

TESTING APPLICATION STANDARD (TAS) 301-94

TESTING LABORATORY

1. Scope:

- 1.1 This protocol describes the requirements for certification and registration of a testing laboratory to perform a given test for approving products, materials and/or methods of construction, to be used in the High-Velocity Hurricane Zone.

2. Eligibility:

- 2.1 Any testing agency or organization meeting the requirements set forth in this protocol and considering itself to provide independent evaluation of products, materials and/or methods of construction, may apply with The Authority Having Jurisdiction for certification and registration of its facilities.

3. Testing Facility:

- 3.1 Each test facility shall have sufficient personnel, having the necessary education, training, technical knowledge and experience for their assigned functions.
- 3.2 The laboratory shall ensure that the training of its personnel is kept up-to-date.
- 3.3 Records of relevant qualifications, training, skills and experience of the technical personnel shall be maintained by the laboratory.
- 3.4 A Florida-registered professional engineer proficient in the discipline required for the test, shall be part of the laboratory's permanent staff or under laboratory's contract to witness and certifying the test performed. (This professional engineer shall not be involved in any manner in the design of the specimen being tested and/or the test requester or manufacturer).
- 3.5 Testing facility shall be of sufficient size to be able to properly accommodate all necessary equipment required to correctly conduct a given test described in protocols prepared by the Authority Having Jurisdiction and/or the *Florida Building Code, Building* and yet provide adequate clearance.

- 3.6 Testing facility shall have an established Emergency Action Plan. Such plan be included in every workplace, or parts thereof, and shall describe what procedures the employer, employees and visitors must take to ensure their safety from fire and other emergencies. Such plan shall include but not be limited to fire extinguishing devices and first aid kits.

- 3.7 Testing facility shall be equipped with stationary (adjustable) video recorder to record the test being performed. Additional video recorders are encouraged to be used to capture different angle perceptions.

- 3.8 Testing facility shall have adequate ventilation as required by the test apparatus and the *Florida Building Code, Building*.

- 3.9 The Authority Having Jurisdiction will visit the testing facilities unannounced, and reserve the right to order necessary changes to the facilities for approval of such facility.

- 3.10 Testing facility shall adequately keep all records of test performed. Such records shall be readily available to the Authority Having Jurisdiction for inspection. Such reports must be kept for a period of not less than ten (10) years.

- 3.11 Testing facility shall adequately keep all records of calibration of equipment. Such records shall be readily available to the Authority Having Jurisdiction for inspection.

- 3.12 Testing facility shall adequately keep a quality control program and safety program. Such programs shall be readily available to the Authority Having Jurisdiction for inspection.

- 3.13 If the testing facility is involved in remote testing, in addition to complying with all the requirements listed in this protocol, such facility must demonstrate that it is properly equipped to transport all necessary equipment to the test site. Such equipment must be properly stowed at the facility location at the end of each day.

4. Occupational Exposure:

- 4.1 Noise - Protection against the effects of noise exposure shall be provided when the sound lev-

els exceed 140 dB peak sound pressure levels from exposure to impulsive or impact noise, or 100 dB from exposure to continuous noise.

- 4.2 Eye and Face Protection - Protective eye and face equipment shall be required where there is a reasonable probability of injury that can be prevented by such equipment. This equipment shall provide adequate protection against the particular hazards for which they are designed.

5. Calibrations:

- 5.1 The laboratory shall schedule for calibration audits of its equipment at intervals not to exceed those required by individual test procedures or protocols to verify that its operations continue to comply with the requirements of the quality system. Where the audit findings cast doubt on the correctness or validity of the laboratory's calibrations or test results, the laboratory shall take immediate corrective action and shall immediately notify, in writing, the Authority Having Jurisdiction and any client whose work may have been affected.

- 5.2 All calibration findings and any corrective actions that arise from them shall be documented and filed with the Authority Having Jurisdiction. The person responsible for quality control program of the laboratory shall ensure that these actions are properly executed.

6. Submittals:

- 6.1 Name, address, contact person and telephone number of testing facility.
- 6.2 Name and registration number of Florida-Registered Professional Engineer as stated in Section 3.4 of this protocol.
- 6.3 Resume of qualification of personnel involved in testing.
- 6.4 List of all equipment, located at the facility, by name, model and serial number.
- 6.5 Name, address, contact person and telephone number of independent agency performing calibration of equipment.
- 6.6 List of test(s) to be performed.
- 6.7 Copy of facility's quality control program.

- 6.8 Copy of facility's safety program.
- 6.9 Copy of facility's table of organization.
- 6.10 Copy of facility's occupational license.
- 6.11 Statement indicating the period of time that facility has been involved in the independent testing business.
- 6.12 Letter requesting certification and registration of facility.
- 6.13 Independence statement.

7. Independence:

- 7.1 The statement of independence shall be submitted on testing laboratory's stationary and signed by an official of the testing laboratory. The statement shall include the following:
 - 7.1.1 A statement indicating that the laboratory or agency, its associates, entities or legal persons employed or under contract do not have any financial interest in any product manufacturing company other than providing professional testing services.
 - 7.1.2 A statement indicating that the laboratory or agency is not owned, operated or controlled by any company manufacturing or distributing any portion of the product inspected or tested.

8. Termination of Certification and Registration of Testing Facility:

- 8.1 At any time the facility may voluntarily terminate its certification and registration with the Authority Having Jurisdiction, either in its entirety or with respect to any particular test, simply by giving written notification to the Building Code Compliance Office. Such written notification shall state the date as of which the termination is to take place. The Building Code Compliance Office shall remove the name of the facility from the approved list.
- 8.2 If at any time the facility has failed to continue to substantially satisfy the requirements of this protocol, or has not been reasonably performing the testing requirements encompassed

within the letter of certification and registration issued by The Authority Having Jurisdiction, or has materially misrepresented itself in its letter of request for certification and registration, or has misrepresented the scope or conditions of its approval, or has misrepresented the results or conditions under which a given test was performed, the Authority Having Jurisdiction may revoke the approval of such facility immediately by written notice to the contact person of the testing facility.

9. Significance of Protocol:

9.1 This protocol provides means of determining whether a particular independent testing laboratory meets the specified criteria as set by the *Florida Building Code, Building* and/or requirements as set by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

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10. Duration of Approval:

10.1 In case of any changes to the test procedures or protocols, the Authority Having Jurisdiction reserves the right to request additional information or to revoke approval of a non-compliance facility.

11. Exceptions:

11.1 Testing performed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Factory Mutual (FM), and Canadian Standard Association (CSA) are exempt from these requirements.

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