

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Safety Film for Hazardous Glass Locations**

**Code:** 2018 NC Residential Code

**Date:** February 28, 2020

**Section:** R308.4

**Question:**

When can *safety film* be used for hazardous glass locations?

**Answer:**

The purpose of safety glazing in such locations is to prevent individuals; especially children, from mistaking the glazing for an opening and crashing into it and being seriously injured or killed by large pieces of broken glass. This concern is based on actual historic data collected by the code community.

*Safety film* does not comply with the specific requirements of the code because it is not properly labeled, sun exposure can degrade the film and due to improper field installation. Homeowners can remove the safety film if scratched or discolored not knowing the real purpose of the film.

On new construction, the use of *safety film* is not acceptable. The permit holder is responsible for the glazing installation that meets the Code. *Safety film* has been accepted as a temporary fix for purposes of closing on a house such that the correct tempered glazing could be installed after the closing date.

Typically, *safety films* are allowed as an alternate method in locations where a renovation places existing glazing into a newly created hazardous location. Because the field condition comes into play it is left to the local inspector to decide if the film is a reasonable alternate method on a case-by-case basis.

**Keywords:**

Glass, windows