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LYNNENGINEERING

**PROUDLY
SERVING THE
TEXAS GULF
COAST SINCE 2008**

WIND LOADS: PROTECTION OF OPENINGS

As of **SEPT. 1, 2020**, Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has adopted the 2018 International Building Code and International Residential Code as the standards for insurance through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA). The new codes provide greater windstorm protection and will apply to new construction, repairs and additions.

Chapter 16 Section 1609 of the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) makes changes to protection of opening requirements for wind borne debris regions.

The code change does increase the windspeeds, but the design pressures are not drastically changing, and in some cases are decreasing. For wind borne debris protection, code will now require that all windows and glazing (replacement and new construction) have one of the following methods for wind borne debris protection:

- All glazing must have precut 7/16" min OSB covering onsite **WITH ANCHORS FOR PLYWOOD ATTACHMENT PERMANENTLY EMBEDDED INTO FRAMING** -OR-
- Impact resistant windows -OR-
- TDI approved shutters

The changes to the windspeed calculations for Risk Category II may look like a significant change but it is really not. In fact, Lynn Engineering has been designing to this standard since the beginning of 2020 in anticipation of this change.

To be sure, always Call LYNNENGINEERING before your project begins.

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