

BALANCING COST, RISK AND RELIABILITY FOR STRUCTURAL USE OF GLASS

BALANCING RISK, RELIABILITY, POST-DAMAGE BEHAVIOR AND DESIGN EFFICIENCY IN STRUCTURAL USE OF GLASS

Glass is unique as a building material. In the past, glass suddenly breaking and material dislodging from a building exterior has been considered an acceptable risk for the benefits of transparency and durability that it offers. The same perceptions of sudden failure have, however, limited the structural use of glass, despite its excellent compressive strength and understood tensile strength characteristics.

As cracks in the glass interrupt the transparency and are perceived as initiation of potential fallout, design without cracks is considered a requirement. Some design practices are based solely around preventing initial cracks to achieve overall reliability, ignoring the behavior after cracking. However, in a material where failure is often caused by extraordinary events or installation errors rather than excessive design loads, this only increases the initial sizing and cost. Controlling the failure mode and engineering the post-damaged condition is more effective prevention of unacceptable outcomes. Modern glass design utilizing laminated glass allows us to better understand and control the behavior of the glass systems in the undamaged, partially-fractured and fully-fractured states.

This poster examines the balance of load and strength to prevent initial damage due to design loads and how this should be influenced by the behavior of the system in the post-damaged state. The priority given to preventing initial failure needs to be proportional to the consequence of that failure. The design strategy recognizes that circumstance and consequence influence design. Another standard that deals with building materials in the damaged state is the SEI/ASCE 7 seismic provisions. Similarly, the post-damage performance is based on the system behavior and not individual elements. It also recognizes that what may be good design for glass in some locations is not good design in others; that it will be further influenced by the occupancy in the proximity of the glass.

Glass risk categories account for the anticipated occupancy and the level of post-damage behavior and capacity desired by the designer or specifier. The glass risk

categories can be characterized as follows: G-I, very low occupancy and few requirements; G-II typical applications in which some detachment or limited fall heights may be acceptable; G-III where there is a significant risk to human life or to cause injury or economic impact (generally higher occupancy) and it is desired to have the glass retained in position, possibly with some post-damage capacity; G-IV where the glass is essential to the facility and requires a specified level of function in the damaged state. In addition to the post-damage behavior requirements, the Reliability Adjustment Factor G_R adjusts the capacity of the glass to achieve desired performance for design loads.

Each scenario takes into the consideration the: occupancy (Glass Risk Category); usage (Infill, Secondary or Primary Structure); orientation (angle to vertical) and presence of people on or under the glass. Each line has multiple compliance options, of which only one needs to be satisfied, each of which has a reliability adjustment factor as a function of the compliance path and behavior selected.

The target reliability has loose parallels with ASCE 7 Table 1.3-1 Target Reliability (Annual Probability of Failure, Pf) and associated Reliability Index (B) for "Load Conditions that Do Not Include Earthquake, Tsunami or Extraordinary Events." In doing so, there is some indexing between the proposed standard for Structural Use of Glass and the principles in standards for other more traditional building materials.

The proposed strength model in the ASTM Structural Use of Glass Specification is similar to the one outlined in the draft for Eurocode 11. It has a default reliability index, B_0 , of approximately 3.4-3.5, which is similar to the ASCE 7 Table 1.3-1 requirement for Building Risk Category II for a failure mode that is "either sudden or leads to widespread progression of damage." The Glass Risk Category follows the similar principles to the ASCE/SEI 7 Building Risk Category, balancing reliability with circumstance and consequence, but it is based on the occupancy in the proximity of the glass and may vary within a building according to the use of the glass.

Window glass is traditionally designed for a probability of failure (PoF) of 8×10^{-7} / 50yr or an annual PoF of $\sim 1.6 \times 10^{-5}$ which is close to B=2.5. This is the lowest of the

reliability indices in the ASCE table, which recognizes that window glass is not being used to hold up other parts of the structure. Other influences include AAMA and GANA which suggests that a PoF of 1×10^{-3} is appropriate for overhead glazing and IBC, which calls for a "design factor" of 4 for glass balustrades as based in AAMA CW-12-84. NCSA states that PoF 1×10^{-3} for AN glass with a coefficient of variation (COV) of approximately 24-25% equates to a design factor of 4.

The new standard for glass is based on LRFD principles, with partial factors for loading and strength. Factors for loading and their combinations are covered by ASCE 7 and guidance is provided for material partial safety factors in C2.3-2 $\phi = (\mu/R) \exp(-\alpha \cdot B \cdot V_i)$

in which μ = mean strength, R = code-specified strength, V_i = coefficient of variation (COV) in strength, and α = sensitivity coefficient, equal approximately to 0.7. For annealed glass, using a mean strength and rated strength of 45MPa (6,500psi), a COV of 25% and B=3.4, results in $\phi=0.55$ (or $\gamma=1/0.55$).

The Reliability Adjustment Factor, G_R , adjusts the basic strength model to the target reliability for circumstance and consequence of the structure and the damaged behavior justified by the designer. Within each category there may be several options for justification, of which only one is required to be justified. The reliability required in the undamaged state, G_0 , is a function of the behavior in the damaged state.

As heat-strengthened (HS) glass and fully-tempered (FT) glass have coefficients of variation (COV) of 15% and 10% respectively, the adjustment factor is also a function of the kind of glass and is tabulated based on a code letter, from A to H representing "B" ≥ 2.5 to "B" ≤ 4.5 . For AN glass G_0 is greater than 1 for "B" ≥ 3.4 and less than 1 for "B" ≤ 3.4 . For HS the definition is "B" ≥ 1 and for FT G_0 is always less than 1.0. This recognizes that HS and FT glass have lower COV and that the surface RCSS used in calculations is a minimum with the mean exceeding the rated strength. (Note the table 1.3-1 in ASCE7 includes importance factors manipulating the loading side of the equation to achieve the overall PoF, so here "B" is not the true reliability index and cannot be related directly to the overall probability of failure for building risk

categories other than II.)

It is worth noting that the ratio of $G_{R=1.0} / G_{R=2.5}$ is 1.34, and the strength ratio of allowable stress PoF of 8:1000 vs 1:1000 per ASTM E1300-16 eqn X6.1 is 1.34; so, there is good agreement of this method with AAMA/GANA recommendations and IBC requirements.

Drawing parallels between ASCE7 Table 1.3-1 and the glass risk classes, the following principles were used as guides:

- "Failure that is not sudden and does not lead to widespread progression of damage" equates to favorable failure modes; the favorable post-damage being satisfying post-damage loading such as satisfies post-damage loading with all plies broken (Retained).
- "Failure that is either sudden or leads to widespread progression of damage" corresponds to the post-damage condition where a ply is damaged but does not lead to further breakage under post-damage design loads (NFB).
- "Failure that is sudden and results in widespread progression of damage" equates to less favorable outcomes where Glass may dislodge from support system on 1 or more edges, but cannot fall through a publicly trafficable space with a swing arc of 2.1m (7ft) above a trafficable surface (No Fall); or where fall of the glass has limited consequence and has no post-damage requirement (NR).
- As with the ASCE-7 seismic requirements (which also address post-damage detailing) there are certain structure types which have height limits or are not permitted.
- For secondary structure the outcome for a given glass risk category is a similar column to the equivalent building risk category.
- For infill elements, the risk is considered less and the glass target reliability B_0 , is notionally one column to the left in ASCE table 1.3-1.
- For primary elements, the brittle nature of glass is taken into consideration and the glass target reliability B_0 , is notionally one column to the right in ASCE table 1.3-1.
- Stacked glazing is an infill element, but is regarded as dead load bearing hence is treated as a primary element.
- Elements that support live load or act as barriers require B=4 or greater regardless of risk class. (Although, we note that these requirements were written at a time when monolithic glass was common.)
- Failure modes without consequence have B=2.5 per common practice.
- Post-damage condition uses B=2.5 for all cases (companion event after damage and the fractured panel continues to contribute to strength), so where specifically required, the post-damage load factor is greater than 1.0.
- ASCE-7 also adjusts the load side of the equation in accordance with Building Risk Classification.

The risk classification provides a system of requiring minimum tensile reinforcement with interlayer and the reliability index adjustment factor aims to balance performance, risk and cost.

The rules, along with the strength model and imperfection and safety sections, are currently being benchmarked and calibrated. If you are interested in providing feedback, please email Richard Green at Richard@GreenFacadesLLC.com

Acknowledgement and Caveats

The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the author and may not represent the consensus position of the ASTM Committee or represent the final terms adopted by the Standard. They should not be used for design. The purpose of this paper is to propose a design method for comment and benchmarking/calibration prior to incorporation in the Standard.

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References

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- AAMA Volume 4, Part 3, page 7
- GANA Glazing Manual, 50th Anniversary Edition P59
- International Building Code 2015 2407.1.1
- AAMA CW 12-84 Structural Properties of Glass
- NCSEA Engineering Structural Glass Guide S3.5
- ASTM E1300-16 Standard Practice for Determining Load Resistance of Glass in Buildings

Table notes

- Overhead, access only with fall arrest devices and access equipment that does not rely on the glass for support. For systems that use glass for access support see section *60 deg.
- Glass with barrier load and >30" drop beyond barrier must satisfy this line in addition to the relevant condition line.
- Potential maintenance access only without arrest or access device. Where an access device is required to be used that does not rely on the glass for support the <60 degree conditions may be used.
- Must satisfy this in addition to applicable condition.
- Refer to Table 7.4 for loading durations.
- Refer to Table 7.5 for G_R values based on the code below.
- For post-damage condition refer to Table 7.5 code "A" for G_R .

GC	Elements	Description	Design Requirements				In Service Reliability Adjustment Factor G_0				Post-Damage Load Reduction Factor and Duration				Comments
			Height Limit (ft)	Retention	Redundancy	# Piles Broken	Dead	Variable	Level	Duration	Duration	Duration	Duration		
GLASS RISK CATEGORY G-I	INFILL	Glass within 15 degrees of vertical	NL	NR	NR	NR	A	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Heat Risk recommended for FT >10ft
		Overhead Glazing (>15 degrees of vertical)	10ft	NR	NR	NR	A	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Heat Risk recommended for FT >10ft
	SECONDARY	Glass within 15 degrees of vertical	NL	No Fall	NR	All	A	1	1 hr	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	No Fall of supported elements
		Overhead Glazing (>15 degrees of vertical)	10ft	NR	NR	NR	A	1	1 hr	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	No Fall of supported elements
	PRIMARY	Not Permitted	NP	NR	NR	NR	A	1	1 hr	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	No Fall of supported elements

GLASS RISK CATEGORY G-II	Elements	Description	Design Requirements				In Service Reliability Adjustment Factor G_0				Post-Damage Load Reduction Factor and Duration				Comments	
			Height Limit (ft)	Retention	Redundancy	# Piles Broken	Dead	Variable	Level	Duration	Duration	Duration	Duration			
INFILL ELEMENTS	GENERAL	Glass not over trafficable area and not trafficable without fall arrest device	10 ft	NR	NR	NR	A	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Heat Risk recommended for FT >10ft	
		Glass with unsupported and unsealed vertical edges	10 ft	NR	NR	NR	A	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Heat Risk recommended for FT >10ft	
	VERTICAL	Doors	10 ft	NR	NR	NR	A	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Heat Risk recommended for FT >10ft	
		4 sided supported windows and 2/3 side supported windows with structural silicone seals to unsupported edges	NL	NR	NR	NR	A	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Refer E1300/IBC for alternative methods.	
	INFILL ELEMENTS	<15 deg from vertical without barrier loads	Glass with unsupported and unsealed edges <15 deg from vertical and	10 ft	NR	NR	NR	A	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Heat Risk recommended for FT >10ft	
			Top Hung	NR	NR	NR	All	B	1	1 w	NR	NR	NR	NR	Refer E1300/IBC for alternative methods.	
		>30 Deg from Vertical	Fully Tempered Safety Glass	10 ft	NR	NR	NR	A	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Refer E1300/IBC for alternative methods.
			Residential - <3/16" FT mono Area -16 ft ²	12 ft	NR	NR	NR	B	1	1 w	NR	NR	NR	NR	Only where permitted by the relevant building code	
	INFILL ELEMENTS	<60 deg from Vertical (NOTE 1)	4/3/2/1 sided supported glass	NL	NFB	Yes	1	B	1	1 w	0.2	0.5	10 min	10 min	Verification test needed	
			Top Hung	NR	NFB	Yes	1	F	1	1 w	0.2	0.5	1 min	1 min	ASCE C2.3.2 extraordinary events	
		Barrier (<60 Deg from vertical) (NOTE 2)	Glass with barrier load >30" drop beyond barrier	10 ft	NR	All Path	All	F	1	1 w	0.5*	1 min	1 min	1 min	A risk capable of bringing the potential opening satisfies redundancy requirements. *Load on all path	
			Glass with barrier load <30" drop beyond barrier	10 ft	NR	Yes	All	D	1	1 w	0.2	0.5	1 min	1 min	Less than "F" opening	
INFILL ELEMENTS	>60 Deg from Vertical (NOTE 3)	Glass	NL	NFB	Yes	ALL	B	1	1 w	0.2	1	10 min	10 min	Glass which is designed per <60 degree category which requires access equipment shall be appropriately signed and/or fenced.		
		Flooring panel or stair tread with LL - Controlled spaced where rope off will happen quickly in the case of breakage	NL	NFB	Yes	1	F	1	1 w	0.45	1	10 min	10 min	ASTM E2751 as alternate method.		
	HORIZONTAL	Flooring panel or stair tread with LL and protected edges - Un-controlled spaces where rope off may NOT happen quickly in the case of breakage	NL	NFB	Yes	1	F	1	1 mo.	0.67	1	1 day	1 day	ASTM E2751 as alternate method.		
		Flooring panel or stair tread with LL and protected edges - Un-controlled spaces where rope off may NOT happen quickly in the case of breakage	NL	NFB	Yes	ALL	F	1	1 w	0.45	1	1 day	1 day	ASTM E2751 as alternate method.		
SECONDARY SYSTEMS	STACKED GLAZING (NOTE 4)	Stacked glazing (vertical, <15 deg from vertical)	NL	Retained	Yes	1 lite	F	1.2	1 mo.*	0.67	1	1 min	1 min	Needs alternate load path in case of breakage and/or replacement. Need to define appropriate capacity considerations in both undamaged and damaged condition.		
		Glass walls supporting (glass) roof/ceiling	10ft	NR	NR	NR	A	1	1 mo.*	0.67	1	1 min	1 min	Needs alternate load path for loss of units and replacement. Procedure for testing with breakage in building maintenance manual.		
	FINS AND BEAMS NOT PUBLICLY TRAFFICABLE	Glass fins/beams <15 deg from vertical	NL	Refer <60	NR	NR	D	1	1 mo.*	0.67	1	1 min	1 min	Heat risk testing recommended for monolithic FT glass >10ft high		
		Glass Fins/ Beams <60 from vertical (with fall arrest and/or access device not resting on the glass)	NL	NFB	Yes	1	B	1	1 mo.	0.2	NA	NA	NA	Commentary: face glass supports fin not fin supporting face glass: system performance load not element.		
SECONDARY SYSTEMS	HORIZONTAL OR LIVE LOADS	Glass Beams > 60 deg from vertical	NL	NFB	Yes	1	G	1	1 mo.	0.2	1	1 hr	1 hr	Publicly Trafficable		
		Glass Fins/Beams in Dual System with alternate load path	NL	No Fall	Yes*	Any	B	1	1 mo.	0.32	0**	1 hr	1 hr	Load redistributes to alternative load path		
	PRIMARY SYSTEMS	Stair Stringers (beams) - not main egress only	NL	NFB	Yes	1	H	1	1 mo.	0.67	1	1 day	1 day	Load redistributes to alternative load path		
		Primary elements, part of main stability system	NL	NFB	Yes	1	F	1.2	1 mo.	1	1	1 day	1 day	Redundancy provided by alternate load path.		

GLASS RISK CATEGORY G-III	Elements	Description	Design Requirements				In Service Reliability Adjustment Factor G_0				Post-Damage Load Reduction Factor and Duration				Comments	
			Height Limit (ft)	Retention	Redundancy	# Piles Broken	Dead	Variable	Level	Duration	Duration	Duration	Duration			
INFILL ELEMENTS	GENERAL	Glass not over trafficable area and not trafficable without fall arrest device	10 ft	No Fall	NR	NR	A	1	1 w	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	The designer may exercise discretion where fall limit, NR, is appropriate or desirable	
		Glass with unsupported and unsealed vertical edges	10 ft	No Fall	NR	NR	A	1	1 w	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Refer E1300/IBC for alternative methods; laminated and retained.	
	VERTICAL	Doors	10 ft	NR	NR	NR	A	1	1 w	0.32	NR	NR	NR	NR	Refer E1300/IBC for alternative methods; laminated and retained.	
		4 sided supported windows and 2/3 side supported windows with structural silicone seals to unsupported edges	NL	No Fall	NR	All	B	1	1 w	0.32	NR	NR	NR	NR	Refer E1300/IBC for alternative methods; laminated and retained.	
	INFILL ELEMENTS	<15 Deg from Vertical without barrier loads	Glass with unsupported and unsealed edges <15 deg from vertical and 1 sided supported elements	10 ft	NR	NR	NR	A	1	1 w	0.32	NR	NR	NR	NR	Refer E1300/IBC for alternative methods; laminated and retained.
			4/3/2 sided supported windows	NL	NFB	Yes	1	B	1	1 w	0.32	1	10 min	10 min	10 min	If there is a potential for injury (>30 drop beyond barrier) then there needs to be post-failure capacity.
		Barrier (<60 Deg from vertical) (NOTE 2)	Glass with barrier load >30" drop beyond barrier	NL	NFB	Yes	1	F	1	1 w	0.32	0.8 / 0.5**	10 min	10 min	10 min	*Separate factors for post load
			Glass with barrier load <30" drop beyond barrier	10 ft	NR	All Path	All	F	1	1 w	0.32	0.8 / 0.51	10 min	10 min	10 min	*Separate factors for post load
	INFILL ELEMENTS	>60 Deg from Vertical (NOTE 3)	Glass	NL	NFB	Yes	1	F	1.2	1 w	0.2	1	10 min	10 min	10 min	Traps unless tested per E2751
			Flooring panel or stair tread with LL - Controlled spaced where rope off will happen quickly in the case of breakage	NL	NFB	Yes	1	F	1	1 w	0.45	1	10 min	10 min	10 min	Testing TRC
		HORIZONTAL	Flooring panel or stair tread with LL and protected edges - Un-controlled spaces where rope off may NOT happen quickly in the case of breakage	NL	NFB	Yes	1	F	1	1 mo.	0.8	1	1 day	1 day	1 day	ASTM E2751 as alternate method.
			Flooring panel or stair tread with LL and protected edges - Un-controlled spaces where rope off may NOT happen quickly in the case of breakage	NL	NFB	Yes	ALL	D	1	1 mo.	0.8	1	1 day	1 day	1 day	ASTM E2751 as alternate method.
SECONDARY SYSTEMS	STACKED GLAZING (NOTE 4)	Stacked glazing (vertical, <15 deg from vertical)	NL	Retained	Yes	1 ply	F	1.2	1 mo.*	0.67	1	1 min	1 min	1 min	Needs alternate load path in case of breakage and/or replacement. Need to define appropriate capacity considerations in both undamaged and damaged condition.	
		Glass walls supporting (glass) roof/ceiling	10ft	No Fall	No	D	D	1.2	1 mo.*	0.67	1	1 min	1 min	1 min	Needs alternate load path for loss of units and replacement. Procedure for testing with breakage in building maintenance manual.	
	FINS AND BEAMS NOT PUBLICLY TRAFFICABLE	Glass fins/beams <15 deg from vertical	NL	Retained	Yes	1 unit	H	1	1 mo. to alt load path*	0.67	1	1 min	1 min	1 min	This fall of any element supported by the fin. Face glass supports supported fin not fin supporting face glass: system performance load not element.	
		Glass Fins/ Beams <60 from vertical (with fall arrest and/or access device not resting on the glass)	NL	NFB	Yes	1	C	1	1 mo.	0.32	NA	NA	NA	Line load to be supported by alternate load paths		
SECONDARY SYSTEMS	HORIZONTAL OR LIVE LOADS	Glass Beams > 60 deg from vertical	NL	NFB	Yes	1	G	1	1 mo.	0.32	1	1 hr	1 hr	1 hr	Publicly Trafficable	
		Glass Fins/Beams in Dual System with alternate load path	NL	No Fall	Yes*	Any	B	1	1 mo.	0.32	0.5	1 hr	1 hr	1 hr	Load redistributes to alternative load path	
	PRIMARY SYSTEMS	Stair stringers (beams) - not main egress only	NL	NFB	Yes	2	H	1	1 mo.	0.67	1	1 day	1 day	1 day	Load redistributes to alternative load path	
		Primary elements, not part of main stability system	NL	NFB	Yes	1	H	1.3	3 mo.	1	1	1 day	1 day	1 day	Redundancy provided by alternate load path.	

GLASS RISK CATEGORY G-IV	Elements	Description	Design Requirements				In Service Reliability Adjustment Factor G_0				Post-Damage Load Reduction Factor and Duration				Comments
			Height Limit (ft)	Retention	Redundancy	# Piles Broken	Dead	Variable	Level	Duration	Duration	Duration	Duration		
INFILL ELEMENTS	<15 Degrees from Vertical	Glass with unsupported and unsealed vertical edges	NL	Retained	Yes	All	B	1	3 mo.	0.67	1	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min
		Barrier (<60 Deg from vertical) (NOTE 6)	NL	Retained	Yes	All	C	1	3 mo.	0.67	1	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min
	>60 Deg from Vertical (NOTE 3)	Glass with barrier load >30" drop beyond barrier	NL	Retained	Yes	All	F	1	3 mo.	0.67	1	10 min	10		