

Labelling and Marking

Introduction

As consumers, almost every product we invest our cold hard earnings into is branded. The screen I'm looking at whilst I write this has 'Samsung' proudly emblazoned front and centre. If I turn to my left my 'Brother' printer goes a couple of steps further with a model number in the upper left and an 'Energy Star' logo in the bottom right, just so I know someone has rated its performance and I can go about my business with a warm fuzzy feeling that I'm not wasting precious resource. And don't even get me started on my car...

Thankfully, the building industry and our homes have not, yet grasped the concept of outwardly branding its components. However, the labelling and marking of our windows, doors and glazing is a requirement of our Building Code and checking that your windows and doors have all the right markings is an important part of demonstrating compliance and the products installed are suited to your/their location.

So, how does a building inspector, or anyone else for that matter, know that the windows, doors, and glazing delivered and installed on their site have been designed tested and constructed in a manner that will be compliant with the building consent and therefore the Building Code? And do they have sufficient information to sign them off as compliant?

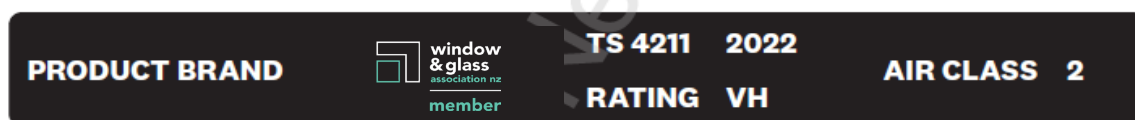
The simple answer is to check the labels and markings required by the applicable sections of the Code. Unlike our cars the labels and badges tend to be a little more subtle, but they're there, or at least are supposed to be! These labels and markings are an important part of knowing that your windows, doors, and glazing are as they're supposed to be, and that they meet the structural, durability, and safety requirements of a home built in Aotearoa.

Windows and Doors

When it comes to establishing the compliance of windows and doors, Section 4.2.1 of B1/VM1 relates to structural specification of windows, and references paragraph 4.4.1.4 of the Building product specification (BPS), which says that windows and doors will have a window rating suitable for the building's wind zone and to conform to one of the nominated standards, which includes NZS 4211:2008, and its revision SNZ TS 4211:2022, and Section 9.1.9 of E2/AS1 says something similar.

On-site this means checking for the labels.

Included in SNZ TS 4211:2022 is a section devoted to the labelling of all production windows and it provides a template and set of parameters for the label, for consistency and to aid with inspections.



Members of the Window & Glass Association use this format for their labelling, which indicates not only the brand of the manufacturer and the member logo, but more importantly, the tested performance of the product it's attached to, including,

- The standard the unit was tested to, in this case TS 4211:2022,
- The wind zone the unit is rated for, in this case VH referring to Very High, and
- The Air permeability Class, in this case Class 2.

So where do you find the label...

Windows.

Each window that includes an opening sash, will have a label located on the left-hand jamb of the sash, immediately below the stay. For fixed windows, with no openings, the label will be located on the top right-hand corner of the frame, when viewed from the inside of the building.

Doors.

Each hinged and/or bifolding door will have a label located immediately above the top hinge. Sliding doors, and windows, will have the label located on the edge, at the top, of the lead stile.



TS 4211:2022, includes additional label templates for units tested to E2/VM2, referred to as EM7, and for units outside of the generic wind zones, requiring Specific Engineering Design or SED. In the case of the latter, a test report number is inscribed onto the label for reference.

Glass and Glazing

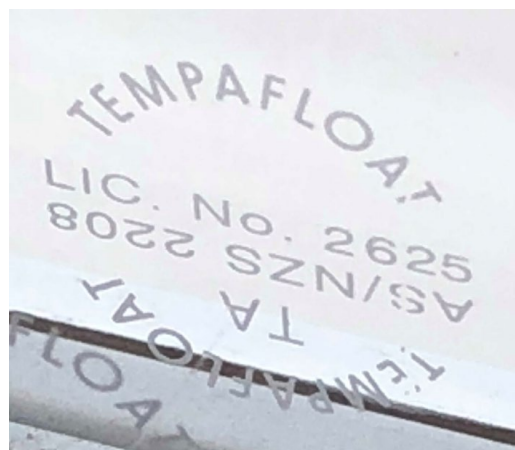
In many cases your glass must also be labelled, or marked, to demonstrate compliance. However, with glass rather than an adhesive label, the markings *must* be permanent.

Safety Glass.

Through the BPS, B1/AS1 refers to NZS4223.3:2016 the Standard covering the “Human impact safety requirements” for Glazing in Buildings, in its entirety.

Clause 2.8.2 in the Standard refers to the “Marking requirements” for *each pane* of safety glass used in our buildings and states that the marking must include as a minimum,

- The name or registered trademark of the manufacturer or supplier. In this case, it’s the “Tempafloat” reference.
- The type of safety glass. In this case, it’s the “TA” represents Toughened grade A safety glass.
- The Standard to which the glass has been manufactured and tested. In this case, it’s AS/NZS 2208.
- The license or ID number of the third-party certifier. In this case, it’s No. 2625.



Clause 2.8.1 of the Standard states that the marking must be on each pane, legible, permanent and visible after glazing. So, if the glass does not display a marking similar to this one, then it is not safety glass and does not comply with the Building Code...

Of course, these requirements not only apply to windows and doors but also, very importantly, to glass balustrades and barriers protecting a fall.

IGU's.

Insulated Glass Units, or your double or triple glazing must also be marked not only for safety but also for durability compliance. B2/AS1 refers to NZS4223.2:2016, states that IGU's shall be permanently and clearly marked and as a minimum shall include,



- The name or trademark of the manufacturer or supplier. In this case, it’s “Metro”.

- The date of manufacture, using the year as a minimum. In this case, “17” refers to 2017.
- Compliance with NZS 4223.2:2016, which is clearly written above.

This example shows the marking printed on the spacer bar, between the two panes of glass, but it can be printed on to the glass itself, the printing must simply be legible, permanent and visible after glazing.

So, to clarify,

- Monolithic safety glass must be marked in accordance with B1/AS1 and NZS 4223.3:2016.
- IGU's not used as safety glass only need to be marked in accordance with B2/AS1 and NZS 4223.3:2016.
- IGU's used as safety glass must both be marked in accordance with B1/AS1, B2/AS1, and NZS 4223.3:2016.

So maybe the labelling and marking discussed here is not quite like the 'branding' I opened the bulletin with. Branding is typically about promotion, in an effort to create desire and potentially future sales. Yes, there is a level of branding included in the markings and labels described here, but the promotion in this instance is about compliance, traceability, and confidence. Something we all look for in our building products...

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Window and Glass Association.
