



# GLASSWERKS – TECHNICAL BULLETIN

## GUIDANCE ON FIELD APPLIED FILMS AND COATINGS

### TECHNICAL DOCUMENT: GW-TB-006

Modifying the appearance or performance of an existing glass façade can be achieved through the use of aftermarket films or surface applied coatings. While these products may offer aesthetic or energy related benefits, they can also introduce risks such as increased thermal stress, glass breakage, or material incompatibility. The following guidance reflects widely recognized glass industry standards and outlines what should be evaluated before applying any film or coating to Glasswerks products.

Glasswerks advises that any field applied coating or film be carefully reviewed prior to installation. It is the responsibility of the film or coating manufacturer and installer to assess the behavior of the applied material and determine whether it may negatively affect the glass. Industry's best practices recommend evaluating the following:

#### **KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

- **Heat Treatment Requirements:**  
All glass plies within an insulated or laminated unit should be properly heat-treated to withstand the increased thermal stresses that may occur once a film or coating is applied.
- **Surface and Adhesive Compatibility:**  
Films should only be installed on uncoated glass surfaces. The adhesive system must be chemically compatible with the glass, and alkaline based adhesives should be avoided due to their potential to damage the glass surface.
- **Structural and Environmental Performance:**  
The applied film must not restrict the glass from deflecting as designed under wind loads, temperature fluctuations, or other environmental conditions.

#### **WARRANTY IMPLICATIONS**

Field applied films or coatings applied to uncoated Glasswerks products **void Glasswerks' standard limited warranties.**

Glasswerks does not assume responsibility for any issues arising from aftermarket applications, including breakage, seal failure, or incompatibility between the glass and the applied material.

If a Glasswerks unit qualifies for replacement under the terms of the standard limited warranty, the cost of any aftermarket film or coating—and any labor associated with its installation—is **not** covered.