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Tips Good Ideas for Your Business

technical

ASK JOE HETZEL



DASMA
Technical Director

Computing the R-Value on Glazed Doors

I installed an insulated door without glass to meet a certain energy rating for a job. Would the R-value be any different if the door had glass?

Joe: Yes, but it depends on how much glazing is in the door.

In the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), published by the International Code Council (ICC), an “opaque door” is defined as a door having less than 50 percent glazing. So, one row of glass in the door top section would qualify the door as opaque.

The IECC requires a minimum component R-value of 4.75. Since glazing is involved, R-value is determined by taking a weighted average of glazed and insulated sections.

Also in the IECC, a glazed door having 50 percent or more glazing is required to comply with the U-factor requirements for the entire assembly. Since a door with mostly glazing has a higher U-factor than a door with mostly insulation, it is important to know the maximum U-factor requirement for your area. Maximum U-factor varies by climate.

Your door manufacturer should be able to supply a door that meets the required thermal performance value for the job. ■