

TECHNICAL SALES BULLETIN 009Frameless Shower Enclosures

As you are no doubt aware, frameless showers have become very popular, allowing far greater creativity in shower enclosure design. However, along with these elaborate designs comes an increased risk, from both a safety and a structural integrity perspective.

Due to the absence of a continuous framework, frameless showers rely on the glass to give the required structural integrity. Therefore only toughened safety glass complying with SANS 1263;Part 1, such as PG Building Glass Processing, is suitable for these frameless applications.

In terms of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), all parties in the supply chain can be held jointly liable, which means that we as glass suppliers, cannot issue disclaimers or claim ignorance of the regulations when incorrect glass types or thicknesses are supplied

We can therefore only offer glass thicknesses in accordance with specification SANS 549 As well as the recommendations of the South African Shower Enclosure Manufacturers Association (SASEMA), of which we are founder members.

It is also pertinent to note that the National Building Regulations invokes SANS 10400: Part N, which stipulates that all frameless shower panels that exceed the maximum allowance areas as listed in the table below, must be endorsed & signed-off by a competent personal Glazing, irrespective of compliance with the requirements of either SANS 549 or the SASEMA guidelines.

Table 1 – Dimensions for flat frameless glass shower enclosures.

1	2	3
Toughened Safety Glass thicknesses mm	Maximum panel sizes M²	
	Doors and Panels supporting doors	Fixed panels
6	1.6	2.1
8	2	3
10	2.2	4.00
NOTE: this Table does not apply to curved glass		

Your attention is also drawn to the attached regulation, VC9003, which makes compliance with SANS 1263: Part 1 mandatory as from 16th July 2014

In essence this means that from this date only Safety Glass bearing an NRCS number, in addition to the usual Safety Glass markings will be deemed acceptable. The onus is on us all to ensure a smooth transition in this regard.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'm.pote'.

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