Glass Guards

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the requirements of structural reviews for glass guards.

"This information is provided for convenience only and is not in substitution of applicable City Bylaws or Provincial or Federal Codes or laws. You must satisfy yourself that any existing or proposed construction or other works complies with such Bylaws, Codes or other laws."

Effective immediately, all installation of glass guards that do not incorporate structural top rails are required to be reviewed by a professional engineer.

All guards shall be designed to withstand loads specified in 4.1.5.14. of the BC Building Code for Part 3 buildings or 9.8.8.2. for Part 9 buildings, including houses; however, there are no prescriptive requirements in the code giving guidance how to construct a guard to withstand those loads.

When it comes to glass guards, specifically those ones that do not incorporate structural top rails it is difficult to perform the traditional "push test" to have a quick preliminary determination if the guards may withstand the required loads.

The following publication require some means of structural redundancy, such as a structural top rail, be built into the glass guards to prevent progressive collapse of the assembly following the failure of a glass member:

- CAN/CGSB-12.20-M89 "Structural Design of Glass for Buildings"
- "EGBC Professional Practice Guidelines, Designing Guards for Buildings
- "Glazing Systems Specifications Manual, National Version 2010"

Effective immediately all installation of glass guards that do not incorporate structural top rails shall be reviewed by a professional engineer and submit a report to the building inspector to explain how the glass guard complies with the structural redundancy requirement without the top rails.

If you have any questions, please contact the Building Department at 604-294-7130.