

Safety Glass Compliance – An Interview with GANZ Technical Advisor

Q: What are the major issues you see with safety glass compliance?

Firstly, the NZ Building Code framework is soft bellied, as the DBH say they make the rules but the TA and BCA's are the gatekeepers, and they must control product compliance. However, the horse has bolted by this stage as the glass has been imported, paid for, gone past customs, been installed in a building, and the developer is screaming for compliance so he can get a CCC and charge rent.

In addition the TAs have poor training in this issue and get bullied by developers, builders and designers.

Q: What do you say to TA's and BCA's?

I often give talks to BOINZ members and local TA's and the message is simple.

If its NOT MARKED to NZS 4223.3 – REJECT IT as its non compliant with the Acceptable Solution F2/AS1.

It's then up to the supplier to provide compliance documentation as an Alternative Solution, and BE WARY of fraud.



Q: What do you see as a way forward ?

It seems simple to me – if you want to import a product for the NZ building industry you must FIRST gain compliance, BEFORE you are allowed to import, and then customs can do their job, as they can have a list of compliant products and suppliers. So I believe the DBH should maintain a register of compliant building products.

Q: What have you seen that disturbs you ?

Everything that can go wrong will go wrong – (is this Murphy's law?)

- Glass sold as safety glass that is not
- Glass sold as safety glass without compliant marking
- Glass with no marking
- Glass with copied and bogus marking (copied S Mark)
- False documentation from safety glass suppliers
- Glass sold as safety glass from one supplier, but with marking from another supplier
- Glass with safety marking from one supplier and documentation from another supplier

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- Stickers or on site marking applied to safety glass after the TA has rejected the glass
- Out of date third party certification
- Incorrect use of third party certification documents
- Lying, cheating and all the many forms of deception—even in court.

● Do you think the playing field is level ?

NO – and this is the problem – NZ glass companies get put through the “Ringer” with compliance documentation and associated costs to ensure public safety, yet imported product does not even get its hands washed.

We have indicated to the DBH that we could suspend all compliance documentation and costs unless the situation is sorted, but is that fair to NZ public? No, because we need to sleep at night.

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