

## Super Spacer units survive four full sets of ASTM durability tests

When in December of 1997, Insulate Windows, a CertainTeed company from Auburn, Washington, sent-off a batch of Edgetech spacered, hot-melt butylded IG products for their annual, CBA weathering tests, the company expected the usual passing grade.

And that's exactly what arrived a few months later from Performance Testing in Redmond, Wash. Only this year, they were informed, that, at Edgetech's request and expense, the IG units were being recycled through ASTM's 15-week total set of C-level, B-level and A-level trials to see how long they would ultimately last.

A year later, when Insulate's December 1998 batch of Super Spacer units arrived at Performance Testing, the previous year's were now into their third CBA go-around, still going strong and all but two still hitting a perfect -80 Frost Point (FP). The other two were at -70 and -68 FP and this was still excellent performance.



Frost point testing

In fact, all six test units survived that third round very nicely and the subsequent fourth round too. It was early in the fifth round of C-level high humidity trials, that several failures finally halted the exercise.

Despite the discontinuance, one of the original six, slim-line, E-class, Super Spacer IG units was still managing to record a perfect 80 FP — into its fifth test cycle.

Everyone is impressed at this accomplishment. At Insulate Windows, Randy Lyons, in charge of the physical testing phase of product development, says, he now feels "very confident" about the high durability claims his company makes regarding the up-market and/or Alaska-bound windows containing this glass.

Performance Testing's President, John DeRose was "surprised and impressed at four full CBAs. An independent



John DeRose—President, Performance Testing

test lab with no desire to endorse, he says he would be equally impressed if any other edge-seal held up so well. "There just hasn't been any other tested to that extent yet."

Meanwhile, back at Edgetech, the response is extremely positive. "As far as I can tell, it's unprecedented in the IG industry," says engineering director Gerhard Reichert.

"To take straight-off-the-line test units and then go four times through CBA without hardly an effort is a fenestration achievement we're proud of," he comments, "because it helps us tell the world what great performance we get with various brands of hot melt sealants out there."

In this case, it was H.B. Fuller's butyl, "But it doesn't really matter whose you use with our reverse-dual-seal design. It's such a phenomenal thing and the most forgiving way to make a dual seal unit."



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