TG-10 (5-26-05)

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Determining Reflective Surfaces on Spandrel

There are relatively inexpensive hand-held meters available from glass supply sources that can accurately detect the coated surface of a glass panel, either reflective or low-e coatings, on monolithic glass or on individual lites of insulating glass units. Without such tools determining which is the coated surface of some low-e glasses, especially when part of an IG unit, becomes more difficult. Fortunately, reflective coatings give contrasting appearances when glazed on different surfaces. Even so, it can sometimes be difficult to determine, especially if the reflective glass is used as a spandrel panel.

By placing a ink pen or pencil point at a 45 degree angle against the #1 surface of the glass one can make the determination easily. If only one reflected image is visible in the glass and the point of the pen or pencil comes in contact with the reflected image, then that surface is the reflective surface (Illustration 1). (This test can also be performed on insulating glass to determine if the #1 surface is reflective.)

If there appears two reflected images, one that comes in contact with the pen or pencil point, and one that is approximately ¼" behind the first image and does not come in contact with the pen or pencil, then that surface is non-reflective (Illustration 2).

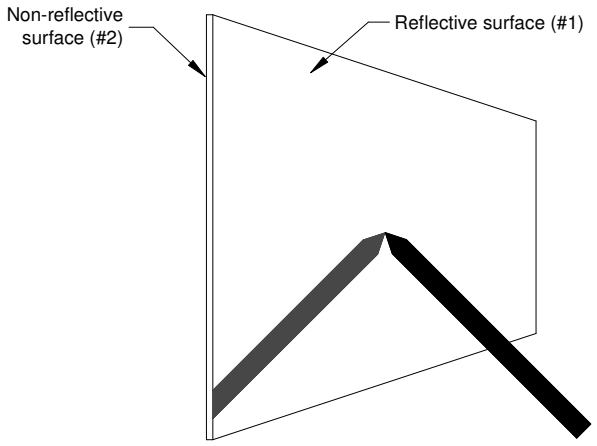

Illustration 1

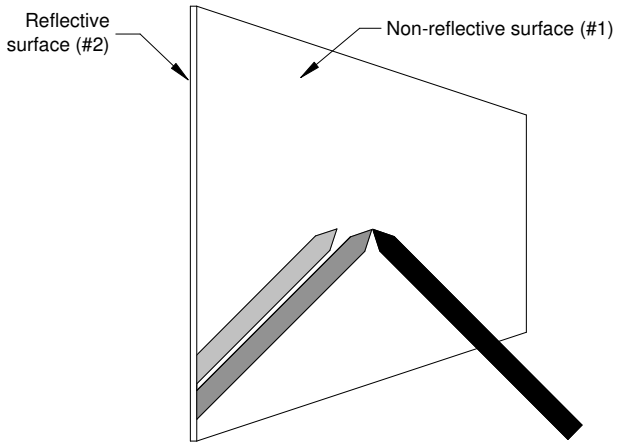

Illustration 2