



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **BEMA Will Pursue Industry Consensus Standards**

The American Glass Association has again rejected the BEMA request to reconsider its offer to jointly develop construction and performance standards for shower enclosures and to withdraw its code submission. According to Donn Harter, President & Director of Technical Services for AGA, the association remains committed to the code process as the timely answer to the moratorium 16 building jurisdictions have placed on frameless shower installations and sees no further need to continue dialogue with the industry. Unfortunately, the code process has no consensus requirements and doesn't always represent the industry's best thinking or technology. While the AGA decision is regrettable, BEMA intends to continue its efforts to develop consensus standards for the construction and performance of bath enclosures and to oppose the code changes submitted by the AGA.

Executive Director Chris Birch stated, "It is unfortunate that the Associations could not come together in the interest of the public and the industry. However, it is no longer a question of standard or code change for BEMA, the association simply cannot support the code change as written. Without reference standards for evaluating enclosure construction and performance, it is hard to imagine that code officials will be any better equipped to interpret the proposed code requirements than they are now."

While BEMA had hoped to use its limited resources to fund the standards process, it will now use them to oppose the AGA code change. Regardless of how well intentioned, it is imperative that the industry not let government officials or regional interests speak for the industry in regulating our products. Other prominent industry associations and organizations support the standards approach and will provide assistance in opposing the code change. BEMA members simply will not let a handful of individuals determine what is best for the public and the industry when it comes to the construction and performance of our products.

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*BEMA is a collaborative, international glass and glazing industry organization dedicated to the advancement of the manufacturer, promotion, sale and safe installation of tub and shower enclosures.*