



CITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

CODE MEMORANDUM

To: Department of Buildings Plan Examiners and Inspectors

From: Judith Frydland
Commissioner 

Date: July 8, 2016

Re: **Glass as a Structural Material in Awnings and Canopies**

The use of glass as a structural material in entry canopies supported by or suspended from beams, channels, or spider clip type systems is allowed subject to the following requirements:

1. The glass shall meet the requirements of Chapter 24 of the 2015 International Building Code Chapter 24 (IBC 2015) and any applicable structural requirements contained in the Chicago Building Code.
2. The glass in the awning or canopy shall be laminated.
3. A structural finite element analysis of the glass is required to be submitted as part of the permit documents to demonstrate that the glass is capable of supporting design loads with the required safety factor.

Please Note: Other uses of glass as a structural material such as glass beams, glass structural floors, stair treads and landings, glass bridges etc. will be reviewed and approved by the Department on a case by case basis and may require approval from the Committee on Standards and Tests.