

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Quality Assurance Unit is an integral part of the Product Control Division of the Miami-Dade County's Building Code Compliance Office. This Unit works closely with their counterparts in the Product Control Unit ensuring that manufacturers that have received a NOA for their products have implemented a quality assurance program in conformity to the Miami-Dade County Administrative Order 10-3 and F.A.C. Rule 9B-72.

A set of specific requirements for the quality assurance program are encompassed in the Quality Assurance Manual Guidelines. This document establishes a frame work for manufacturers to document their quality assurance programs.



The implementation of these guidelines provides industry with a uniform criterion for small and large manufacturers to help them develop or assess their own programs. The QA Unit plans and conducts audit visits to all manufacturing facilities and/or distribution centers on an annual basis in order to verify conformity to these guidelines. For those interested in obtaining a copy of the quality assurance manual guidelines visit our Office or our website: www.miamidade.gov/buildingcode.

Recognizing the need and in an effort to support the local manufacturers and those with presence in Latin America, a Spanish version of this guideline is also available on the same webpage.

The Quality Assurance Unit is also directly involved in the certification of laboratories that conduct certified product testing for those manufacturers seeking to obtain a NOA from our Office.

Qualified personnel review the laboratory's quality assurance program and conduct the initial audit and the subsequent follow-up visits to ensure that all laboratories meet our requirements as specified under their scope of certification.

EXPEDITED NOA REVIEWS

Product Control has expanded its expedited approval services to all product categories.

Originally, introduced in July 2001, the expedited program applied only to glazed products.

Now all manufacturers seeking a Miami-Dade Notice of Acceptance (NOA) can request expedited services.

As a continued commitment to improve the way Product Control Staff serves its clients, manufacturers can take advantage of this optional service by simply checking off the "Expedited" box on the Product Approval application.

By marking the box on the application, the manufacturer agrees to pay all costs incurred by Product Control during the expedited approval process.

These costs are in addition to those stated in the current fee schedule, and cover charges paid to the consultants.

Manufacturers, who currently have an application submitted to the Office may also take advantage of this new option by simply writing Product Control a letter requesting the "Expedited Review Process" and agreeing to cover any additional cost.

The "Expedited Review Process" requests will be handled in order of submittal.

Under this "Expedited Review Process," a substantial reduction in the review turn around time is anticipated; a reduction of 30 days or more can be expected. Product Control strives to ensure strict construction materials, thereby protecting Miami-Dade County residents and their property.



A Product Control clerk reviews test NOA applications pending review.

Additional construction-related guidelines can be found at:

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Tools for building a better community

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**BCCO's
Product Control
Division**

Ensuring Strict Standards for Construction Materials



**Miami-Dade County
Building Code Compliance Office**

Building Together for a Better Future

WHAT IS PRODUCT CONTROL?

The Miami-Dade County Product Control Approval System allows new and innovative ideas to be developed into practical, lasting and safe products. This approval process is recognized at both the national and international level. Product Control's approval designation — Notice of Acceptance



A product control examiner verifies a HVHZ approved shutter is properly marked.

or NOA — has been recognized and accepted in Hawaii, Japan, South America, Guam and the Caribbean.

The Product Control Approval System establishes a protocol to evaluate the standards of products used in construction in Miami-Dade County. Miami-Dade County, with its inclusion in the High Velocity Hurricane Zone (HVHZ) has the most stringent code requirements of the Florida Building Code.

Therefore, all products that comprise the structure's

building envelope — doors, shutters, windows, prefabricated buildings and truss plates — require the issuance of an approval in order to be used for construction in Miami-Dade County.

DUTIES OF THE PRODUCT CONTROL DIVISION INCLUDE:

- Reviews and makes recommendations on construction products and components to be used throughout Miami-Dade County
- Implements policies for testing construction materials and assemblies
- Provides information to manufacturers, designers, engineers and architects on product control procedures and approved products
- Oversees a Quality Assurance Program to ensure approved products perform at stated NOA standards

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE (NOA)

The Notice of Acceptance (NOA) is the medium used to convey approval of a product or system to the building industry. The NOA serves to link the gap between the two very distinct industries of manufacturing and construction, as well as provide the needed oversight of this interaction to minimize the probabilities of Code violations.

Products such as exterior doors, roofing products, skylights, windows, shutters, and structural components of a building are approved by Miami-Dade County through the issuance of a NOA from the Product Control Division.

Complete details about all of the products that have been approved are available at www.miamidade.gov/buildingcode.

Product Control staff reviews the information and determines whether the submittal is sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Florida Building Code. If the product complies, an approval is recommended to the Board of



A Product Control Engineer reviews test results during a NOA application review.

Rules and Appeals (BORA), whose membership represents a cross-section of the construction industry. If information is not sufficient to determine compliance, then additional information is requested from the manufacturer until compliance is achieved.

Manufacturers that have received a NOA for their products are required to implement a quality assurance program according to Miami-Dade County Administrative Order 10-3 and Rule 9B-72 F.A.C.

NON-HVHZ PRODUCT APPROVALS

Product Control also provides product review services for building envelope systems and components for areas of the State outside the High Velocity Hurricane Zone (HVHZ).

This service is aimed at assisting Florida with the rebuilding of damaged structures in the wake of the hurricanes which impacted the State in 2004 and 2005, and providing detailed product reviews to the industry.

The various counties of the State, exclusive of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, constitute the non-High Velocity Hurricane Zone (non-HVHZ) areas of Florida per the Florida

Building Code (FBC). The non-HVHZ areas of the State are further divided by a wind-borne debris region and multiple wind-speed contour lines.

Florida residents and members of the construction industry who are building in those areas will benefit from the services and recognition of Miami-Dade's Product



Approval System, which is viewed by many as the benchmark for code related building product approvals.

The reviews conducted by the Product Control Division, consist

of evaluating products for compliance with the Florida Building Code non-HVHZ sections and standards. The building product system's or component's limitations of use are provided in a complete and comprehensive document.

The Product Approval document provides all information and instructions necessary to establish code compliance, thereby facilitating the permitting, installation and inspection process.

Manufacturers with non-HVHZ approvals issued by Miami-Dade County further benefit from the inclusive Quality Assurance service, required to obtain approval by the Florida Building Commission. This service provides for yearly quality assurance audits to the various manufacturing plants of those participating in the non-HVHZ Product Approval process. Besides the name recognition our approvals enjoy, our Quality Assurance Unit also provides a professional and excellent audit services for non-NOA products exclusively to those manufactures that are currently holding NOA approvals with our Office for the same categories of products. This One-Stop approach could translate into savings for the manufacturers which would not need to select a different QA agency for those product approvals.

NOAs are also processed for products such as fences, A/C stands, pre-cast items, railings, screen enclosures, plumbing fixtures, awnings, concrete reinforcement, and plastic components. Manufacturers of these products benefit from the same services offered to all NOA holders.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY PROGRAM

Certification and follow-up inspections of fabricators and manufacturers of building products not covered under the NOA approval system are issued a certificate of competency to show compliance with the Florida Building Code. Examples of these products are: ready-mixed concrete, custom-designed and built products, as in the case of structural steel fabrication, prefabricated wood trusses or open-web steel and wood trusses; or as required by the Florida Building Code. Under the same Miami-Dade County Administrative Order 10-3, the Quality Assurance Unit has the authority to administer these certifications. This program known as Certificate of Competency has grown qualitatively and quantitatively and its reputation extends beyond the Miami-Dade County line. Building Officials, General Contractors and the general public at large find this program useful since it ensures competence of the plant. The certification's current information is provided on our webpage so that individuals can make informative decisions based on the certification status of these fabricators. Product Control's Quality Assurance unit serves as an enforcing authority since it notifies all Building Officials in Miami-Dade County and, in cases regarding prefabricated metal plate-connected wood trusses it also notifies Building Officials in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, of changes on the certification status of these fabricators. Consequently, fabricators of these building products can only distribute and/or use them in Miami-Dade County and, if applicable, Broward and Palm Beach Counties respectively, only if they have a current and valid certificate of competency.

