

**NC Dept of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal – Engineering Division  
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**Window Replacement – Design Pressure Rating**

**Code:** 2012 NC Residential Code  
**Section:** R4502

**Date:** October 8, 2015

**Code:** 2012 NC Building Code  
**Section:** 1715.5

**Code:** 2012 NC Existing Building Code  
**Section:** 602.2

**Question:**

Does a replacement window have to meet the applicable requirements for design pressure (DP) rating?

**Answer:**

- a) When replacing only a glazing panel and not an entire window in a double hung or casement type unit:  
No. The replacement glazing panel shall have no less of a DP rating than that which was existing. The glazing panel is considered repair and can be repaired with a like material.
- b) When replacing only a window sash and not an entire window:  
No. The replacement glazing panel shall have no less of a DP rating than that which was existing. The sash is considered repair and can be repaired with a like material.
- c) When replacing a window unit but not removing the existing window frame:  
No. The replacement glazing panel shall have no less of a DP rating than that which was existing. The replacement window unit is considered a repair if the replacement unit is not designed to provide a complete finished unit in a rough opening; and the original window frame is not removed from the rough opening; and the replacement unit is made to fit into the original frame.
- d) When replacing a window and the existing window frame:  
Yes. The window unit is considered new construction and must meet the requirements for new construction.
- e) When replacing a store front glazing panel in an existing window frame:  
Yes. The glazing panel is considered new construction and must meet the requirements for new construction.

**Keywords:**