10 years of Better Installation

Back in 2012 when EnergyStar established their Directive 6, they knew that in the absence of specific building codes, replacement and retrofit of windows and doors was left to contractors (either though dealers or their own businesses) who, while attempting to produce consistent results from the consistent window and door products, had little or no idea what to expect when the old window was removed exposing a very inconsistent opening.

Historically, problems arose and responsibility was very vague and a matter of opinion because the supplier would claim that the products was not installed properly, and the installer would claim that they had installed it properly but the product was defective and the dispute would reign on. The key was to define "properly" so as to have a benchmark of expectation and a benchmark of resources for the installer to deal with the inconsistent opening.

Directive 6, with its eight specific required components, was debated and then accepted by the industry by consensus and now is required to be packaged with or made accessible from each and every window and door sold for replacement and retrofit. In essence: a specific and important part of the manufacturer's instructions. These components were to be specific, cover all probable scenarios and be illustrated.

Where codes tended to be prescriptive, Directive 6 intended to be performance based and informative since the variables were so dependent on the uncovered and variety of openings.

Finally, it has been reasoned that fenestration products, when initially installed, become an integral part of the wall where the water, vapor, air, thermal and vapor barriers in the wall are seamlessly integrated with the fenestration components serving the same purposes. Removal of old fenestration products is basically a destructive process where those connections are torn/broken leaving the daunting task of the new products' barrier components being re-attached (if you will) to their counterparts in the wall restoring and/or improving the weather barrier of the wall. When that need for re-attachment is illustrated, both the installer and the homeowner fully understand what needs to be done to allow the new fenestration product to perform, in the opening, as it did in the test lab without leaks in any of the barriers.

AWDI's approach to performance-based rather than prescriptive based installation resources – always keeping in mind the goal of re-establishing the contiguous barriers always fared well in our 25 year certification program but also satisfied the goals of Energy Star's Directive 6 and current NFRC FenStar program – and allowing AWDI to qualify for a Federally Registered Certification Mark (Serial Number 78939046) – the only one in fenestration instruction.

Each of AWDI's techniques and methods have been field tested in hundreds of fenestration installations; been lab tested here in US and abroad; and shown to produce the highest level of in-service performance.

There are two very effective delivery systems for the AWDI information: Fully illustrated Manual and the WIXSYS on-line library accessible from URL and/or QR Code affixed to each window. https://www.WIXSYS.com

More than 70 prominent manufacturers, hundreds or dealers and thousands of installers have access to this material and it has significantly improved successful replacement and retrofit without increasing any unwanted liabilities. After all, because of Directive 6, these resources provided by AWDI and adopted by the manufacturers are "Manufacturer's instructions and Recommendations" always default in the equation — effectively defining 'properly', acceptable to all parties.

Finally, AWDI's resources are excellent training resources because they illustrate, in real world scenarios, how to take consistent products, facing inconsistent openings, and produce consistent results. (For more information info@awdi.com)