

The Power of Teamwork

Joint Manual Being Developed

by Brian Pitman

The Steel Institute has the *Steel Construction Manual* and the glass and glazing industry has the *GANA Glazing Manual*, but a manual encompassing the increasing protective glazing industry does not exist today, even with the growing risk of terrorism, hurricanes and other threats. The Glass Association of North America (GANA) and the Protective Glazing Council International (PGC International) recently came together to answer this need.

In May 2008, GANA and PGC International teamed up to co-author the *Protective Glazing Manual* for the protective glazing industry. In the past, the two organizations have discussed creating individual manuals, but discussions between members of the two associations (which share many common members) opened the possibility for collaboration. The document is currently in its initial research and draft outline mode. The industry can expect to find information on the history of the components that make up protective glazing, the various protective glazing applications, as well as information pertaining specifically to the maintenance of these specialized products. It also will include a vast array of appendices that incorporate the most up-to-date knowledge.

The bulk of the manual's information will focus on the various and diverse applications, which include various protection levels for ballistics, blast, fire, forced entry, hurricane, seismic and sloped glazing. There will be an individual comprehensive chapter for each of these applications discussing the uses, standards and testing, design

considerations and guidelines for glazing. A team of industry experts is working diligently to ensure that this manual is the best resource for everyone from architects and glazing contractors to product fabricators.

Both GANA and PGC International have committed to searching aggressively for the most knowledgeable experts regarding each protective glazing topic, making the document one of the most comprehensive resources on the subject. This aggressive spirit of collaboration is seen in the glass and glazing industry most frequently when responding to a common challenge, and the challenge to educate about this important element in construction is one about which both organizations feel very strongly.

Now that I have piqued your interest, you may be asking when you will be able to purchase this great forthcoming industry resource. The current timeline has a completion and release date set for the first quarter of 2010.

As with most association work, the volunteers are truly spearheading this effort. Chris Carter of Momentive Performance Materials Inc. is chairing the joint task group effort. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact GANA or PGC International at 785/271-0208. ■

the author



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