



Cunningham Baron

1900 Superior Avenue | Suite 304 | Cleveland, Ohio 44114
P 216.579.6100 | F 216.579.6102

News
For immediate release

Press contact:

Ann Marie Cunningham,
216.579.6100 ext. 1
e-mail: ann@CunninghamBaron.com

Steel Windows Meet Impact-Resistance Performance Codes for Hurricane-Prone Regions

June 17, 2020—Hurricane research experts are predicting an above-average 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30. Amidst this outlook of growing frequency and strength of hurricanes, the building code communities continue to address the protection and performance of openings (windows and doors) impacted by wind-borne debris in hurricanes.

All the states from Texas to Florida along the Gulf Coast and from Florida to Maine along the Atlantic Ocean have either adopted the International Building Codes or created their own individual state building codes. The codes contain provisions for protecting structures from excessive wind-borne debris or hurricanes in the coastal areas. Miami-Dade County in South Florida leads the way in developing building codes addressing hurricane resistance, resulting in the creation of its Notice of Acceptance (NOA) test protocols for impact (TAS-201), air-water-structural (TAS-202), and cyclic wind pressure loading (TAS-203). ASTM has also created standards for impact and cycle (E1886 and E1996), which are referenced in the I-codes.

To become approved impact-resistant products, all windows and doors must endure a rugged and brutal testing sequence of extremely high positive and negative wind-load pressures, high-water infiltration tests, a battering of 2x4 missile impacts, and a long duration of positive and negative cyclic pressure loadings.

The Strength and Beauty of Steel

The inherent strength of steel as a fenestration material has enabled the steel window and door industry to compete in the impact-resistant product market and comply with the testing requirements. The integral narrow sightlines of steel windows and doors afford an architect a unique design combination of elegance and purpose. Steel windows and doors are a perfect fit for a market where strength, durability, and protection from catastrophic disasters are the primary objectives.

The Steel Window Institute (SWI) website provides comprehensive [specifications and installation guidelines](#) for various types of steel windows and doors. Many downloadable resources, including various product sourcing guides, provide additional information. The [photo gallery](#) features timeless window and door designs to complement a wide range of architectural styles from historic to contemporary. The versatility, durability, and long life cycle of steel windows and doors make them an excellent choice for almost any application.

The members of SWI are leading manufacturers of windows and doors made from hot-rolled purpose-made steel sections and such related products as casings, trim, mechanical operators, screens, and moldings that are manufactured and sold by members of the industry for use with steel windows and doors. SWI members lead the way for steel windows and doors with testing requirements such as air-water-structural and impact. Proprietary specifications produced by each SWI member are available from individual members upon request.

For more information, please contact the Steel Window Institute, 1300 Sumner Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2851. Phone: 216-241-7333; fax: 216-241-0105. On the web: www.steelwindows.com.

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