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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS WASHINGTON

Letter Circular LC-549

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(Supersedes Letter Circulars Nos. 235, 429, and 511, and Form Letter, LC113.)

INFORMATION ON ULTRAVEOLET TRANSPARENCY OF WINDOW MATERIALS AND FABRICS

Data on the ultraviolet transparency of various kinds of glass and organic substitutes for window glass (Vitaglass, Sunlit, Helioglass, Uviol Jena, Neuglas, Corning Corex D, Quartz Glass, Celoglass, Cellophane, Tracing cloth, etc.) are given in Bureau of Standards Research Paper, RP113, entitled, "Data on Ultraviolet Solar Radiation and the Solarization of Window Materials", which is obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 15 cents a copy, prepaid. Supplemental data are given in the accompanying table.

Data on the transparency of various kinds of fabrics, feathers, etc., to ultraviolet radiation, are given in Bureau of Standards Research Paper, RP6, "Transmission of Ultraviolet radiation Through Various Kinds of Fabrics", obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, at a price of 5 cents a copy, prepaid.

Data on the depth of penetration of radiation of various wave lengths (ultraviolet, infrared) are given in a paper on "Spectral Characteristics of Light Sources and Window Materials", published in Trans. Illum. Eng. Soc., vol. 23, p. 251 (March 1928).

Data on the variation of ultraviolet solar radiation with altitude, latitude, time of the day and season of the year, are given in Bureau of Standards Research Papers, RP318, "Measurement of Extreme Ultraviolet Solar Radiation by a Filter Method", RP370, "A Balanced Thermocouple and Filter Method of Ultraviolet Radiometry with Practical Applications", and RP877, "Evaluation of Ultraviolet Solar Radiation of Short Wave Lengths", obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents at 10 cents each, prepaid.

In order to insure effective biological action of sunlight, the Council on Physical Therapy (Journal, American Medical Association, vol. 95, p. 864, 1930; reprint revised November, 1931) requires, for acceptance, that the transmission through window glass and substitutes for window glass, after complete solarization, shall not be less than 30 per cent of the incident radiation at wave length 302mm (standard thickness 2.3mm). The Federal Specification for ultraviolet transmitting glass has similar requirements (Federal Specification DD-G-476, March 29, 1932; obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, at 5 cents a copy, prepaid).

TABLE

Percentage transmission of various window glasses at 302mm, when new and after exposure at a distance of 15cm from a 110-volt horizontal Uviarc quartz mercury lamp for 10 hours; and of duplicate samples exposed to the sun and weather since the date indicated in column 8. Thickness of glasses, 2.3mm.

Tests of glasses that have been solarized for 6 to 8 years show that, after exposure to the summer sun for about 3 months, the transmission becomes stabilized and remains practically constant (see columns 5, 6, 7, and 8).

	•	:		ge Per Cent	Transmission		
Trade Name	:No. of :Samples :Tested		After : Exposure : to Lamp :		Exposur	e to Sun	
(1)	: (2)	:(3):	(4)	(5):	(6):	(7): (8)	
	•	•	,	To Oct.:To 5, 1932:1,			
Brephos (: : 3 : 3	: 68: : 64:	50 47	57 54	56 53	: 55 :Mar.,1931 52 :Feb.,1932	
Corex D	6	: 67:	65	66	66 :	66 :Apr.,1932	
*Cosmos	. 2	72:	45	55	55 :	55 :May, 1931	
*Helioglass (: 4 : 2	64:69:	45 47	52 56	52 : 56 :	51 :Dec.,1929 55 :Nov.,1931	
Quartz Glass	: 1	92	. 92	92	92	92 :	
Sunlit (: 3 : 3	72: 68:	47 45	55 52	55 52	54 :Aug.,1930 50 :Apr.,1932	
Uviol-Jena (: 3 : 6	58: 69:	3 9 55	48 64	48 64	47 :Apr.,1929 63 :May, 1932	
Vitaglass (; 3 ; 3	63: 55:	31 29	42 38	41 36	39 Mar.,1931 35 Apr.,1932	

Standard thickness Lustraglass transmits 15 to 20 per cent at 313mm when new (10 to 15 per cent after exposure to the sun). At 302mm, Lustraglass transmits about 2 per cent, while the special glasses, listed above, transmit upwards of 40 per cent.

^(*) Domestic distribution discontinued.

Purveyors of Special Window Glasses and Substitutes Therefor.

Brephos J. Vaurie, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.,

Celoglass Acetol Products, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware,

Corex D Corning Glass Works, Corning, New York,

Quartz Glass Amersil Company, Inc., Chestnut Avenue, Hill-side. New Jersey.

Sunlit Semon Bache and Company, Greenwich and Morton Streets, New York, N. Y.,

Uviol-Jena Fish-Schurman Corporation, 230 East 45th Street, New York. N. Y..

Vitaglass Corporation, 220 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y..

Vitaglass Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Grant Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.