



Does Your

Roll-Up Door Measure Up?

A discussion on wind loads.

The recent hurricanes that hit the East and Gulf Coasts serve as a vivid reminder of the importance of wind load codes. Although the storms have made more homeowners aware of wind load guidelines, it's not something new to the building industry. It's crucial that door manufacturers understand all building codes when designing doors, particularly when selling to areas prone to high winds and storms. The most common building code is the IBC.

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(IBC) is a comprehensive building code establishing minimum design standards for building design. A key component of the code is structural loading; therefore, it is critical to consider wind load when comparing doors.

How is door capacity tested?

Resistance to wind load is measured by negative or "suck-out" wind load resistance and positive "push-in" pressure. Steel doors are rated according to design wind load, which is expressed in pounds per square foot (PSF). More resistant doors have higher wind load ratings.

Below is an example of how MPH converts to PSF on a building with a 3:12 pitch roof:

MPH	PSF
110	22.0
120	26.3
130	30.8

*A 9'0"W door with IBC exposure B.

Trac-Rite doors measure up!

All Trac-Rite door models, both standard and windlock, are put through rigorous wind testing (ASTM E-330). The testing is witnessed and certified by an independent test lab. Additionally, the deep ribs in the profile of the door and thick 26-gauge (0.018" min.) steel add to the overall strength of the door. These factors are what make Trac-Rite doors the roll-up door of choice.

What is the IBC?

The International Building Code

Door Width	944	944WL	955	955WL	988WL
5'-0"	56.0		56.0		
6'-0"	42.0		42.0		
7'-0"	30.0		30.0		
8'-0"	24.0	33.0	24.0	33.0	
8'-8"	20.5	33.0	20.4	33.0	
9'-0"	19.5	32.0	20.0	32.0	
10'-0"	15.0	32.0	17.0	32.0	
11'-0"	11.0	32.0	14.0	32.0	
12'-0"			12.0	32.0	29.0
13'-0"					24.0
14'-0"					24.0
15'-0"					21.0
16'-0"					21.0

So much more than PSF.

There are many other important factors that weigh into a door's ability to achieve a specified wind load rating. For instance, the type of structure the door will be installed in and its external environment both play a role. Roof pitch, door location, and terrain can also affect the design loads.



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*Certified PSF ratings for Trac-Rite door models.