

Vancouver Building By-Law Energy Performance and Certification: Windows and Doors for 1 and 2 Family Homes

The Vancouver Building By-law (VBBL) requires window and door energy performance to be verified by a certification organization or determined by a BC registered professional engineer.

This document provides a review of the current energy performance certification requirements for builders and for window and door manufacturers. It also provides contact information for certification organizations and a review of U-value performance requirements for windows and doors.

What is energy performance certification?

Certification of energy performance values confirms that the window or door has been tested by a recognized laboratory and that the labeled energy performance ratings are verified by a certification Organization.

Certified labels can only be applied by manufacturers who participate in one of the recognized certification programs offered by organizations listed at the end of this document.

What products require this certification?

Windows, glass doors, and side hinged doors, with or without glass. One main entrance door is exempt from this requirement to allow homes to have a custom, decorative or heritage style entrance door. Heritage homes are also exempt from this requirement when they are undergoing renovation.

How can I tell if a window or door product is certified?

Certified products are labeled under the authority of a recognized certification organization. Certified products have two labels:

1. A small, permanent label or marking on the product frame or the glass identifies the manufacturer and the certification organization.
2. A larger, removable energy performance label that is visible and conforms to the requirements of the particular certification organization.

Both labels must be present on a certified product when it is delivered to the jobsite, and the removable energy performance label must not be removed until final inspection.

Does the entire door assembly need to be certified, or just the slab?

The certified label on the door must represent the entire door system. Using an NFRC certified and labeled door slab does not certify a door or a door frame. Contact an NFRC certification organization for information about the correct use of NFRC certified components.

For a door to be certified by NFRC (National Fenestration Rating Council) the local pre-hanger who manufactures the door must be a participant of the NFRC Product Certification Program (PCP).