

Coastal Glass opts for integrated solutions combining Super Spacer® and UVEKOL® laminated glass interlayer

In the window and glass industry, some products and manufacturing processes can be combined for a "hand-in-glove fit." Jack Hoey, President of Coastal Glass Distributors, Charleston, SC, has found that "Super Spacer® and UVEKOL® laminated glass are a very good fit for everyone, especially for our customers, looking for a superior laminated I.G. product."

Coastal Glass has been an Edgetech Super Spacer customer since 1997, not long after the company transformed itself from being primarily a glass distributor into a specialty glass processor. Says Hoey, "We wanted to work with a credible flexible spacer for special shapes and large commercial windows. Super Spacer's Premium Plus spacer with a ¼" sightline was just what we were looking for, and we've been using it ever since." The company makes Super Spacer I.G. on two lines, a semi-automated Lisec line purchased last fall, and an older horizontal line which is used today primarily for special shape windows. In summing up Coastal's Super Spacer I.G. experience, Hoey notes, "Over the last eight years, our seal failure rate using Super Spacer has declined to one-fiftieth of one percent!"



Jack Hoey (L) heads the specialty glass processing company, focusing on tempering, laminating, decorative pattern glass and I.G.

Less than four years ago, Coastal Glass was looking for a superior process to make laminated monolithic glass and I.G. that would meet the then-new International Building Code for hurricane missile impact being rapidly adopted by such Atlantic Coast states as the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida, its primary markets. As Jack Hoey explains it, "We wanted a process that would work well with specialty pattern decorative glass as well as with clear. With growing

demand for hurricane glass in the region, we also recognized that we needed a laminating process that would be quick-curing as well as effective against missile impact. Finally we were looking for a process that required less of a capital investment than traditional autoclave laminating equipment."



Coastal Glass Distributors 80,000 sq. ft. glass processing plant, employs 145 and boasts a fleet of 35 trucks.


Hoey soon discovered that the UVEKOL® glass laminating system offered Coastal a fast and efficient way to laminate its glass, in-house, at a low initial investment. The process complemented the company's substantial glass strengthening capabilities from two tempering ovens located in the same plant. The UVEKOL® liquid lamination process, developed by Cytec Surface Specialties, a global supplier of advanced coating resins, additives and adhesives, has been proven effective over the last 25 years in creating laminated glass with superior acoustical, safety, security, and design benefits. Earlier this June, Cytec named Edgetech I.G. Inc. as its North American sales and marketing representative.

In a UV glass lamination system, the interlayer is a liquid plastic polymer. The UVEKOL® interlayer is not pre-formed

and sold as sheets, but instead, is created through polymerization at the time of lamination. As a result, laminated glass cutting waste is eliminated, and even small production runs are easy and cost-effective.

"Like Edgetech," says Hoey, "Coastal Glass Distributors recognizes the product performance synergy and flexibility that Super Spacer and UVEKOL® share. They are truly a good fit for making a superior hurricane impact I.G. product." Hoey points to the high degree of resilience that the combined products bring to a missile impact product. "As the glass breaks in hurricane impact tests, the flexible non-metal spacer helps provide greater survivability than I.G. with rigid metal spacer. The UVEKOL® glass interlayer is also very resilient, contributing to the unit's ability to survive hurricane velocity impact."

Just as important, says Hoey, is how both products' relatively fast curing times add up to quicker turnaround and synchronized manufacturing efficiency. "With Super Spacer, backed with hot-melt butyl, units cure in about two minutes. That's significantly quicker than with other dual-seal units. On the laminated side, the UV curing process takes 20 minutes with UVEKOL®. With the two processes combining for accelerated curing, our hurricane impact I.G. customers can count on lead times of 24 hours or less."

For more information on UVEKOL® glass laminating systems, call toll free: 866-861-7400. 

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