

DSS-A.01.03 | Assembly / Internal Conditions

Desiccant Dust / Fines in IGU Cavity

Diagnosis summary

Particulate fines (typically white/gray) released from or tracked by the spacer/desiccant system within an insulating glass unit (IGU) cavity. Presents on cavity faces (#2 and/or #3) and is not accessible in-place. IGU surface numbering and "between-pane" determination follow the VIS conventions.

Field identification cues

- Location cue (parallax): Fixed parallax confirming #2/#3 cavity faces → record as a between-pane condition.
- MSRT (surface-catch): Not applicable to the cavity faces; do not attempt tactile checks on inboard/outboard faces to infer between-pane relief.
- Surface numbering on forms: Log #1-#4 per VIS and note "cavity (#2/#3)" in remarks.

Classification, severity and scope

- CAT-5 (Non-repairable / out of in-place scope by location). Between-pane/cavity contaminants are not addressable in place; document and refer per project protocol (manufacturer/warranty/replacement).

Distinguishing criteria

- vs. Exterior/interior dust or paint specks (R-family): Face-side residues change with Non-Invasive Reveal; true cavity fines do not. Use parallax to confirm between-pane location.
- vs. Spacer smear/bleed (A.01.04): Smear appears as continuous bands/films along the spacer sightline rather than discrete specks; both are CAT-5 by location.
- vs. Low-E coating rub/patchiness on worked surface (Co-family): Coating anomalies are on an exposed worked face and are disallowed at acceptance; cavity fines sit behind the face (CAT-5).

Documentation and inspection

- Photo set (VIS): 12 / 36 / 72 in, normal + oblique; include raking frames and at least one sequence demonstrating fixed parallax relative to the reflection.
- Forms: Pane ID; product family; surface numbering (#1-#4; laminate-internal); "cavity (#2/#3)" noted; lighting/time; geometry checklist.
- Narrative note: "Between-pane particulate; non-responsive to Non-Invasive Reveal; CAT-5 by location." (VIS separates classification from acceptance; factory/warranty governs).

Safety / repairability boundary: Complete only the non-invasive reveal and inspection steps authorized by the controlling VIS guidance. Classification does not authorize restoration, establish acceptance, or override stop-work, coating, crack, integrity, access, chemical, fall-protection, or project-specific requirements.

Full DSS publication: use the catalog download. Web specification:

<https://a7df714357.nxcli.io/learning-center/resource-center/damage-specification-standards/dss-a-01-03-desiccant-dust-fines-in-igu-cavity/>