

DSS-U.01.05 | Uncertain / Mixed Mechanisms

Non-Directional Milky Field, Low Contrast (Undetermined)

Unknown mechanism - broad low-contrast haze without obvious directionality, rings, runs, or discrete particulates; may reflect weathering, aged films, or incipient micro-texture; typically SC-0 to SC-1 across the field

Diagnosis summary

Non-directional milky field (low contrast) is an appearance change characterized by a broad, subtle, "milky" veil over part or all of a lite without clear directional patterning, annular halos, runs/drips, or discrete peppering/pits. Possible contributors include aged organic films, very early environmental weathering, soft chemical exposure short of distinct etch, or legacy maintenance residues.

Field identification cues

- Surface-catch class (MSRT)
- Frequently SC-0 (film-on-top or purely optical veil).
- SC-1 where incipient micro-texture is present (very shallow relief detectable only by careful pass).
- Perform one light, non-marring pass on a small revealed test patch within the field and on adjacent clear control. Use a polymer stylus if a functional coating is suspected. MSRT supports classification only.

Classification, severity and scope

- Assign CAT by visibility at acceptance geometry and MSRT after a reveal patch. Depth values are indicative-field measurement not required.
- CAT-1 (Benign / non-relief): Subtle veil visible mainly at oblique/raking; SC-0; clears on reveal patch or reduces markedly. Indicative relief: 0-10 µm (optical/film only).
- CAT-2 (Light): Persistent low-contrast milkiness post-reveal with localized SC-1; limited impact at standard distance. Indicative relief: ~10-40 µm.
- CAT-3 (Moderate): Pane-noticeable haze at standard distance, SC-1 consistent across field; indicates dwell/aging or incipient micro-texture. Indicative relief: ~40-120 µm.
- Reclassify when (diagnostic cues emerge):

Distinguishing criteria

- vs. Surfactant/detergent film (R.04.01): Surfactant films often show iridescent colors and wipe path geometry; U.01.05 lacks pathing and may respond weakly to reveal.
- vs. Atmospheric matte (E.01.02): Atmospheric matte may bias to edges/rivulets; U.01.05 often appears mid-field with soft boundaries.
- vs. Coating anomalies (Co): Coating issues are face-specific and planar; confirm face identity and look for lot-wide repetition.

Documentation and inspection

- Photo set (VIS): 12 / 36 / 72 in, normal + oblique; raking macros to demonstrate absence of lines/rings/pits; a wetting response frame (where permitted) to show sheet/bead.
- MSRT results: After a small reveal test patch, record SC-class for field (SC-0/SC-1) and adjacent control (SC-0).
- Forms: Pane ID; product family & surface numbering; worked surface Y/N; functional coating on worked surface?

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-u-01-05-non-directional-milky-field-low-contrast-undetermined/>