

DSS-V.01.01 | Vandalism

Sandblast / Abrasive-Blast Etch (Uniform Frosted Field)

Intentional surface modification - abrasive impact removal of surface glass; uniformly matte/frosted fields with boundary masks; typically SC-2 across worked areas; depth depends on media, pressure, dwell, and mask design

Diagnosis summary

Sandblast / abrasive-blast etch is an appearance change on glass produced by propelled abrasive media (e.g., silica, aluminum oxide, garnet, glass bead, soda) that erodes the surface to create uniform or patterned matte/frosted fields. Presentations include full-field frosting, masked graphics, and stencil lettering. Classification is appearance-only per VIS (method-agnostic).

Field identification cues

- Surface-catch class (MSRT)
- SC-2 typical across blasted fields (distinct interruption, granular feel).
- SC-1 at light/feathered work or overspray halos; SC-0 outside the worked area.
- Perform one light, non-marring pass on a small revealed test patch (substrate). 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-2 (Light): Feathered/overspray halo only; SC-1 within halo; limited standard-view impact outside raking. Indicative relief: ~10-40 µm.
- CAT-3 (Moderate): Defined decorative/graphic blast with clear matte field legible at standard distance; SC-2 prevalent within field. Indicative relief: ~40-150 µm.
- CAT-4 (Severe): Full-field or deep decorative blast producing high-contrast frosting visible at standard and wide-field views; SC-2 throughout, occasionally with micro-pitting from coarse media.
- Reclassify when: If the presentation is acid-etched (chemical) rather than abrasive → V.02.02 / Ch.01.02 per chemistry; if linear score lines with chip flanks dominate → M.01; if fused metallic peppering.

Distinguishing criteria

- vs.
- vs. Coating anomalies (Co-family): Coating patchiness is planar on designated coated faces and lacks mask-sharp boundaries; blasting shows hard edges and granular catch.

Documentation and inspection

- Photo set (VIS): 12 / 36 / 72 in, normal + oblique; raking macros of field texture and mask edge; context frames of full graphic/field. Record distance/angle in-frame.
- MSRT result (substrate): After a small reveal test patch, perform one light, non-marring pass in field and outside as control; record SC-class (SC-2 field, SC-0 control).
- Forms: Pane ID; product family & surface numbering; worked surface Y/N; functional coating present 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-v-01-01-sandblast-abrasive-blast-etch-uniform-frosted-field/>