

October 1, 2007

To: IGMAC Certification Program Participants and Suppliers
From: Margaret Webb, IGMA Executive Director

Reference: **IGMAC Certification Program Changes – Initial and Final Gas Content Certification Program**

Implementation: **Effective October 1, 2007**

Manufacturers who desire to mark their gas filled production units as IGMAC certified must participate in the Gas Content Certification Program in addition to the Conventional Durability Certification Program.

Further to the memo issued to all IGMAC Certification Program Participant in April 2007 providing advance notification of changes to the gas content certification program approved by the IGMA Certification & Education Committee, please be advised that effective October 1, 2007, all product lines must certify to seal durability also referred to as conventional (weather cycling, high humidity and volatile fog) requirements to participate in the gas content program. The program is intended to demonstrate a program participant's ability to initially fill to a minimum level and the ability of the construction of the IG unit to retain a minimum gas content level after exposure to the CGSB 12.8 standard test specification.

Product lines meeting a tested initial gas content of 90% or greater averaged over ten test specimens selected at random from the test set and a final after conventional testing gas content of 80% or greater averaged over the ten test specimens selected for initial gas content shall be identified in the Certified Products Directory (CPD) with the designation "GC" for "Gas Content". Both initial and after weathering gas content must be compliant in order to be listed as "GC".

The normal (18-22) 14x20-inch test units for seal durability shall be fabricated under auditor witness during normal durability certification fabrication audits. All test units shall be gas filled with argon. All triple pane units shall have both cavities filled and tested. Coated glass shall be used and triple pane units shall have coated glass as the center lite only. The test lab shall randomly select ten (10) units for initial gas content testing from the test set. Units shall be inspected for any damage, and any damaged units not used. Testing for gas content after conventional testing shall be performed on the 10 test units selected for initial gas content.

Units shall be tested for initial and final gas content percent by non-destructive spark emission spectrography (SES) (procedures available from the IGMA website

under the IGMA Certification Program tab). Up to two (2) test units (14" x 20") may be used to replace any unit broken in shipping or handling.

Laboratories shall report results of testing as "percent initial gas content" and "percent after weathering gas content" to the nearest whole percent.

To be listed as complying with gas content certification, initial and after weathering (GC) the measured gas content level must be 90 percent or greater initially and 80% or greater after conventional averaged over the ten test samples selected at random. These levels were selected as levels that can reasonably be reached by insulating glass fabricators on a consistent basis. It takes into consideration variations that may occur in the filling process, and variations that may occur in the testing process.

The initial and final gas content requirement applies to test specimens only. A manufacturer's actual production units may not necessarily be 90% or greater initial gas content but shall meet the manufacturer's stated initial content values.

Special arrangements need to be made if regulatory compliance is required for gas content other than argon such as krypton or xenon.

Gas content certification for argon will qualify other gases provided the same filling methodology is followed. If a different methodology is used for other gases, than a separate certification will be required and the product line will be listed under a different IGMAC number.

As a result of this program change, the Initial Argon Re-test has been withdrawn as a testing option.

A copy of this memo is available from the IGMA website under the IGMAC Certification Program tab.