



# Certified Alaska Tough<sup>®</sup> Program Requirements

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## **Foreword**

Certified Alaska Tough distinguishes building products that can withstand the extreme climate conditions of Alaska while meeting strict energy efficiency standards.

For residential windows, thermal and structural performance is fundamental. A window that is Alaska Tough should pass and score highly on the thermal and structural tests without question. Therefore Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) will require documentation of certification with the National Fenestration Rating Council and to the North American Fenestration Standards as prerequisites for Certified Alaska Tough.

Minimizing air leakage is another crucial factor of window performance in cold climates. Excess air leakage can cause discomfort for occupants, increase the likelihood of condensation occurring, and cause operable windows to become frozen shut in winter. Therefore CCHRC will require documented air leakage levels to meet the most stringent requirements in the North American Fenestration Standards for residential windows.

Manufacturers of certified products will be awarded the right to use the Certified Alaska Tough label for use in marketing their certified products.

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# 1. Introduction

## a. Role of Each Entity

### i. CCHRC:

1. Owns and maintains the Certified Alaska Tough name, marks, certification program criteria and requirements;
2. Authorizes the use of the Certified Alaska Tough mark and name;
3. Maintains a system by which window manufacturers or labeling agencies produce product certification mark labels;
4. Maintains an online listing of certified products;
5. Arranges unannounced inspections of the use of the Certified Alaska Tough logo and marks by licensee via contracted Inspection Agencies.

### ii. Licensee:

1. Arranges with CCHRC to obtain product certification for one or more product lines;
2. Provides information necessary to CCHRC for the purpose of determining compliance with the Certified Alaska Tough certification program requirements;
3. Agrees to follow terms for use of the Certified Alaska Tough certification mark on certified products and in advertising;
4. Agrees to cooperate with Inspection Agencies selected by CCHRC to conduct inspections of their use of Certified Alaska Tough logo and marks;
5. Agrees that other requirements may be established if necessary to ensure the proper function of the Certified Alaska Tough certification program.

### iii. Inspection Agency:

1. Coordinates with CCHRC on the scope and timing of inspections of licensee use of the Certified Alaska Tough logo and mark;
2. Reports findings from inspections to CCHRC;
3. Conducts or arranges for inspections of the use of certification mark labels on products and product packaging.

## b. Property Rights

- i. CCHRC retains all rights to the Certified Alaska Tough certification program and associated trademarks.

## c. Liability

- i. Certified Alaska Tough does not constitute a warranty by CCHRC regarding any characteristic of a window product. CCHRC is not selling window products and cannot warrant window products for their fitness for a particular use. CCHRC

disclaims any and all liability that may arise from or in connection with a certified product licensee.

**d. Confidentiality**

- i. Licensee provides proof of product testing and certification voluntarily. CCHRC will maintain the confidentiality of such information where it does not directly pertain to Certified Alaska Tough.

**e. Right to Modify**

- i. CCHRC reserves the right to modify the Certified Alaska Tough Program Requirements at any time. Upon modification, the version number and date of the Program Requirements will be updated.
- ii. Licensee agrees to the version of the Certified Alaska Tough Program Requirements in effect upon signing the License Agreement, which will remain as the governing Program Requirements throughout the term of the License Agreement. Upon certification renewal, licensee will agree to the newest version of the Program Requirements.

## 2. Glossary of terms

**Air leakage:** the flow of air that passes through a window product; also known as air infiltration.

**AAMA:** American Architectural Manufacturers Association

**AWS:** Air, Water, and Structural

**Licensee:** An entity entering into a License Agreement with CCHRC that meets the Certified Alaska Tough program requirements.

**NAFS:** North American Fenestration Standard/Specification for windows, doors, and skylights. A joint standard between AAMA, WDMA and the Canadian Standards Association that establishes levels of energy and structural performance for fenestration products.

**NFRC:** National Fenestration Rating Council

**Performance Class:** The classification system within the North American Fenestration Standard that provides for several levels of performance:

R: used in one and two-family dwellings

LC: used in multi-family dwellings

CW: used in low to mid-rise buildings

AW: used in mid to high-rise buildings

**Performance Grade:** A numeric designator that defines the performance of a window in accordance with the North American Fenestration Standard.

**Product line:** A series of individual window products of the same operator type that are manufactured from the same profiles.

**Profile:** The cross-sectional geometry or properties of a frame or sash.

**Residential building:** A structure used primarily for living and sleeping that is zoned as residential and/or subject to residential building codes. For the purposes of Certified Alaska Tough, “residential building” refers to buildings that are three stories or less in height.

**U-Factor:** The heat transfer per unit time, area, and degree of temperature difference expressed here in units of Btu/h·ft<sup>2</sup>·°F. The U-factor multiplied by the interior-exterior temperature difference and by the projected fenestration product area yields the total heat transfer through the fenestration product due to conduction, convection, and long wave infrared radiation.

**WDMA:** Window and Door Manufacturers Association

**Window:** An assembled unit consisting of a frame/sash component holding one or more pieces of glazing functioning to admit light and/or air into an enclosure and designed for a vertical installation in an external wall of a residential building.

**Window components:** Components used by a manufacturer in the construction of a window including, but not limited to, insulated glass unit, frame, and spacer.

### 3. License Agreement Requirements

#### a. General requirements

- i. The following documents will be provided by the licensee:
  1. Application with a listing of products to be evaluated for certification;
  2. A signed License Agreement with attached documentation as listed in Section 4, “Product Evaluation” for the appropriate product.
- ii. CCHRC will produce the following documents if all the criteria are met:
  1. Certificate of Authorization for qualified products.
- iii. Upon successful completion of the License Agreement and payment of fees, the licensee will be licensed by CCHRC to use the Certified Alaska Tough certification mark subject to the License Agreement terms.
- iv. Appendix B provides a flow chart to explain the certification process.

### 4. Product Evaluation

- a. **General Product Information**
  - i. Certified Alaska Tough only applies to complete products for use in residential buildings.
- b. **Windows**
  - i. For certification of windows under Certified Alaska Tough, licensee must provide the following information to CCHRC:
    - 1. Completed application form(s) that identify the specific product line(s) to be considered for certification;
    - 2. Certification authorization from the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC);
    - 3. Authorization for Product Certification (APC) from the American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA) or the Window and Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA);
    - 4. A report from the accredited testing laboratory stating the air leakage, performance grade, and class result via ASTM Standard Test Method E283 if that information is not stated in the NFRC, AAMA, or WDMA certifications.
  - ii. References to accredited testing laboratories are for those laboratories accredited by NFRC and AAMA or accepted by WDMA.

## 5. Certification Authorization

- a. **Issuance of Certificates**
  - i. Upon successful completion of the Certified Alaska Tough application, CCHRC's verification that the products meet the eligibility criteria, and the signing of the License Agreement, CCHRC will issue licensee a Certificate of Authorization.
  - ii. The Certificate of Authorization will document the product lines included in certification under the Certified Alaska Tough program. Licensee is only authorized to use the Certified Alaska Tough certification mark and/or name on those product lines when issued the Certificate of Authorization.
  - iii. Products that meet the testing performance standards of Certified Alaska Tough, but do not meet all certification requirements, are not eligible for certification and shall not be advertised or identified in any way as certified under Certified Alaska Tough.
- b. **Duration of Certification**
  - i. Certification will last for four (4) years from the date of issuance of the Certificate of Authorization. See the "Maintaining Certification Authorization" for further details.
  - ii. If licensee allows any certification under the Certified Alaska Tough requirements to lapse for a certified product, then certification under Certified Alaska Tough will expire effective the same date as the lapsed prerequisite certification.

## 6. Use of the Certification Mark

### a. General Guidelines

- i. These guidelines provide instructions about how the Certified Alaska Tough marks and Certified Alaska Tough name should be used. This includes, but is not limited to, how to use them on print advertisements, websites, and marketing materials. To use the Certified Alaska Tough certification mark or name, licensee must sign and adhere to the License Agreement. In addition to the specific guidelines for use of the name and/or mark, licensee must also abide by the following general guidelines for the use of the Certified Alaska Tough name and certification mark.
- ii. The mark may not be altered, rotated, cut apart, or otherwise distorted.
- iii. The Certified Alaska Tough name and mark may not be used to imply the Cold Climate Housing Research Center endorsement or approval of an organization, its products, or its services.
- iv. Neither the mark, nor any portion thereof, nor any reference to the Certified Alaska Tough name may be used in an organization's name or logo, product name or logo, service name or logo, or website domain name.
- v. The mark may not be used in a manner that would disparage the Certified Alaska Tough name or the Cold Climate Housing Research Center.
- vi. The mark may not be associated with products that are not Certified Alaska Tough certified.
- vii. Licensee is responsible for their own proper use of the Certified Alaska Tough name and mark, as well as use by their representatives, such as ad agencies, contractors, and companies that produce promotional items on their behalf.
- viii. The Certified Alaska Tough mark may only be affixed to a certified product that is also appropriately labeled for its AWS and NFRC certifications.

### b. Using the Certified Alaska Tough Certification Mark and Name

- i. This mark is available to an organization that has signed a License Agreement, is currently an active licensee with the Cold Climate Housing Research Center's Certified Alaska Tough program, and has had one or more products certified under Certified Alaska Tough. The certification mark is used as a label on products that have been verified to meet Certified Alaska Tough requirements.
- ii. Uses of Certification Mark include:
  1. Advertisement on point-of-purchase materials, and other promotional materials when used on or near certified products(s).
  2. Product literature or web page that identifies a certified product.
  3. Certified products or product packaging.
- iii. Incorrect Use of Certified Alaska Tough Mark and Name

1. The Certified Alaska Tough mark and/or name must be properly used and protected. Licensee should be mindful of the use the Certified Alaska Tough mark and/or name in all communication and outreach materials. Licensee shall not allow a product to be identified or advertised as Certified Alaska Tough when licensee knows or should know that such use of the certification mark is false, inaccurate, or misleading. Dispute resolution or litigation will be pursued should misuse be found.
2. Licensee will remove from the market any products determined by CCHRC to be falsely identified as certified under Certified Alaska Tough. Licensee shall not offer for sale any such product until the certification mark has been removed from all such products and the packaging containing the product. Licensee shall cease any advertising or promotion of such product as Certified Alaska Tough upon notification by CCHRC. CCHRC may publish notice that such a product is not a certified product.
3. Examples of certification mark misuses include but are not limited to:
  - a. Using the mark on or near a product that has not earned the Certified Alaska Tough certification;
  - b. Using the mark to promote a product that is not eligible for Certified Alaska Tough certification;
  - c. Using the mark on non-product specific promotional materials.
- iv. To help avoid inadvertent misuse of the Certified Alaska Tough mark and/or name, the Cold Climate Housing Research Center strongly recommends that licensee submits any promotional efforts that feature Certified Alaska Tough for review prior to final production or printing, particularly if the mark and/or name are being used in a new way. Materials for review or any questions regarding proper use of the mark and/or name should be submitted via email at: [certifiedalaskatough@cchrc.org](mailto:certifiedalaskatough@cchrc.org).
- v. CCHRC actively monitors proper use of the Certified Alaska Tough mark and/or name. To report potential mark and/or name violations, please email: [certifiedalaskatough@cchrc.org](mailto:certifiedalaskatough@cchrc.org).

## 7. Certified Products Listing

### a. Certified Alaska Tough Listing

- i. CCHRC will maintain a website that lists products currently certified under the Certified Alaska Tough program.

### b. Licensee Responsibilities

- i. Licensee will ensure that all necessary information is kept current and provided to CCHRC, such as point of contact information, reporting to CCHRC any changes to a product line, and changes in prerequisite certification status. Licensee will review



the certified product listings to ensure the certification status is accurately reflected for all product lines.

- ii. Any changes to unique identifiers for certified products, such as the NFRC certified product directory number for window products or a brand name, shall be provided to CCHRC within 30 calendar days of the change.

## **8. Maintaining Certification Authorization**

### **a. Licensee Responsibilities**

- i. Licensee shall update the information provided to CCHRC in the certification authorization report within 30 calendar days of a change or modification to a certified product line.
- ii. Licensee shall be responsible for the timely remittance of all fees associated with Certified Alaska Tough.

### **b. Certification Renewal**

- i. Certified Alaska Tough Certification expires four (4) years from the date of initial certification for each product line.
- ii. Licensee shall submit a renewal application accompanied by the documents specified in Section 4, "Product Evaluation" within 30 calendar days after the expiration of the certification. After the 30 day time period, an application for certification will be considered an initial application.
- iii. Fees for certification renewal are listed in the "Fee Schedule" attached to this document.
- iv. CCHRC will issue a renewal Certificate of Authorization within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the renewal application.

## **9. Noncompliance**

### **a. Grounds for Noncompliance**

- i. Misuse of the Certified Alaska Tough mark and/or name as stated in Section 6, "Use of the Certification Mark".
- ii. Product line changes that are not disclosed as stated in Sections 7, "Certified Products Listing" and 8, "Maintaining Certification Authorization".
- iii. Product line changes that make the product ineligible based on Section 4, "Product Evaluation".
- iv. Non-payment of certification fees.
- v. Lapse of prerequisite AWS certification or certification with NFRC.

### **b. Compliance Review**

- i. Licensee's compliance with all certification criteria and program requirements may be reviewed by CCHRC at any time.

c. **Revocation**

- i. CCHRC and Licensee will first attempt to resolve any disagreements by the dispute resolution process described in the License Agreement.
- ii. Upon revocation of licensee's License Agreement, any and all rights of a product licensee to use the Certified Alaska Tough name and mark shall immediately cease. If the licensee fails to discontinue use of the Certified Alaska Tough name and mark, CCHRC shall have the right to obtain an immediate temporary injunction restraining the licensee from any and all further use of or reference to the Certified Alaska Tough name and mark and to the award of damages for harm to CCHRC's name and reputation.

## Appendix A - Fee Schedule

	<b>Initial Application</b>	<b>Renewal (every 4 years)</b>
Initial Application (up to ten product lines)	\$10,000	\$5,000
Additional Product Line	\$100	\$50

## Appendix B - Certified Alaska Tough flow chart

