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# techKNOWLEDGEY

A technical newsletter for Architects and Designers

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This NEWSLETTER is sent to you by CC SPECS, a Southern California specifications consulting company. Our mission is to help busy Architects and designers keep up with the latest trends in building materials technology.

### Finishes for Curtain Walls and Storefronts—AAMA Standards

The American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA) maintains many standards for the durability of finishes on aluminum.

**AAMA Standards 2603, 2604, and 2605** define three levels of durability for finish coatings (good/better/best) shop-applied to aluminum extrusions. Note that other AAMA standards cover coil-coated finishes in flat sheets of aluminum.

**AAMA 2603** is the basic standard. Complying finish coatings can endure the salt-spray test for at least 1,500 hours. These include acrylic and polyester coatings but do not include fluoropolymer coatings, so the durability is the lowest of the three types. This quality level may be suitable for residential windows or decorative uses, or interior surfaces of aluminum storefronts and windows.

**AAMA 2604** is the middle standard. These achieve up to 3,000 hours in the salt-spray test. Products are typically 50% fluoropolymer content, called 50% polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF). Typical uses are finish coatings on commercial-grade windows, storefronts, and entrances.

**AAMA 2605** is the highest standard. These are good for 4,000 hours in the salt-spray test. Coatings are typically 70% fluoropolymer (70% PVDF) content, but newer coatings are available with 100% fluoropolymer, called 100% fluorinated ethylene vinyl ether (FEVE) content. The 100% FEVE coatings are capable of producing bright, vibrant colors that really "pop." Use these on monumental buildings with special finishes, such as mica-metallics and buildings requiring bright colors or other special-effect aluminum finishes.



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### ....In the Next Newsletter....

**AAMA Standards for Coil Coated Aluminum:** AAMA has two related technical standards for "coil coated" finish applications....AAMA 620 and AAMA 621.



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