



10 Hurricane Product Approval Questions, **Answered**

The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season puts a familiar question back in front of building product manufacturers: Is the product ready for the place where it will be sold?

For manufacturers selling into Florida, Miami-Dade, the Gulf Coast, or other high-wind regions, hurricane testing is only one part of the approval process. Product approvals also depend on documentation, tested assemblies, design pressures, installation details, and the approval path tied to the product's intended use.

Below, **Vinu Abraham** P.E., Vice President of Products, answers 10 product approval questions manufacturers should ask before beginning hurricane testing or pursuing approval for high-wind and hurricane-prone markets. He has extensive experience in windborne debris requirements, protective glazing products, and hurricane-related testing, including impact, cyclic pressure, cyclic load, and water penetration testing.

1. Which Approval Path Applies to Your Product?

The right approval path depends on the product type, application, installation location, applicable code requirements, and target market.

Manufacturers may need Florida Product Approval, Miami-Dade Notice of Acceptance, or NOA, Product Certification,

“Hurricane product approval starts with understanding where the product will be used, how it will be installed, and which approval path applies.”

Independent 3rd Party Test Reports, An Evaluation Report, Engineering Support, or other documentation. The answer may change based on whether the product will be used statewide in Florida, in the High-Velocity Hurricane Zone (HVHZ), along the Gulf Coast, or in another high-wind region.

This is where manufacturers can lose time. If the target market changes after testing begins, the original test plan may not support the final approval goal.

2. How Is Miami-Dade Different From Florida Product Approval?

Miami-Dade approval and Florida Product Approval are separate approval paths with distinct review processes, application requirements, and documentation expectations.



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Florida Product Approval is a statewide system connected to the Florida Building Commission, while Miami-Dade approval is handled through Miami-Dade County's Product Control Section and is often associated with a Notice of Acceptance, or NOA. An NOA identifies the approved product or system, conditions of use, installation requirements, limitations, and supporting documentation.

For hurricane-related products, approval is tied to the tested and reviewed assembly, including the frame, anchorage, substrate, fasteners, installation method, size limits, and product configuration.

3. When Do High-Velocity Hurricane Zone Requirements Change the Approval Strategy?

The HVHZ, applies to Miami-Dade and Broward counties, where hurricane-related code requirements are stricter.

For manufacturers, HVHZ requirements can affect design pressures, impact resistance, pressure cycling, anchorage, installation documentation, test planning, and approval strategy. A product designed for general use in Florida may not automatically qualify for HVHZ use.

Manufacturers should identify HVHZ requirements before testing begins. Otherwise, they may complete testing that supports one market but falls short of the documentation or performance requirements needed for another.

4. What Documentation Should Be Ready Before Testing Begins?

Testing is only one part of hurricane product approval. The documentation package often determines how smoothly a product moves from lab testing to review, approval, and market use.

Manufacturers should be prepared to provide drawings, product specifications, bills of materials, component details, installation instructions, anchor schedules, substrate information, size ranges, configuration options, and intended applications. Engineering documentation may also be needed, depending on the product, approval path, and evaluation method.

Incomplete or inconsistent documentation can delay

testing, create questions during review, or limit how broadly a product approval can be used.

5. Which Tests Should Be Built into the Approval Plan?

Hurricane-related products may require testing for structural loading, impact resistance, cyclic pressure, air infiltration, water penetration, and full assembly structural performance.

The required testing depends on the product category, code path, target market, design pressures, and intended use. Windows, doors, glazing systems, shutters, wall systems, roofing, and related exterior components all have different performance considerations.

Testing should reflect how the product will be built and installed in the field. A test report for one size, material, anchor type, substrate, or configuration may not cover every version of the product.

6. Which Assembly Variables Can Change Test Results?

Hurricane testing is not limited to the visible product component. For many exterior products, the tested condition includes the full assembly and its ability to perform under required load, impact, pressure cycling, air, or water conditions.

Frames, fasteners, anchors, substrates, installation methods, product dimensions, glazing options, coatings, reinforcement, and approved configurations can all affect results. A product that performs in one tested setup may not carry that same performance to another size, frame type, anchorage condition, substrate, or installation detail.

Assembly variables should be defined before testing begins so the test plan supports the intended approval path, product range, and market use.

7. How Much Product Variation Can One Test Support?

One test does not automatically cover every product size, option, or configuration.



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Manufacturers often seek approval for an entire product line, not a single tested unit. That may include multiple sizes, frame depths, glazing types, anchors, substrates, finishes, reinforcements, or installation conditions. Each variation should be reviewed to determine whether it can be covered by the test plan, engineering analysis, certification scope, or approval documentation.

This planning step can reduce the risk of testing a configuration that is too narrow, only to find later that additional sizes or options need separate support.

8. What Causes Delays in Hurricane Product Approval?

Approval delays often come from decisions made before the product enters the lab.

Common causes include testing before the product is production-ready, changing materials or suppliers after testing, missing drawings, unclear anchorage details, incomplete installation instructions, mismatched test configurations, unresolved design pressures, or choosing the wrong approval path for the intended market.

Another common issue is assuming one approval covers every use. Product approvals are tied to specific conditions, configurations, limitations, and installation details, so a better process starts with a defined product scope, target market, test plan, and documentation package.

9. What Drives Timeline and Cost?

Product approval timelines and costs vary based on product complexity, number of configurations, required tests, lab scheduling, engineering review, certification needs, documentation, and application timing.

A single product in one configuration will have a different cost profile than a full product line with multiple sizes, glazing options, substrates, anchors, frame types, or installation conditions.

The target market and required approval path should be confirmed early. That helps reduce the chance of paying for testing or documentation that does not support the intended use.

10. Where Can Early Technical Review Reduce Rework?

Early technical reviews can help manufacturers connect the product, target market, test plan, documentation, and approval strategy before testing begins.

That review may include confirming applicable standards, identifying the intended approval path, reviewing assembly details, developing a test plan, conducting performance testing, preparing reports, supporting certification, and helping manufacturers understand what information may be needed for Florida Product Approval, Miami-Dade approval, or other code-related pathways.

The goal is to align testing with the approval strategy from the start so manufacturers can reduce rework, avoid preventable delays, and move toward market access with a clearer plan.

Before Testing Begins

Hurricane product approval can change based on product configuration, installation details, design pressures, documentation, and intended market use. Those decisions can affect testing, review, approval, and the need for additional support later.

Intertek can help manufacturers review product details early, identify applicable standards, plan testing, and support Florida Product Approval, Miami-Dade NOA, and other hurricane-related approval paths.

To learn more, [click here](#).

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