



November 29, 2006

Department of Community Affairs  
Building Codes and Standards  
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Re: Mr. Jesus Gonzales' letter (dated October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006)

Dear Sirs,

The American Shutter Systems Association, Inc. (ASSA) is a non-profit organization founded in May 1995. The ASSA was established to provide tested and approved hurricane protection products for its members. The ASSA also conducts research and development for new and innovative products, while ensuring all products represented meet or exceed the latest building codes.

ASSA membership consists of only legitimate, licensed and insured companies. Members are required to have a manufacturing facility, a third party state approved Quality Assurance (QA) program in place and provide documentation (See attached). The ASSA conducts routine inspections on its members to confirm they continue to maintain all applicable license and insurance and are compliant with the product approval specifications.

Mr. Gonzales has contacted the ASSA on several occasions soliciting his consulting services for our members. At the time, Mr. Jesus Gonzales mentioned he was not registered with the state of Florida as a quality assurance entity. Currently, the ASSA endorses NAMI and Keystone Certifications, Inc. to provide QA for its members. We have referred Mr. Gonzales to a number of our members to provide additional assistance with their QA program.

The ASSA agrees with a number of issues Mr. Gonzales' letter brings to attention. ASSA members are at a financial disadvantage with non-compliant associations and companies that distribute hurricane protection components to their customers.

The ASSA is very concerned with the large number of manufacturers in the state of Florida who do not have a QA program in effect. The ASSA looks forward in working with DCA to resolve any and all issues within the product approval system.

**American Shutter Systems Association**

4268 Westroads Dr., West Palm Beach, FL 33407

1-800-432-2204 Local: (561) 841-5480

Fax: (561) 841-0852

[www.amshutter.org](http://www.amshutter.org) [info@amshutter.org](mailto:info@amshutter.org)



Included are the following documents:

1. Associations and Distributors of HP products in Florida
2. QMI Dec Statement
3. ASSA Authorized Vendor List
4. QA Letter sent to each new ASSA member
5. Letter sent to all ASSA members on 8-8-06
6. Follow up letter to 8-8-06 letter dated 11-2-06
7. QA Certificate from an ASSA member
8. Sample of ASSA Inspection Report
9. Non- Compliant letter sent to ASSA member 11-7-06

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Feeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F".

Bill Feeley

President

American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.

**American Shutter Systems Association**

4268 Westroads Dr., West Palm Beach, FL 33407

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Association Name	Distributed by:	Product Name	FL#	Miami-Dade
	Groff Metals of Florida	Aluminum Slatted Awning Shutter		05-0817.10
	Advance Hurricane Technologies (Imagen)	Roll-Down Shutter (60mm Wide Slat)	FL4245-R1	
American Shutter Products, DBA Croci North America	Croci North America	Croci Extruded Aluminum Accordion Shutter	FL5826	06-0515.01
American Shutter Products, DBA Croci North America	Croci North America	ES55, ES44, SAR115, SAR155A - Aluminum Roll Up	FL5028	
Comprehensive Quality Hurricane Shutter Products Association	General Impact Glass Window Corp.	High Impact 125 Aluminum Accordion Shutter		05-1122.08
Comprehensive Quality Hurricane Shutter Products Association	General Impact Glass Window Corp.	High Impact 90 Aluminum Accordion Shutter		05-1122.06
High Performance	Rollingshield / Florida Storm Panels	40MM Interlocked Slat Roll Up	FL5493	
High Performance	Rollingshield / Florida Storm Panels	HPMA/ Performance System 1" Aluminum Accordion Shutters	FL5490	
Hi-Tech Shutter Group	Rollingshield / Florida Storm Panels		FL7401	
Hi-Tech Shutter Group	Hurst Awning Company, Inc.	Aluminum Bahama Shutter	FL6837	05-0718.04
Hi-Tech Shutter Group	Hurst Awning Company, Inc.	Hi-Roller -50 Roll Up Sh.	FL2456-R1	
Hi-Tech Shutter Group	Hurst Awning Company, Inc.	HT 100 Accordion Shutter	FL2464-R1	
Hi-Tech Shutter Group	Hurst Awning Company, Inc.	HT 100 Accordion Shutter	FL6836	06-0328.01
Hi-Tech Shutter Group	Hurst Awning Company, Inc.	HT-800 High Rise Accordion Shutter	FL7038-R1	
Southern Shutter Assoc.	Hurst Awning Company, Inc.	HT-800 High Rise Accordion Shutter	FL7041-R1	06-1026.05
Southern Shutter Assoc.	Town & Country Industries, Inc.	6.8 and HR Accordion Shutter	FL2249-R3	
Southern Shutter Assoc.	Town & Country Industries, Inc.	6.8 and HR Accordion Shutter	FL6085	
Southern Shutter Assoc.	Town & Country Industries, Inc.	6.8 and HR Accordion Shutter	FL6270	
Southern Shutter Assoc.	Town & Country Industries, Inc.	6.8 and HR Alum. Accordion Shutter	FL6465	
Southern Shutter Assoc.	Town & Country Industries, Inc.	6.8 -HR Accordion Shutter	FL4844	
Southern Shutter Assoc.	Town & Country Industries, Inc.	Bahama Shutter	FL2668-R1	
Southern Shutter Assoc.	Town & Country Industries, Inc.	Super 50 Roll-Up Shutter	FL2251-R1	
Southern Shutter Assoc.	Town & Country Industries, Inc.	Super 50 Roll-Up Shutter	FL4846	

Association Name	Distributed by:	Product Name	FL#	Miami-Dade
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	40/60 MM Roll Shutter	FL 400-R1	Yes
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	55 MM Roll Shutter	FL483-R1	
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	58MM Bertha End Retention/Non Retention Shutter	FL 5790-R1	
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Bertha Bahama Shutter	FL 2683-R1	
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Bertha Bahama Shutter	FL 6566	Yes
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Bertha Colonial Shutter	FL 2681-R1	
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Bertha HV Accordion Shutter	FL 389-R1	
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Bertha HV Accordion Shutter	FL 1850-R1	Yes
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Bertha HV Accordion Shutter (Blade 2)	FL 5353	
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Bertha HV Accordion Shutter (Blade 2)	FL 5354	
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Bertha HV Accordion Shutter (Combo)	FL 7279	
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Bertha HV Accordion Shutter (Combo)	FL 7288	Yes
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	High-Rise "Big Bertha" Accordion Shutter	FL 5303	Yes
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	Mid-Rise & Residential Accordion Shutter	FL 5133	Yes
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.	Eastern Metal Supply	RCE - 40/40MM Slat Roll Up Shutter	FL 5686	



• 1661 Glenlake Avenue • Itasca, IL 60143 • Tel: 630 529 7111 • Fax: 630 980 6364

Florida Department of Community Affairs  
Building Codes and Standards  
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

DAOG-DIC

3/5/06

Attn: Mr. Mo Madani.

Re: Request for a Declaratory Statement - Product Approval 9B-72

Dear Sirs:

This is our formal Request for a Declaratory Statement regarding the Product Approval 9B-72

We want to confirm that we can sell or give product testing to other entities for these other entities to apply and receive approvals under their own names. It will then be these entities responsibility to abide to manufacture according to the specifications approved by the state.

Specifically if we test a product with generic shapes, and components, we would like to be able to sell this testing to companies so they can reduce their costs for testing. It would then be these customers's responsibility for these approvals and the manufacture of the product to the approved specifications of the tested product done by us. We would have no responsibility or liability in the final sale, manufacture, or installation of the product.

For example a storm panel is fairly generic in shape. We could do the full testing to define specifications on shapes, gauges, materials, etc. and then sell these to those companies that want to make a storm panel to those specifications. That would reduce their cost for testing and bringing product to market. They could buy equipment to make the approved shape with materials in the approved type.

Thank you for your kind consideration

Sincerely,

James V. Miller  
President

James V. Miller  
President  
QMI Security Solutions  
1661 Glenlake Avenue  
Itasca, IL 60143  
Tel: 630 529 7111  
Fax: 630 980 6364



**AUTHORIZED VENDOR LIST**  
(11-30-06)

Company Name	Products	Contact	Address	City	Phone	Fax
All Points	Hurricane Hardware, Accordion Shutter Components & Accessories, etc.	Greg Mann	3161 SW 14th Court	Pompano Beach, FL	(800) 226-5555	(800) 582-6110
Alutech United	Roll Shutter Components	George Pfaller	15 Dixon Street	Selbyville, DE 19975	(800) 233-1144	(302) 436-5100
Classic Builders Supply	Bahama & Colonial Components	Customer Service	5420 Maule Way	Mangonia Park, FL	(866) 209-7229 & (561) 844-7850	(561) 842-8549
Die-Met	HY Hydraulic Punch Press/ Tool & Die	Randy	312 Sommerset Street	Sarasota, FL 34243	(941) 358-9432	(941) 358-9432
Dr. Shutter	Manufacturing Software	Mark Friedman	P.O. Box 248692	Coral Gables, FL 33124	(305) 667-1022	(305) 235-3344
Eastern Metal Supply	Aluminum Extrusions and Shapes	Customer Service	3600 23rd Avenue, South	Lake Worth, FL 33461	(800) 432-2204	(561) 588-4780
E-Tempest Software	Manufacturing Software, Permitting Software and Windload Calculator	David Reed	2918 NW 19th Terr.	Cape Coral, FL 33993	(239) 770-5027	(239) 790-3049
Florida Tool & Die	HY Hydraulic Punch Press/ Tool & Die	Tom Drotty	1312 Rupp Lane	Lake Worth, FL 33461	(561) 585-9686	(561) 585-8573
High Velocity Programs	Manufacturing Software	Linda Johnson	14283 Duckworth Road	Gulfport, MS 39503	(228) 328-2907	(228) 328-2823
Keystone Certifications	Quality Assurance Entity	Jon Hill	1790 Old Trail Road, Suite D	Etters, PA 17319	(717) 932-8500	
Master Aluminum	Colonial Hinges	Mario Calleja	930 Harbor Lake Ct.	Safety Harbor, FL 34695	(727) 776-0565	(727) 726-6134
National Accreditation & Management Institute (NAMI)	Quality Assurance Entity	Sharon Durand	11870 Merchants Walk, Suite 202	Newport News, VA 23606	(757) 594-8658	
Robinsnest Software	Manufacturing Software, Windload Calculator CD	Jim McCusker	P.O. BOX 730444	Ormond Beach, FL 32173	(386)-871-3877	(386)-673-7693
Rollac Shutters of Texas	Roll Shutter Components, Felt, etc.	Monty Montez	5331 West Orange Street	Pearland, TX 77581	(888) 2RO-LLAC	(281) 485-0839
Ultrafab, Inc.	Felt Distributor	Customer Service	1050 Hook Road	Farmington, NY 14425	(585) 924-2186	(585) 924-7680
Wrock Enterprises	Labels and Warning Stickers	Marty Wrock	1240 SW 25th Way	Boynton Beach, FL 33426	(561) 732-2940	(561) 732-8284



Dear New ASSA Member,

As you are aware, the American Shutter System Association (ASSA) has Florida Building Code (FBC) state product approvals available, which ASSA members and their customers are able to use for permitting purposes. However, in order to use these product approvals, it is a requirement under the Florida Building Code State Statutes (Chapter 9B-72) that ALL companies manufacturing shutters be enrolled within a state approved Quality Assurance program.

*Section 9B-72.070 Item 3, "Products listed in subsections 9B-72.060(1)-(8), F.A.C., shall be manufactured under a quality assurance program audited by an approved quality assurance entity; Section 9B-72.060 lists the category of products to include: (1) Panel Walls; (2) Exterior Doors; (3) Roofing Products; (4) Skylights; (5) Windows; (6) Shutters; (7) Structural components; and (8) Products comprising a building's envelope introduced as a result of new technology.*

In order for us to continue offering blanket product approvals, we are required to ensure that each manufacturing member is participating in a state approved Quality Assurance program. If your company is not participating in a state approved quality assurance program, as a new ASSA Member it will be required to participate in one. You can contact a state approved quality assurance entity (you may find a list at the Florida Building Code website [www.floridabuilding.org](http://www.floridabuilding.org)). We recommend the two entities listed below since as an ASSA member you will be able to obtain special pricing:

**Keystone Certifications, Inc.**  
1790 Old Trail Road, Suite D  
Etters, PA 17319  
(717) 932-8500

**National Accreditation & Management Institute**  
11870 Merchants Walk, Suite 202  
Newport News, VA 23606  
(757) 594-8658

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 800-432-2204.

Cordially,

Legny Santana  
Secretary  
ASSA, Inc.

**American Shutter Systems Association**  
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August 8, 2006

Dear New ASSA Member,

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Cordially,

Legny Santana  
Secretary  
ASSA, Inc.

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November 2, 2006

Dear ASSA Member,

As of today, we still have not received proof of your company's Quality Assurance Program. **IT'S MANDATORY THAT ALL ASSA MEMBERS HAVE A QA PROGRAM IN PLACE, AS REQUIRED BY FLORIDA STATUTE.**

*Section 9B-72.070 Item 3, "Products listed in subsections 9B-72.060(1)-(8), F.A.C., shall be manufactured under a quality assurance program audited by an approved quality assurance entity; Section 9B-72.060 lists the category of products to include: (1) Panel Walls; (2) Exterior Doors; (3) Roofing Products; (4) Skylights; (5) Windows; (6) Shutters; (7) Structural components; and (8) Products comprising a building's envelope introduced as a result of new technology.*

In order for us to continue offering blanket product approvals, we are required to ensure that each manufacturing member is participating in a state approved Quality Assurance program.

Please fill out the QA Compliance Form that follows and fax it back to our office (561-841-0852) along with a copy of your certificate of Quality Assurance as soon as possible. **Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the suspension of your ASSA privileges.**

If you shall have any questions or require any further information, please contact me at 800-432-2204 Ext. 1411.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Legny Santana".

Legny Santana  
Secretary  
ASSA, Inc.

**American Shutter Systems Association**  
4268 Westroads Dr., West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
1-800-432-2204 Local: (561) 841-5480  
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[www.amshutter.org](http://www.amshutter.org) [info@amshutter.org](mailto:info@amshutter.org)

# CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

National Accreditation & Management Institute, Inc.  
Confirms that:

**A and C Hurricane Shutters**  
1855 South West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite B-17  
Delray Beach, FL 33444

Participates within a Quality Assurance Program  
that complies with ISO/IEC 17020 & Guide 53.

A & C Hurricane Shutters' Quality Assurance ID #A-991-1

Quality Assurance Program for Hurricane Shutters  
and Fenestration Products manufactured or assembled  
at referenced location.

  
Tanya L. Wix, Assistant Administrator

Certificate Valid From 09/18/06 to 12/31/07

The NAMI Program is recognized as an approved quality assurance entity  
within the State of Florida #QUA1789.



American Shutter  
Systems Association, Inc.  
4268 Westroads Dr.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
Toll Free - 1-800-432-2204  
Local - 561-841-5480  
Fax - 561-841-0852

AMERICAN SHUTTER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Inspection Report

**Customer Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

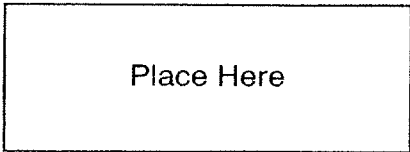
**ASSA #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Inspection:** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Occupational License
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proper Insurance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Screw - Length, Size, Alloy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness and hardness of blade and components
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proper lock assemblies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proper spacing per Tilteco drawings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Quality of workmanship
- \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Shutter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drawings approved by Tilteco (*Official Engineers of the ASSA*)

# Quality Control Inspection Report

1. Indicate NOA No. Inspected: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Quality Control representative present: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does company have a Quality Control program: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
4. Proper Insurance:   a. General Liability Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
                              b. Worker's Compensation Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
5. Types of Shutter: Storm Panels \_\_\_ Accordion Shutters \_\_\_ Roll-up Shutters \_\_\_
6. Product Identification: Permanent Sticker \_\_\_\_\_



Embossing \_\_\_\_\_

7. Drawings approved by official engineers of " \_\_\_\_\_ " association
8. Micrometer's readings:  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_  
Are readings acceptable: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
9. Webster Hardness readings:  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_  
Are readings acceptable: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
10. Proper spacing per engineering drawings: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
11. Appropriate hardware & lock components: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
12. Were any pictures taken: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
13. Is a re-inspection required: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
14. Frequency : Once per year \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Inspection performed by: \_\_\_\_\_



November 7, 2006

**RE: Non-compliant components and parts**

Dear ASSA Members:

It has come to our attention that ASSA manufacturing members have been solicited and are possibly using non-compliant and/or unauthorized components.

ASSA authorized components and parts include the approved mounting tracks, blades, jambs, slats, fasteners, and locking mechanisms that were tested to assemble and install all ASSA approved products.

Specific state and federal regulations and ASSA policies require that all ASSA members use only authorized components and parts when manufacturing ASSA approved products. Those regulations are covered under the ASSA Product Approvals, Miami-Dade Approvals, and The Florida Building Code. Also, if you provide hurricane protection products in the state of Florida, The Florida Building Code requires ALL manufacturers to have a Quality Assurance program in effect:

*Section 9B-72.070 Item 3, "Products listed in subsections 9B-72.060(1) – (8), F.A.C., shall be manufactured under a quality assurance program audited by an approved quality assurance entity; Section 9B-72.060 lists the categories of products to include: (1) Panel Walls; (2) Exterior Doors; (3) Roofing Products; (4) Skylights; (5) Windows; (6) Shutters; (7) Structural components; and (8) Products comprising a building's envelope introduced as a result of new technology.*

Purchase and use of non-compliant and/or unauthorized components fails to comply with the above codes and regulations.

For example, the product approved engineering for the ASSA Bertha HV™ Accordion states:

*Pins shall be coated with Bertha HV Dacroschild coating system as manufactured by approved coating applicators, registered with the American Shutter Systems Association.*

We understand that several non-compliant and/or unauthorized components use coatings from overseas companies which are neither approved nor registered with the ASSA.

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These components have never been tested in the HV™ system and thus their compatibility with the HV™ system is questionable at best.

A number of the Bertha HV™ Accordion components are protected by U.S. Patents and Trademarks. Any use of unauthorized parts or sales thus may infringe these patents and/or trademarks. Several companies have already agreed to voluntarily discontinue the improper underlying activity, and thus avoiding potential lawsuits.

There are a number of other serious problems for ASSA members using non-compliant parts and components. They include fraud, liability, voiding all approvals, and possible suspension of ASSA membership.

The intent of this letter is to inform you of your obligations and requirements as an ASSA member. The ASSA has spent a considerable amount of time and resources in developing approved quality hurricane protection products. Do not jeopardize the integrity of our organization, its products, or your business by using non-compliant and/or unauthorized components and parts.

If you have been solicited or are aware of the use of any non-compliant and/or unauthorized components or parts, please contact either myself or Legny Santana. Your cooperation in this critical matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bill Feeley  
President  
American Shutter Systems Association, Inc.

**American Shutter Systems Association**

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