READY TO INSPECT — STANDARD FIELD GUIDE

# AAMA fenestration standards

American Architectural Manufacturers Association (FGIA)

The AAMA fenestration standards, now published under FGIA, describe how windows, curtain wall and storefront are rated and installed. They cover the performance class a unit is built to, how it is anchored back to structure, how the glass is captured, and how the opening is made to shed water. On site they show up wherever the wall meets glass, because that is where water finds its way in when the perimeter seal, flashing and drainage are not built the way the class assumes.

## What it covers

- Performance classes for air, water and structural resistance
- Anchorage of frames and units back to the structure
- Glazing capture, setting blocks and gasket or wet seal
- Perimeter flashing, sealant and weatherproofing details
- Field water testing of installed openings

## What a field inspection looks at

- Perimeter flashing and sealant photographed before trim and interior finishes bury the joint that keeps water out.
- Anchorage and shims documented at the jambs and head, shown fastened to structure rather than to the finish.
- Glazing capture, gaskets and weep openings photographed clear and unobstructed, since a blocked weep drowns the sill.
- Field water test observed and documented as it runs, with the spray rack and any leakage shown, not signed off from memory.
- Unit performance class confirmed against the opening it sits in, photographed at the label before the sticker comes off.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.