

Proceed with Caution

Skylights and Sloped Glazing are Not Walking Surfaces

Editor's note: The Glass Association of North America (GANA) recently published a Glass Informational Bulletin titled "Skylights and Sloped Glazing are Not Walking Surfaces." The bulletin discusses the hazards of walking and/or standing on such surfaces and is reprinted here with permission from GANA.

The use of skylights and sloped glazing systems continues to grow in popularity as architects and building owners use these fenestration systems to bring natural daylight further into homes, schools, medical facilities, commercial offices and retail stores. In order to ensure human safety and long-term performance of skylights and sloped glazing systems, construction workers, maintenance professionals and others must be aware that the systems typically are not designed or intended to be used as walking surfaces.

Installation and maintenance of skylights and sloped glazing systems require special consideration to minimize the potential for serious injury or death. While architectural flat glass can be designed and engineered for use as a walking surface, glass typically used in skylights and other sloped glazing applications is rarely designed to support the weight of live loads such as a human standing or walking on the glass or temporary equipment or structures used in installation, cleaning or maintenance. During installation, cleaning and maintenance, work should be performed from

secured temporary platforms supported by structural components of the building. While glazing constructions may appear strong enough to support installers or maintenance personnel, glass is subject to sudden breakage.

Walking or standing on glass may also result in damage less visible than immediate breakage. Surface or edge damage can decrease the strength of the glass and affect the long-term ability of the glass to withstand wind and snow loads.

For additional information consult the Glass Association of North America, laminating division's *Laminated Glazing Reference Manual*ⁱ and the *American Architectural Manufacturers Association's Glass Design for Sloped Glazing*ⁱⁱ.

The Glass Association of North America (GANA) has produced this Glass Informational Bulletin solely to provide general information as to the hazards of standing or walking on skylights and sloped glazing surfaces. The bulletin does not purport to address all safety considerations in the installation and maintenance of skylights and sloped glazing systems. Those specifying and installing skylights and sloped glazing systems must ensure compliance with all building code requirements. The user of this bulletin has the responsibility to ensure that all skylight and sloped glazing system supplier's installation and maintenance requirements are followed. GANA disclaims any responsibility for any specific results related to the use of this bulletin, for any errors or omissions contained in the bulletin, and for any liability for loss or damage of any kind arising out of the use of this bulletin. ■

This bulletin was developed by the Glass Association of North America - Laminating Division and approved by the Laminating Division Technical Committee, and the GANA board of directors. This is the original version of the document as approved and published in March 2006.

Copyright 2006, GANA and reprinted with permission

ⁱ Glass Association of North America, 2945 SW Wanamaker Drive, Suite A, Topeka, KS 66614-5321 United States, Phone: 785/271-0208; Website: www.glasswebsite.com

ⁱⁱ American Architectural Manufacturers Association, 1827 Walden Office Square, Suite 550, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4268 United States, Phone: 847/303-5664; Website: www.aamanet.org