

ARCHITECTURAL / ENGINEERING BULLETIN

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Bulletin No. 2015-000R1

Bulletin Title: Full Height Glazing above the Ground Floor

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Background:

Architects providing design services for the Los Angeles Community College District ("LACCD") have been including in their designs full height glazing at exterior walls and interior atriums of new Bond projects. These full height glazing designs have been included at various projects including the Cox building at Southwest College, the SLRC atrium at Trade Tech College, and Student Services atrium at City College (under construction), and approved by DSA during the plan check approval process.

The DSA Field Engineer has expressed concern regarding these assemblies at both Southwest and TradeTech, citing that they do not provide adequate fall protection, meeting the requirements of a guardrail. In response to DSA's Field Trip Note at the Cox building, the A/E team provided calculations that the assembly met the code required guardrail forces requirement. Additionally, DSA noted that the tempered glass could be subject to spontaneous breakage and therefore could result in unprotected openings. DSA has suggested that providing a guardrail at these full height glazing conditions would provide adequate protection. The rail could be a single horizontal assembly supported independently from glazing assembly meeting the code requirements for a guardrail.

Directive

1. If full height glazing is desired in the design of LACCD buildings, a guardrail as noted above shall be included in the design.
2. *If a guardrail is not desired architecturally*, upon submittal of complete construction documents to DSA plan check, structural calculations by the SEOR and supporting back up from the glass manufacturer (meeting the conditions of the California Building Code current edition, Chapter 24, Glass and Glazing) and testing (if required by DSA) be included with the DSA submittal to justify the proposed glazing assemblies without an independent guardrail.
3. Full height glazing assemblies shall be mounted on a curb to prevent floor cleaning or other equipment from striking the glass during regular maintenance.
4. Glass Guardrails: If glass guardrails are proposed for a project, the entire assembly is to have a DSA approved ICC report number and so identified in the DSA submittal. If an ICC report is not available, an independently supported guardrail must be provided (that is not supported by the glass). If an independent guardrail is not desired architecturally, the requirement noted above in Item #2 is to be followed.