



BUILDINGS 2021-014 BULLETIN O T C R

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PURPOSE: This document establishes guidelines for installation of transparent window insulation panels.

SUBJECT(S): Innovation Challenge, Transparent Window Insulation Panel, Thermal Energy

RELATED CODE SECTIONS: AC 28-105, AC 28-113, BC Chapter 8

I. INNOVATION CHALLENGE COMPETITION

In 2020, the Department of Buildings launched the **Carbon Neutrality Innovation Challenge** competition. The competition sought ideas for increasing energy efficiency and cutting emissions among NYC's buildings. The Department's website provides a [list of the winning technologies](#).

One of the competition's winning technologies is transparent window insulation. This Bulletin provides guidance on installing and using this technology.

II. BACKGROUND

Administrative Code section 28-113.2 permits materials specifically prescribed by the NYC Construction Codes or Department rules to be "used as prescribed without the prior approval of the Commissioner." In accordance with the NYC Construction Codes, transparent window insulation panels must comply with interior finish requirements prescribed in Chapter 8 of the Building Code.

In accordance with AC 28-105, a permit for installing window insulation panels would not be required, as the installation does not involve the construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, move, demolition, removal or change to the use or occupancy of a building or structure; or the erection, installation, alteration, repair, removal, conversion or replacement of any gas, mechanical, plumbing, fire suppression or fire protection system.

Therefore, this Bulletin establishes additional recommended guidelines for installation of transparent window insulation panels.

III. DESCRIPTION

Transparent window insulation panels reduce thermal energy losses at windows. Custom-fabricated insulation panels are installed on the inside face of windows.

IV. USES

Transparent window insulation panels are used to reduce conductive and convective thermal energy losses by creating lower temperature differentials between the windowpane area and conditioned air.

Some transparent window insulation panels are also used to reduce radiative heat loss by controlling solar heat gain.

Transparent window insulation panels may be used in residential and commercial applications. The panels are used with rectangular shaped windows including double hung, slider, fixed, casement, awning and hopper types.

V. GUIDELINES FOR INSTALLATION

The following list establishes the Department's guidelines for the installation of transparent window insulation panels:

1. Transparent window insulation panels must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Installation of transparent window insulation panels may not interfere with window functionality and emergency access.
3. Installation does not require special expertise or trained installer.