

RECENTLY PUBLISHED UPDATES TO THE NATIONAL MODEL CODES PAVE WAY FOR BETTER BUILDINGS

Recent code updates make it easier to incorporate modern, energy efficient building materials into the Canadian construction industry, including high-performance fiberglass frame windows.

Langley, B.C. Canada – 2022-05.04: Recently published changes to the National Model Codes (2020) include several updates to building codes, paving the way for more energy efficient and resilient buildings in Canada.

“The 2020 code updates are significant because they provide clear targets for overall building energy performance,” explains Mike Battistel, president of Cascadia Windows & Doors. “Simultaneously, the updates remove obstacles to using new technology and construction materials to help achieve those targets.”

Changes to the Energy Code for Buildings and National Building Code (NBC) are a prime example of these changes. Under the new codes, high-performance fiberglass frame windows can be more easily incorporated into new and existing buildings.

Offering comparable strength and durability to traditional aluminum windows—but boasting 100% – 250% improved thermal performance—fiberglass windows can significantly improve a building’s overall energy performance.

Fiberglass windows have been successfully used in projects across Europe and North America for decades, but older sections of the Canadian codes have limited their domestic use.

“There are notable projects in Canada using high-performance fiberglass windows,” says Battistel, “such as the Pacific Point II retrofit in Vancouver, the UVIC student residence in Victoria, the City of Vancouver’s 825 Pacific Street Passive House, and the City of Hamilton’s Ken Soble Tower EnerPHit project.

“However, these projects had to navigate alternate solutions with permitting offices to get approval. With the new updates, using high-performance fiberglass windows will be easier and provide more options to architects and builders.”

Now that the 2020 update has been officially published, provinces will outline their transition plans for adopting the new codes, a prospect Battistel is excited about.

“In the end, these code changes aren’t an academic exercise,” says Battistel. “They’re supposed to help people; expand their options; make their homes more efficient and comfortable. And if we do that, we’ll help reduce the climate impacts of buildings, which benefits us all.”

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ABOUT CASCADIA WINDOWS & DOORS:

Cascadia Windows & Doors is an innovative, industry leader, manufacturing architectural fiberglass windows, doors and cladding support systems. Included in some of the most exciting and award-winning construction projects across North America, Cascadia’s goal is to help revolutionize the energy-efficiency of modern buildings and drive the adoption of high-performance building products.

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For inquiries, please contact:
Chris Guelpa
Marketing Director
Cascadia Windows & Doors
236.997.7033