

The Comfort Corner

NFRC & Window Film

Glance at a window film manufacturer's list of statistics and your eyes may glaze over due to the sheer volume of data. All of this information is and has always been tested, verified and provided by the manufacturer itself. But third party verification is now on the horizon.

Enter the NFRC: the National Fenestration Rating Council. The NFRC is a 30 year old organization that administers the only uniform, independent rating system for windows, doors, etc. An example of their logo:

		World's Best Window Co. Millennium 2000+ Vinyl-Clad Wood Frame Double Glazing • Argon Fill • Low E Product Type: Vertical Slider	
ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS			
U-Factor (U.S./I-P)		Solar Heat Gain Coefficient	
0.35		0.32	
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS			
Visible Transmittance		Air Leakage (U.S./I-P)	
0.51		0.2	
<small>Manufacturer stipulates that these ratings conform to applicable NFRC procedures for determining whole product performance. NFRC ratings are determined for a fixed set of environmental conditions and a specific product size. NFRC does not recommend any product and does not warrant the suitability of any product for any specific use. Consult manufacturer's literature for other product performance information. www.nfrc.org</small>			



All new windows come with this sticker on it. Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) (upper right) relates to how much heat the glass cuts down, U-factor (upper left) relates to heat loss.

Window film, on the other hand, does not use this system. All film uses Total Solar Energy Rejected or Heat Gain Reduction as the means of measuring heat rejection. You can figure a SHGC but you would still be using the manufacturer's numbers.

Thus, comes the NFRC certification, to add credibility to the manufacturer's numbers. Plus, it will make sure that the playing field is level between manufacturers. Furthermore, entry into the ENERGY STAR program is a possibility now for window films.

While the NFRC board approved procedures for film in early 2005, everything should be in place by mid-2006.

Certified energy ratings for window film will be soon upon us, which is good news for both window film installers, like us, and anyone else who wants certified better performance out of their glass.