

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, many 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 window and door systems made with profiles sold by REHAU North America and REHAU window and door systems made with profiles sold by REHAU Europe.

REHAU North America uPVC Profiles

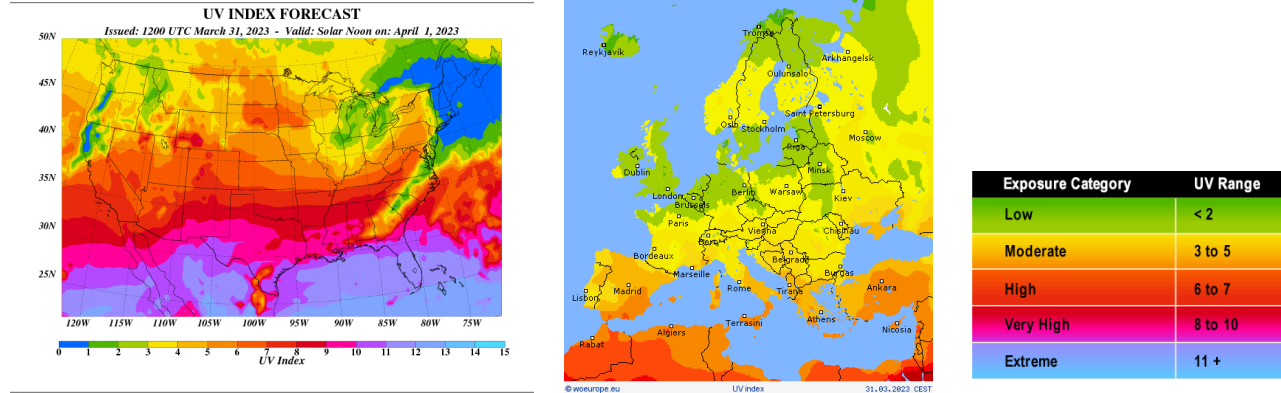
Formulation and Importance of Ultraviolet (UV) Resistance

North America has many climatic zones. Fabricators who buy profiles from REHAU North America Sales Offices can provide windows for installation in all of these zones. Profiles purchased through REHAU North America use a formulation which has additional UV protectant in order to withstand the high-radiation regions in North America.

Conversely, PVC profiles extruded for the fabrication of windows and doors to be installed exclusively in the European market do not require the additional UV protectant because Europe has lower UV radiation. **Profiles not made with the REHAU North American UV-protectant formulation are not sold nor warranted by REHAU North America.**

Using a higher UV-protectant formulation for the North American market compared to the formulation suitable for Europe is a common practice among PVC window and door profile extruders. Therefore, when importing fully fabricated windows and doors to North America, it is crucial for the buyer to make sure that the fabricator has used profiles formulated for North American UV-radiation exposures. Failure to do this, could result in product failure and unwanted legal costs. **REHAU does not warrant our profiles and disclaims liability if fabricators, dealers, developers, building owners or any other parties selling in North America neglect to use profiles formulated for North American UV-radiation exposures.**

UV Radiation United States vs Europe



Above images show UV index predicted values on April 1, 2023 for US cities per www.epa.gov and for European cities per www.weatheronline.co.uk

Formulation and Lead-free (Pb-free) Content Requirements

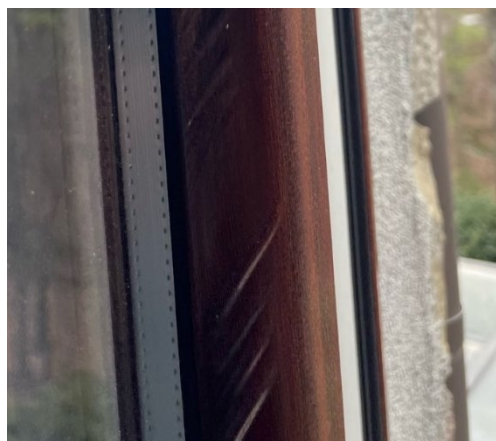
Per the American Architectural Manufacturing Association (AAMA), rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) exterior profiles used in windows and doors sold for installation in the North American market must be lead-free (Pb-free). The requirement applies to both domestic and offshore extruders of vinyl profiles. These profiles include those with decorative finishes such as paint, laminates and co-extruded capping compounds. Consequently, profiles purchased through REHAU North America use only materials that comply with the AMMA lead (Pb) content code requirement. Profiles purchased through other REHAU locations may contain lead.

European REHAU fabricators are allowed to purchase profiles formulated specifically for the North American market.

Laminated Profile Requirements for North American Market

Recognizing the growing demand for laminated PVC windows and doors, REHAU approves and warrants only:

- 1) Profiles made with the North American UV-protectant formulation in white, beige and clay core colors;
 - 2) Profiles made with the North American UV-protectant formulation and laminated by REHAU with RENOLIT Exofol FX (exterior and interior application) and/or Exofol MX (interior application only);
- for the production of windows and doors to be installed in the North American market.



Example of a window foil delamination in the North American market caused by use of a non-compliant laminate

REHAU RAU-FIPRO® Profiles Used in Geneo® 4700 and Aspekt+™ 1800 Systems

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

The RAU-FIPRO profiles extruded for and purchased through North American Sales Offices is Pb-free. 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 RAU-FIPRO profiles extruded for European consumption contain recycled material. This 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 specifically for the North American market. REHAU recommends that all fabricators, dealers, developers, building owners and other parties who do business in North America ensure that their windows and doors are fabricated with the correct formulation to avoid product failure and unwanted legal costs. **REHAU does not warrant our profiles and disclaims liability if fabricators, dealers, developers, building owners or any other parties selling in North America neglect to use profiles formulated for North American UV-radiation exposures.**

How to Check the Source of Your REHAU Profile

All REHAU profiles are inkjet printed with date, time, article number and formula nomenclature. If you have any doubt about the formulation used in your window / door profile, send us an image of the inkjet print line.

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 suitable for North American projects. 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.

For updates to this publication, visit na.rehau.com/resourcecenter

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