



Technical Bulletin

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Applicable Standards:

FORTIFIED Commercial™–Wind
FORTIFIED Multifamily™–Wind

Applicable FORTIFIED Levels:



Historic Buildings & Local Architectural Restrictions

Scope

This technical bulletin provides information regarding historic buildings and potential local historical architectural restrictions that could limit properties from achieving certain levels of FORTIFIED designation.

Applicable FORTIFIED Levels

This bulletin applies to existing construction for FORTIFIED Commercial™–Wind and FORTIFIED Multifamily™–Wind for all designation levels (FORTIFIED Roof™, FORTIFIED Silver™, and FORTIFIED Gold™) in both hurricane-prone and high-wind-prone regions.

Requirements

Historic buildings may have local architectural restrictions that require building components to preserve their character.¹ Restrictions can apply to repairs, alterations, restorations, occupancy changes, or additions. Areas where these restrictions may conflict with FORTIFIED include:

FORTIFIED Roof

- Verification of sufficient connections between roof deck and walls

FORTIFIED Silver

- Impact-rated windows/doors in hurricane-prone regions
- Impact-resistant siding in hurricane-prone regions
- Elevation of critical utilities

FORTIFIED Gold

- Verification of sufficient load path from roof to foundation

Failure of individual building components often leads to cascading failures. That’s why the FORTIFIED Commercial and FORTIFIED Multifamily standards and designation levels focus on mitigating a building’s vulnerability through a holistic approach. Each designation level has requirements that enable a building to perform to that level with a building performance expectation. For buildings to perform as designated—and to achieve designation—they **must meet the requirements of the designation level sought**. No exceptions to the standard will be made.

¹ Per the ICC, building character is the essential quality of an historic building or space that provides its significance. The character might be determined by the historic background, including association with a significant event or person, the architecture of design, or the contents or elements and finishes of the building or space.