



MEMORANDUM

FROM: Bruce Hall, PE
Structural Engineer
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW, Room 3341
Washington, DC 20405

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Hall", written over the typed name and title.

DATE: January 7, 2003

SUBJECT: Updated GSA Testing Standard

In an effort to provide for the safety and security of the people who occupy US Government facilities, GSA is continually striving to improve the methods and technologies available to the protective design community. We have recently concluded a review of our test method for evaluating window performance when subjected to explosive forces. Since 1996, the GSA, and many vendors who supply products to the GSA, have tested windows and glazing systems in accordance with the "US General Services Administration (GSA) – Standard Test Method for Glazing and Glazing Systems Subject to Airblast Loadings." Our review of this document indicated that while adequate, the document required an update to reflect the lessons learned during the period of 1996 to 2002. In addition to many technical advances in that time, criteria have been officially adopted. For example, the Interagency Security Committee (ISC) Security Design Criteria document was officially adopted on May 28, 2001.

We are hereby pleased to provide the updated test protocol, "US General Services Administration – Standard Test Method for Glazing and Window Systems Subject to Dynamic Overpressure Loadings," dated January 1, 2003. This revised test standard replaces the previous GSA test method. All products and specimens tested prior to January 1, 2003 in accordance with the earlier standard shall be deemed to fully comply with the new test protocol. The attached new explosive test standard is compatible with and may be used to evaluate window response to meet the ISC Security Design Criteria performance-based requirements.

The new explosive test protocol may be distributed and used without restriction, and will be posted for public download on the GSA website www.oca.gsa.gov. Vendors, consultants and Government agencies and departments are authorized to distribute the test protocol with their test reports and on their respective websites.