1/2014*
- Implementation of updated CPD – 11/1/2013* and at time of enforcement – 1/1/2015
- Deadline for NFRC Participants are required to use new label – 1/1/2015

*Tentative Deadline

Lab Recognition Process

Only NFRC labs accredited to NFRC 400 may provide AL ratings.

Pursuant to the language added to the NFRC 700 document, which allows ISO 17025 accredited laboratories to submit AL ratings, the APC and staff are developing language in a new document, NFRC 701.11. This will address the process for recognizing those non-NFRC accredited laboratories to provide air leakage ratings.

The language will include how these labs may apply for and maintain recognition, how the information is to be provided to Inspection Agencies (IAs), and staff's

responsibility to perform the recognition process.

This information will be available prior to January 1, 2014.

What Data is Accepted in the CPD

Due to a delay in the requirement for using the recently approved language for AL ratings, participants are authorized to continue to use the previous AL ratings of 0.1, 0.2, or 0.3.

Placing AL ratings in CPD

NFRC does not intend to modify the current process for how AL ratings are placed in the CPD. The laboratory, with the authorization of the participant, will provide the AL report to the IA. The IA will place the AL value as listed in the report (per NFRC 701.04) in the CPD and provide the Participant with the Certification Authorization Report (CAR).

Updating the CPD

NFRC intends to modify the CPD to include the \leq symbol in the AL rating block by December 2013. When the CPD is updated, Participants may begin to use the recently approved rating values of ≤ 0.3 or ≤ 0.5 .

All Participants are required to have the proper AL ratings of ≤ 0.3 or ≤ 0.5 listed in the CPD and display the proper AL ratings on temporary labels by January 1, 2015.

Please contact [Scott Hanlon](#) at 240-821-9519 with any questions.

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