

Technical / Marketing Bulletin 20-01

Imported Windows and Doors

Product: Differences between REHAU European and North American Formulations
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European Fabricated Windows – Imported into North America

As free trade continues to grow across all global destinations, there is an influx of new products into North America. Included is the importation of fabricated windows and doors, most of which are European-designed systems. REHAU is aligned with free markets and open trade practices.

This bulletin serves to delineate the differences that can occur between REHAU fabricated systems with profiles sold by REHAU North America, and REHAU fabricated systems with profiles sold by REHAU Europe.

REHAU North America uPVC Profiles

North America has many climatic zones. REHAU does not prohibit North American fabricators from selling into any of these zones. The profiles purchased through REHAU North America have additional UV protectant in order to perform better in high-radiation locations. Profiles made for European fabricators do not need the increased UV protection when used in Europe's low UV radiation areas. Since the European made vinyl has lower UV protection than those made in North America, they are not suitable for the higher UV radiation levels in North America. Those European made vinyl lineals with lower radiation protectant are not sold nor warranted by REHAU North America.

Competitor extruders also have the practice of developing a high UV-protectant North American formula and a European formula. Therefore, competitor imported windows and doors might also have insufficient UV protectant and might not be suitable for North American exposures.

European REHAU fabricators are allowed to purchase profiles formulated for North American exposures. That is one reason why all REHAU profiles are inkjet printed with date and article number, which defines the formula.

REHAU RAU-FIPRO™ Profiles (GENEO® System)

REHAU RAU-FIPRO articles are extruded solely in Wittmund, Germany. These profiles combine two materials – uPVC and fiberglass. The uPVC material in RAU-FIPRO profiles purchased through REHAU North American Sales Offices has the North American high UV-protectant content as described above. RAU-FIPRO extruded for the European market does not have the high UV protectant.

The fiberglass material in the RAU-FIPRO profiles extruded for and purchased through North American Sales Offices is lead free (Pb). AAMA does not certify profiles unless they have lead content of less than 200 ppm. REHAU North America adheres to AAMA guidelines. We are a standing member of AAMA and our plants in Germany and Mexico are AAMA certified.

The fiberglass material in the RAU-FIPRO profiles extruded for European consumption contains re-cycled material. This re-cycled material has vestiges of recycled window systems including Pb content that exceeds the levels allowed in North America. Window systems made with these European profiles are not warranted nor supported by REHAU North America.

European REHAU fabricators are allowed to purchase RAU-FIPRO profiles formulated for North American exposures and AAMA lead-content guidelines. This is one reason why all REHAU profiles are inkjet printed with date and article number, which defines the formula.

REHAU North America Support

REHAU understands that navigating international codes and requirements can be complex.

REHAU also wants to assist North American fabricators, North American dealers and international importers in procuring lineal profiles that best suit North American uses. If you have questions pertaining to this Technical Bulletin or, for that matter, any questions on how to grow your enterprise with REHAU, please contact us at windows.techsupport@rehau.com or (800) 247-9445.

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