



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

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by facsimile and overnight courier

Michael J. Pfeiffer, P.E.
Vice President, Codes & Standards Development
International Code Council, Inc.
4051 W. Flossmoor Rd.
Country Club Hills, IL 60478

Re: Scope of Exemption of Wired Glass from Commission Standard for Architectural Glazing

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer:

I understand that the International Code Council (ICC) will be addressing proposed changes concerning wired glass at the ICC meeting this month, in particular, code change S85-03/04. In this connection, it may be helpful to review the scope of the exemption of wired glass from the Commission's safety standard for architectural glazing materials. 16 CFR part 1201.

The exemption for wired glass appears at 16 CFR § 1201.1(c)(1). It hinges on three different requirements:

- First, the wired glass must be used in a door (or other assembly subject to the rule). The exemption does not address, much less authorize, the use of wired glass in other applications such as glazed panels or window-like structures not associated with a door.
- Second, to be exempt, the wired glass must be used "to retard the passage of fire." *Id.* This means that wired glass remains subject to the safety standard if it is not being used for that purpose.
- Third, the particular use of the wired glass must be required by a federal, state, local, or municipal fire ordinance. Thus, the use of wired glass even in fire doors is not automatically permitted in all locations or all jurisdictions. Rather, it must be demonstrated that the particular use is required by law for fire safety.

In sum, the CPSC's exemption for wired glass is quite narrow. Only if all three requirements discussed above are met can wired glass escape the impact resistance requirements of the safety standard.

Please note that this letter has been reviewed and approved by the Commission.

Thank you for your interest in consumer safety.

Sincerely,

John Gibson Mullan

cc Thomas Frost
Sr. VP, Technical Services
International Code Council, Inc.
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