



## FABRICATOR'S GUIDE TO

# MARINE GLAZING

the difference is clear to see



Strataglass, CrystalClear and Vybak are the market leading products for marine clear enclosures. The following content is designed to demonstrate the comprehensive quality control that is undertaken in the manufacturing process, as well as provide helpful fabrication tips.

### Quality Control

Strataglass has been servicing the marine market since 1994. In 2015, Herculite Products Inc. acquired the Strataglass LLC brand for the purpose of expanding the marine offering which also includes Riviera Marine Fabric®. Herculite is renowned in the industry for innovative thinking and operational excellence. They have applied the same care and quality to the already reputable Strataglass brand.

Prior to packaging, each sheet is carefully inspected at the manufacturing facility in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This careful inspection process involves seven (7) quality control parameters that define the Strataglass quality standard. Quality inspectors use both visual procedures, as well as a digital clarity meter & micrometer to measure the established Quality Control (QC) parameters and determine the pass/fail analysis.

Whilst stringent quality control measures are in place, it is still imperative that the marine fabricator inspects each sheet prior to fabrication. We recommend viewing all sheets thoroughly prior to fabrication, as returning cut sheets impacts on warranty approval. This can be achieved when polishing all sheets prior to fabrication. The action is a preventative move and gives the opportunity to inspect the whole sheet.



## Fabrication Guidelines

### Storage

Options include keeping the product in the drum until ready for fabrication, or building a 1500mm x 2900mm fabric-lined storage facility and laying the sheets with tissue paper between each layer.

### Preparation

It is recommended that sheets are laid flat on a table in a relatively warm room the night before fabrication. The cutting table should have a soft layer (soft automotive carpet) on top to prevent scratching.

Any paper marks, 'cloudiness' or sharp impressions should be removed with a heat gun, common hair dryer or direct exposure to the sun. Hold the heat gun 10-15cm away from product and work in 30cm areas at a time. Only apply for a few minutes and be careful not to overheat or concentrate the heat in one area for any length of time.

It is recommended that all sheets are polished with IMAR protective polish prior to fabrication. This removes static and allows for better movement over the workspace. Furthermore, it is recommended to polish the clear panels once finished and before installation.

### Stitching

Both polyester (Sunguard B138) and polytetrafluoroethylene PTFE (Solarfix) are ideal sewing threads. Stitch spacing is recommended at approximately 6 stitches per inch however, it is ultimately a matter of preference. For PTFE thread it is recommended to use MR needles rather than standard needles.

The size of the needle is dependent on the machine and it is recommended that a new needle is fitted prior to manufacturing a new set of clears. Please consult your mechanic for optimum needle size when using press polished clears. The needle size ultimately depends on the machine as well as personal preference.

### Installation

It is recommended to transport the completed job to the boat with paper left between each window.

When installing in colder weather, it is ideal that the enclosure is heated during the installation. Product installed tightly in the cold may relax and appear to fit loosely when warmer weather returns. Once installed, apply the IMAR Protective Cleaner to thoroughly clean the enclosure panels. When handing over the completed job to the vessel owner, ensure a copy of the Consumer Care & Use Guide is on hand at all times for protection of their investment.

New Pressed Polished PVC is soft and easily impressionable. It is recommended that new enclosures remain in the installed position and stay fastened securely as much as possible. If the new curtains must be removed, the enclosure panels should be carefully interleaved with a soft fabric such as a bed sheet and stored flat. The vinyl will inherently strengthen over time and become less impressionable. When the boat is not in use, always close and fasten the enclosure panels in place to prolong the life of your curtains and maintain clarity.

**NOTE:** The content in this brochure is suggested instructions and not part of the terms and conditions stipulated in the product warranties.