

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Statute, Rule or Standard Policy Interpretation: **Glazing Alternatives in Detention and Correctional Occupancies**

Title:	Fire Prevention and Safety
Part:	41 Ill. Adm. Code 100
Section Number:	100.7(b)
Section Title:	Modifications to the Life Safety Code
Policy Number:	07-TS-001

Purpose: This instruction provides for current policy and guidance to ensure uniform enforcement of the 2000 edition of the National Fire Protection Association’s Life Safety Code and specifically for the use of non-fire rated glazing in detention and correctional occupancies.

Scope: Statewide

Current Code: The 2000 ed. of the NFPA Life Safety Code currently prescribes various degrees of fire resistance rating requirements for doors, walls and other partitions in Detention and Correctional occupancies. Furthermore, the Code prescribes specific fire protection ratings for glazing material that may be located in such partitions.

Policy Interpretation: The OSFM will allow the use of alternative materials as described below in lieu of glazing with the fire resistance ratings prescribed by the Life Safety Code when the below-described conditions are met:

The Illinois Department of Corrections supplies written confirmation that the installation of alternative non-fire rated glazing material occurs at locations where security would be jeopardized by the installation of wired glass or other fire rated glazing products; AND

The non-fire rated glazing is installed in partitions or doors that are protected on both sides by automatic fire sprinklers; AND

The glazing to be used is 9/16” laminated security glazing (in partitions or doors required to provide a 1-hour fire rating) or 13/16” security glazing (in partitions and doors required to provide a 90 minute fire rating).

The use of non-rated glazing materials is also acceptable if their use is considered as part of a successful Fire Safety Evaluation System (FSES) analysis of the occupancy in accordance with NFPA FSES criteria (see NFPA 101A *Guide on Alternative Approaches to Life Safety*).

Reason: The Illinois Department of Corrections (and architects designing therefore) have frequently requested variances to NFPA *Life Safety Code*[®] requirements for the provision of wired glazing or other forms of fire-rated glazing materials in doors and partitions of correctional facilities. These requests stem from safety concerns for correctional officers and other facility staff due to the fact that some types of fire rated glazing, and wired glass in particular, can be turned into weapons by facility residents. In an effort to provide adequate fire safety, while at the same time honoring the safety and security concerns of the IDOC, it is the policy of the Office of the State Fire Marshal to allow alternatives to *Life Safety Code*-prescribed rating glazing materials in detention and correctional occupancies.

Effective Date: January 2002.