



Understanding Florida's Building Codes

Following the destruction of hurricane Andrew in 1992, Miami Dade County began working on a new build code rating system to reduce loss from future storms. Today, Miami Dade maintains some of the toughest product evaluation requirements in the industry. In 2002, The Florida State government introduced it's own product approval requirements that encompass all areas outside of Miami Dade County. The main difference is that Miami Dade Approved Products must meet 150 mph & zone 5 applications (higher pressures).

Wind zone maps are used to establish product performance requirements. (see chart). As the chart shows, residence in the Miami Dade County must use windows and doors rated to withstand 150 mile per hour winds.

In order to receive NOA (notice of acceptance) for any window or door, the manufacturer must supply a third party testing organization actual product samples. These samples undergo numerous tests and then receive a rating. Products that pass Miami Dade's testing requirements will pass the State of Florida's requirements.

All TM windows and doors carry the Miami Dade County approval rating. This evaluation involves a large and small projectile test. In this test, materials (for large missile, a 2x4 piece of lumber) is shot from a gun at the test window. The reason they test for large and small missiles is accommodate build heights. Windows and doors installed from ground level to 30 feet must pass large missile tests. For windows and doors installed over 30 feet off the ground a small missile test will suffice.

In order to determine what window performance level you need, it's best to consult with a TM Windows LLC dealer. They will calculate the design pressure requirements for you home and ensure you have the right amount of protection and fall within building code requirements.

