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## #4 – PROPER USE OF POLISHED WIRED GLASS UNDER THE BUILDING CODE OF NYS – 2007

Effective January 1, 2008, Polished Wired Glass can no longer be used for new construction or replacement in locations subject to human impact (doors, sidelites, etc.) as defined in section 2406.3 in:

- K-12 Schools
- Daycare facilities
- Gymnasiums, basketball courts, and similar athletic facilities as defined in section 2408.3

This change is due to the inclusion of "In other than Group E" in section 2406.1.2. The code requires compliance to Federal Law 16 CFR 1201 Safety Standard for Architectural Glazing Materials for glass in hazardous locations. 16 CFR 1201 contains an exemption for polished wired glass "used in doors or other assemblies to retard the passage of fire, where such door or assembly is required by a federal, state, local or municipal fire ordinance". The wired glass exemption in 16 CFR 1201 is being phased out by the model building codes, and the use of polished wired glass in hazardous locations will be restricted as states adopt more current versions of the model codes as their building codes.

Under the Building Code of NYS – 2007, which is based on the IBC 2003 version, polished wired glass can no longer be used in the occupancies listed above.

Under the IBC 2006 version, adopted in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Ohio, polished wired glass is not permitted in ANY location subject to human impact, including office buildings and hospitals, where polished wired glass has been heavily used due to its long history as a successful and cost effective fire protection-rated glazing material.

Wired glass is not a safety glazing material under 16 CFR 1201. Its proper use is fire rated and labeled openings only where allowed by code. Tempered glass is a better choice for impact resistance. Laminated glass provides better security.

Wired glass is limited in size by code depending on its required fire protection rating in table 715.4.3. A ¾ hour (45 min) rating is limited to 1296 sq.in., and a 1 ½ hour (90 min) rating is limited to 100 sq. in. The size of wired glass is not limited for a 20 minute rating in the code, but 20 minute protection ratings are limited to sizes listed in the wire glass supplier's Underwriters Laboratories Online Certification Directory.

UL listings can be viewed by googling "UL online directory" and then keying in the wired glass supplier's name.

