

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Light Color Spandrel**Color Variations—**

There exists some commonly overlooked design concerns in the use of light colored spandrel in commercial construction. Although the *Manufacturing Specifications and General Information* bulletin, as published by Virginia Glass Products, addresses all aspects of the use, appearance, and installation of spandrel glass, the purpose of this technical bulletin is to emphasize a few points in order to assure that you and your customer receive a product that is acceptable to all concerned.

The color of spandrel panels can vary slightly from production run to production run, and even from lite to lite within the same production run. This slight variation, though present in all colors, is more apparent in lighter colors, especially white. The reasons for this color variation are one or a combination of the following factors that are typically beyond the control of this or any other spandrel manufacturer:

- The 1/4" clear glazing quality architectural glass used in the manufacture of glass spandrel panels is not completely clear. Industry standard "clear" glass actually has a greenish hue which can vary with the amount of iron oxide in the glass batch as manufactured by the raw glass supplier.
- The precise pigment formulation used by the paint supplier in the production of ceramic enamel frit paint can drift from batch to batch yielding slight variations in the color's appearance.
- The thickness of the paint applied to the glass will vary. Although the coater is set at a target thickness the actual thickness of the glass can vary within an acceptable tolerance by as much as .025" as manufactured by the raw glass supplier.

All of the above factors, independently or in combination, can cause slight color differences in the finished spandrel product. Though these factors are inherent in all spandrel colors, they are more noticeable in light colored spandrel.

Read-Through in Light Colors—

Non-uniformity of color density, which is also characteristic of all ceramic frit spandrel, can produce read-through which is eliminated when the panel is properly backed-up. In some instances with very pale or light colors, however, it can be evident even in properly backed-up panels and may not meet the visual criteria expected by the customer. If the customer feels that a denser application of paint will better meet their needs VGP recommends that they request a double-coat/double-fire process. This process involves applying a second coat of ceramic paint to the spandrel panel and then heat-strengthening or tempering it again. This results in a denser coating, **but is in no way a guarantee of complete opacity or uniformity.**

Special Note—

As spandrel is designed to be viewed from the building's exterior, fully "backed-up," we cannot assume any responsibility for non-uniformity of color appearance or density, "read-through," or pinholes which appear in spandrel panels which are used in inappropriate applications, with improper "back-up," or without "back-up."