# **AERCalc V 1.5**

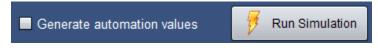
**User Guide** 

**Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory** 

September 4, 2025

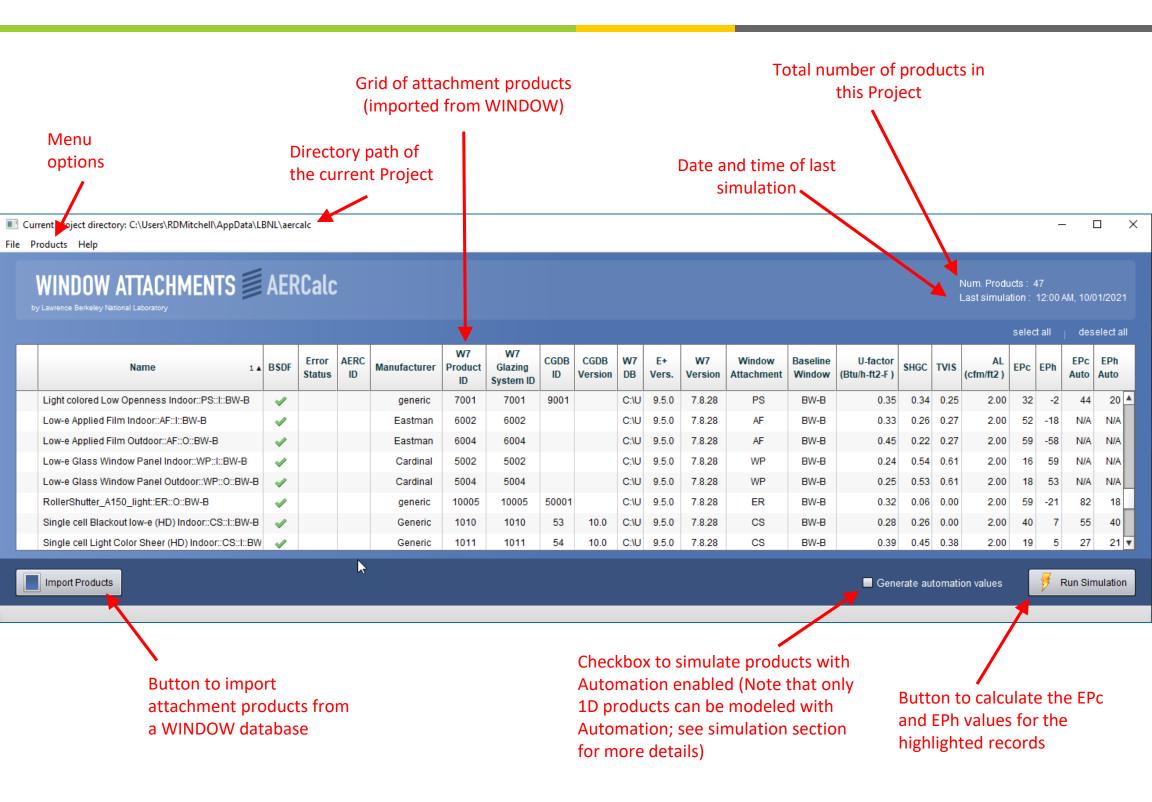
### **AERCalc Workflow**

- Import the attachment products from the WINDOW Window Library
  - O When you first open AERCalc, there are no records in the main screen
- Save as a Project if desired
  - The default location is C:\Users\<usename>\AppData\LBNL\aercalc but a project can be saved to any directory
- Edit the record as needed
  - Adjust the AL value if needed (for fixed products such as Window Panels)
  - o Add an **AERC ID** value if needed
- Simulate the products (select the records and click the simulate button)
  - Check the "Generate automation values" if those results are desired



- Export the products (for the AERC CPD) and edit as needed
  - Edit the Manufacturer or Material Manufacturer if needed
  - o For Venetian blinds and vertical louvers, copy the **U-factor**, **SHGC** and **Tvis** values from the appropriate child record to the parent record

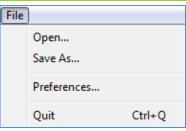
### **Main Screen: Overview**

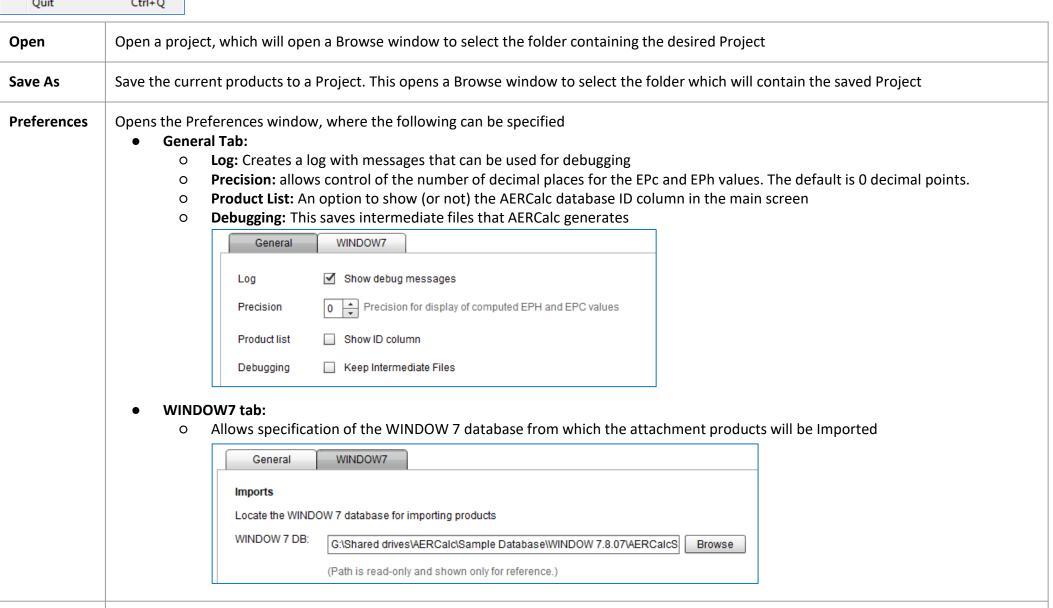


#### Main Screen: File Menu

Closes the program

Quit



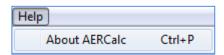


### **Main Screen: Products Menu**

Proc	lucts	
	Select All	Ctrl+A
	Deselect All	Ctrl+Shift+A
	Simulate	Ctrl+S
	Import	Ctrl+I
	Export as CSV	Ctrl+E
	Delete	Ctrl+D

Select All	Selects all products in the grid
Deselect All	Unselects all the products in the grid
Simulate	Starts the calculation of the EPc and EPh values for all the selected products. Equivalent to clicking the Simulate button
Import	Opens the Import dialog box, which allows selection of attachment products to be imported into AERCalc from the WINDOW database specified in the File/Preferences menu, WINDOW tab
Export as CSV	Exports all the records in the grid to a CSV file
Delete	Deletes any selected records

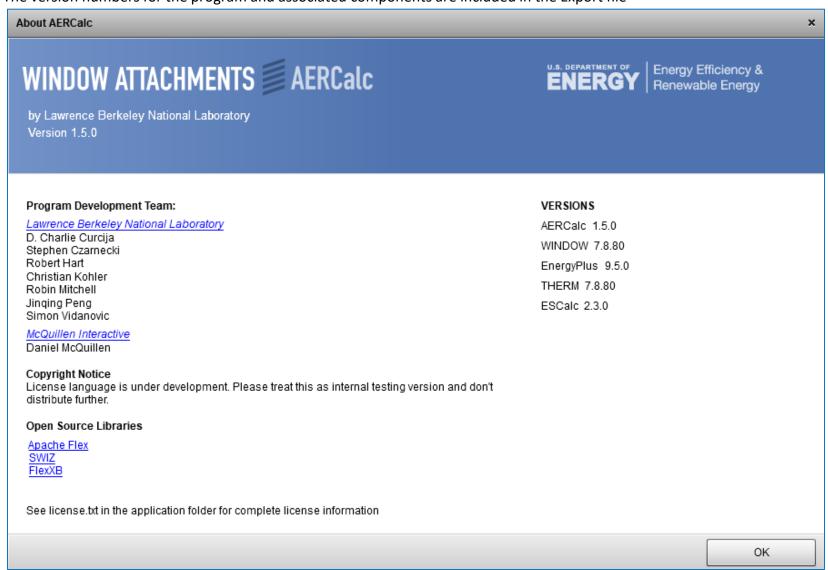
### Main Screen: Help Menu



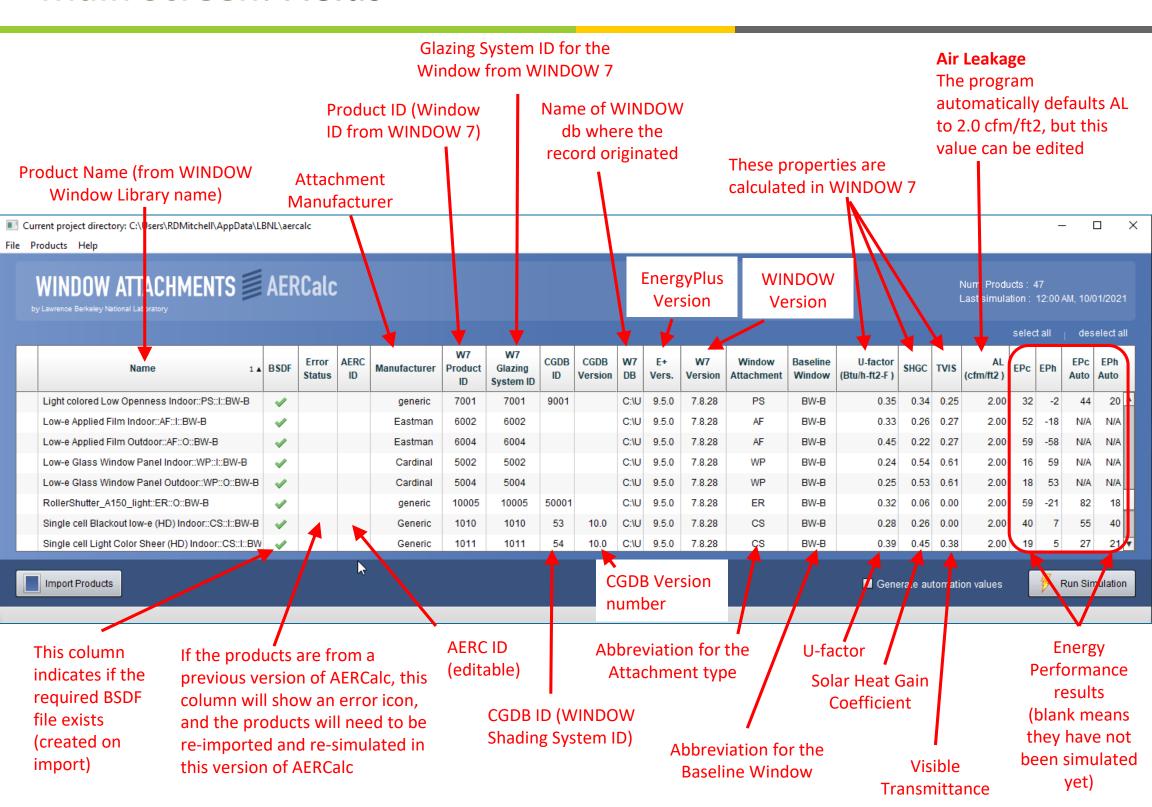
#### About AERCalc

Shows the About screen, which indicates the version numbers of AERCalc and associated components, as well as developers and license information.

The version numbers for the program and associated components are included in the Export file



### **Main Screen: Fields**



## **Main Screen: Field Descriptions**

Name	Name of the Attachment product, from the Window Library in WINDOW. It must have a prescribed format. A Window record without this name format can not be imported into AERCalc <name>::<shadetype><slat tilt="">::<attachment position="">::BW<basecase id="" window=""></basecase></attachment></slat></shadetype></name>									
BSDF	When importing a product from WINDOW, a BSDF file is generated (and stored in a subfolder called BSDF below where the AERCalc database is located). This must exist in order to calculate the EPc/EPh values. The program will show an icon indicating the existence (or not) of this file.  • A green checkmark means that the file exists and the product can be simulated  • A red X means that the file does not exist and the product must be re-imported into AERCalc from WINDOW  X									
Error Status	If the product was imported in a previous version of AERCalc, a warning icon appears, showing the older version numbers. In this case the product must be re-imported (and a new BSDF file generated) and re-simulated in AERCalc									
AERC ID	A user-editable field that can be used for any type	e of iden	tifying reference. It is blank by default.							
Manufacturer	The Manufacturer from WINDOW as follows:  • For AP and WP, it is the Manufacturer from the WINDOW Glass Library  • For all others, it is the Manufacturer from the WINDOW Shading Layer Library									
W7 Product ID	The ID from the WINDOW Window Library (that w	vas impo	orted into AERCalc)  ID # 1003  Name Single cell	Light color (l						
W7 Glazing System ID	The ID from the WINDOW Glazing System Library	used fo		ingle cell Lig	ht color (Le	evolor) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B				
CGDB ID	The ID from the WINDOW Shading Layer Library	he ID from the WINDOW Shading Layer Library  ID #: 50  Name: Cellular Shade. Single cell, light color								
CGDB Version	The CGDB Version number for the product, as shown in the WINDOW Shading Layer Library	ID	Name	Source	Version					
		50	Cellular Shade. Single cell, light color	CGDB	10.00					

## Main Screen: Field Descriptions (cont'd)

W7 DB	The name (including complete directory path) of the WINDOW database the product was imported from, for example the default database is found here.
	C:\Users\RDMitchell\AppData\LBNL\aercalc\W7
E+ Version	The EnergyPlus program version used to simulate the products. This is also listed in AERCalc Help/About
W7 Version	The WINDOW 7 program version used when importing the product from WINDOW into AERCalc. This can be found in WINDOW in the Help/About menu option
Window Attachment	The abbreviation for the Attachment Product Type  AF: Applied Film  AO: Operable Awning  AS: Seasonal Awning  AY: Fixed Awning  CS: Cellular Shade  ER: Roller Shutter  SS: Solar Screen  PS: Pleated Shade  RS: Roller Shade  RS: Roller Shade  RM: Roman Shade  VB: Venetian Blind  VL: Vertical Louver  WP: Window Panel
Baseline Window	The abbreviation for the AERC baseline window. The initial window is BW-B, but in the future there will be windows BW-A through BW-G
U-factor (Btu/h-ft²-ºF)	U-factor of the product from the WINDOW Window Library. This is calculated by WINDOW. If this value is zero, recalculate it in WINDOW and reimport the product into AERCalc
SHGC	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient of the product from the WINDOW Window Library. This is calculated by WINDOW. If this value is zero, recalculate it in WINDOW and reimport the product into AERCalc
TVIS	Visible Transmittance of the product from the WINDOW Window Library. This is calculated by WINDOW. If this value is zero, recalculate it in WINDOW and reimport the product into AERCalc
AL (cfm/ft²)	Air Leakage of the product. The default value assigned on import is 2.0 cfm/ft2, but this field is user editable and can be changed as needed.

## Main Screen: Field Descriptions (cont'd)

EPc	The Energy Performance value for cooling, calculated by highlighting records and clicking the Simulate button on the main AERCalc screen.
EPh	The Energy Performance value for heating, calculated by highlighting records and clicking the Simulate button on the main AERCalc screen.
EPc Auto	The Energy Performance value for cooling with Automation, calculated by highlighting records and clicking the Simulate button on the main AERCalc screen with the "Generate Automation values" checked.
EPh Auto	The Energy Performance value for heating with Automation, calculated by highlighting records and clicking the Simulate button on the main AERCalc screen with the "Generate Automation values" checked.

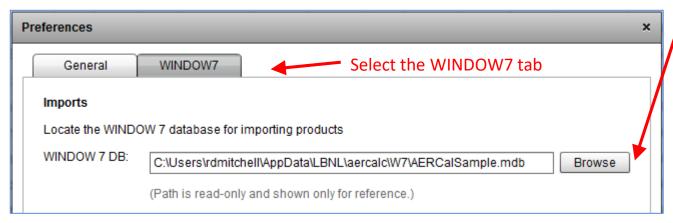
### **Import Products: Specify WINDOW 7 Database**

File / Preferences: Specify the WINDOW 7 database to import products from

The default WINDOW database in File/Preferences is located in the W7 subdirectory of the default AERCalc working directory:
 Go to the File/

C:\Users\<username>\AppData\LBNL\aercalc\W7

- To change to another database
  - O Click on the **File/Preferences** menu option
  - Select the WINDOW7 tab and use the Browse button to select another WINDOW 7 database
  - O The database specified here will be the database that EP Calc opens when the **Import** button is clicked



Use the Browse button to select another WINDOW 7 database, such as the default database in the WINDOW 7 working directory, or any other WINDOW 7 database. (The default database is called AERCalcSample.mdb and is located in: C:\Users\<username>\AppData\LBNL\aercalc\W7

File

Open... Save As..

Quit

Preferences.

Preferences menu option

Ctrl+Q

Make sure that all the needed XML, THMX, and other associated files (referenced by WINDOW) are in the correct folders for the selected database.

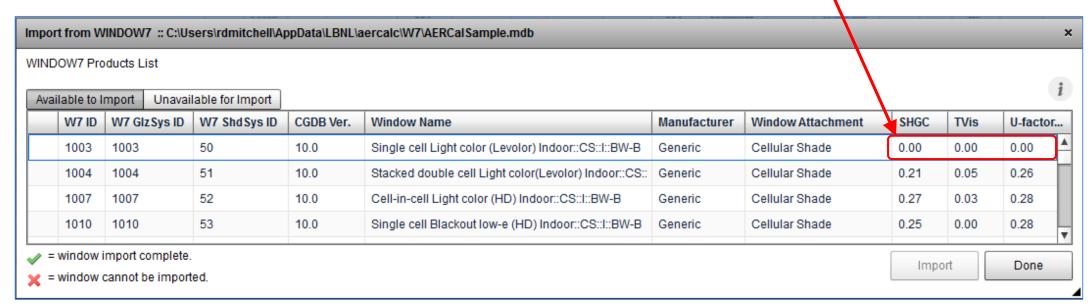
The easiest way to check this is to calculate (in WINDOW) the Windows that you want to import. If they calculate in WINDOW, AERCalc will be able to simulate them

### **Import Products: Calculate Products in WINDOW**

#### In WINDOW: Make sure to calculate the products in WINDOW before importing them

ID	Name	Туре	Width	Height	Ufactor	SHGC	Tvis
			mm	mm	W/m2-K		
1003	Single cell Light color (Levolor) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	Fixed (picture)	1200	1500	?	?	?
1004	Stacked double cell Light color(Levolor) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	Fixed (picture)	1200	1500	1.494	0.214	0.046
1007	Cell-in-cell Light color (HD) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	Fixed (picture)	1200	1500	1.564	0.270	0.029
1010	Single cell Blackout low-e (HD) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	Fixed (picture)	1200	1500	1.584	0.249	0.000
1011	Single cell Light Color Sheer (HD) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	Fixed (picture)	1200	1500	1.944	0.434	0.420

If the products have not been calculated in WINDOW, when the program imports them, there will be zeros for SHGC, TVis and U-factor.



If you then try to simulate a product with zeros for SHGC, Tvis and U-factor, you will get an error message.

You will need to calculate the product in WINDOW and reimport it.



### **Import Products: Import from WINDOW database**

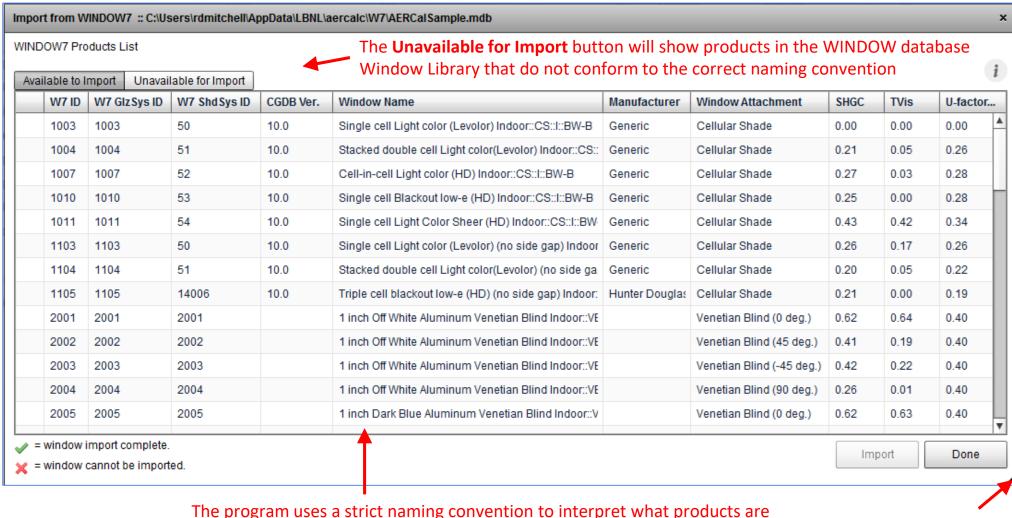
#### Click the Import Products button on the main screen to open the import window



Click the **Import Products** button on the main screen to see the list of products from a WINDOW database

The products modeled in WINDOW will be displayed (AERCalc reads the WINDOW database)

If there are many records in the WINDOW database, it may take while to display the list – be patient!



The program uses a strict naming convention to interpret what products are represented, so it is important to get the naming convention right. (See the next page)

Change the screen size with this resize handle

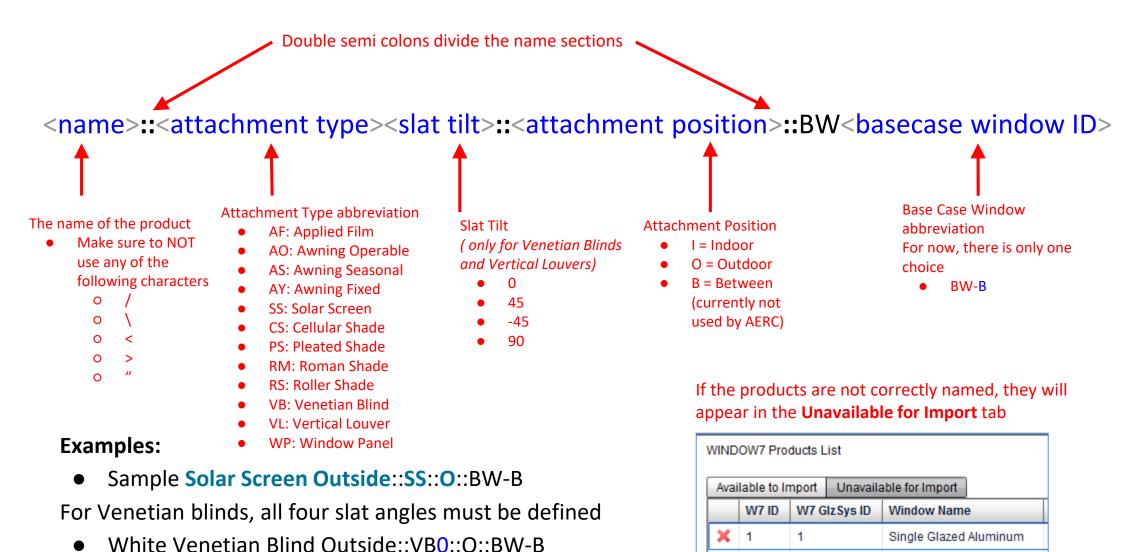
### **Import Products: Naming Convention**

White Venetian Blind Outside::VB45::O::BW-B

White Venetian Blind Outside::VB-45::O::BW-B

White Venetian Blind Outside::VB90::O::BW-B

Here is the naming convention to use in WINDOW when creating products



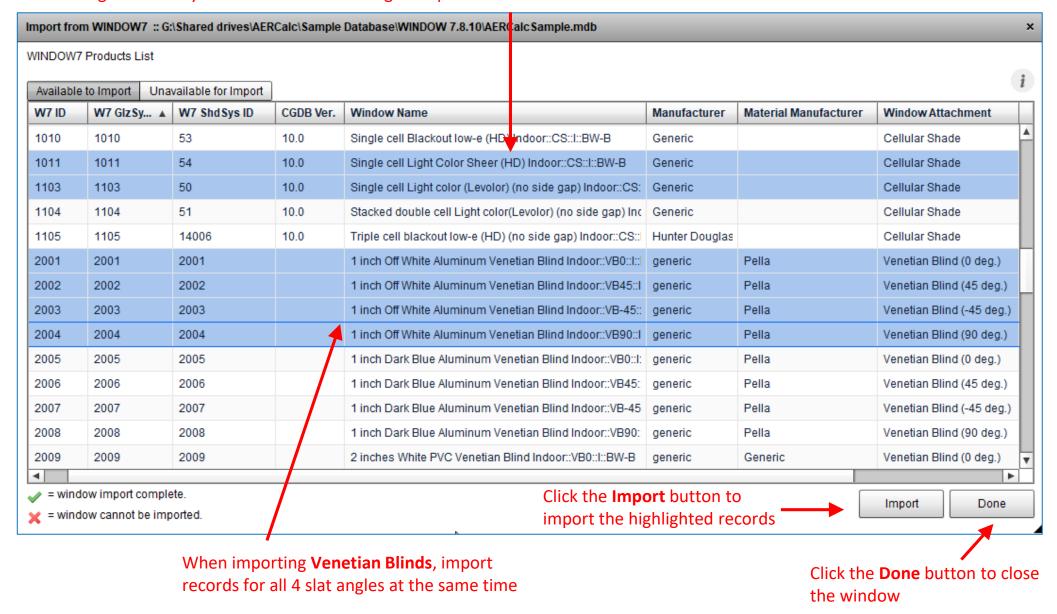
For Venetian Blinds, make sure that all the names are IDENTICAL except for the slat tilt -- the program will not be able to import them if they are not identical

### **Import Products: Select Products to Import**

#### Highlight the products to import and click the Import button

Highlight the products you want to import

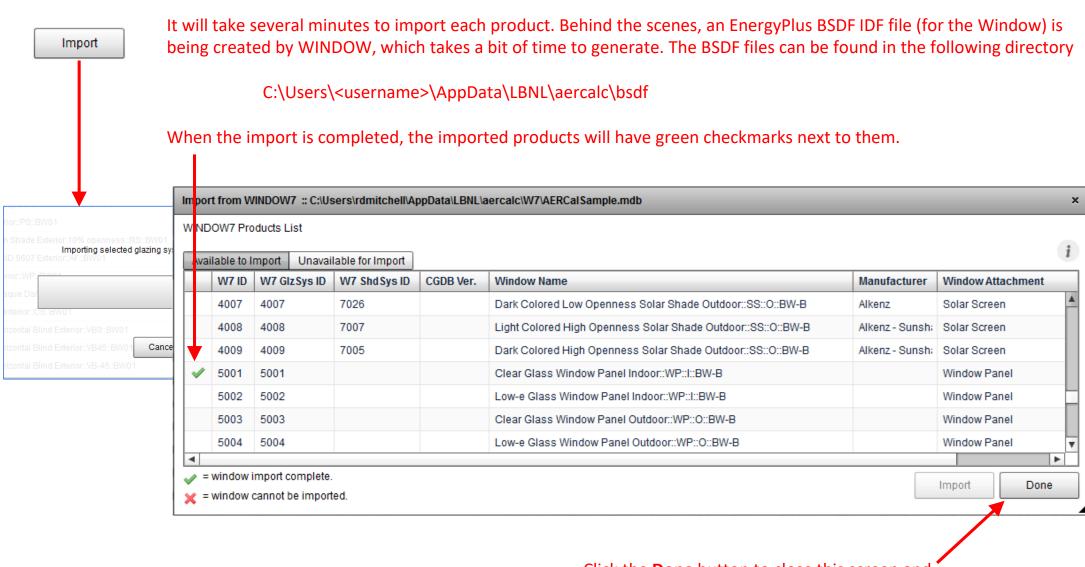
- Holding the Shift key down will allow selecting multiple consecutive records
- Holding the Ctrl key down will allow selecting multiple non-consecutive records



### **Import Products: Select Products to Import**

#### Importing products takes a while

When the **Import** button is clicked, the program will put up a progress bar for the import



Click the **Done** button to close this screen and see the imported records in the Main screen

### **Import Products: Imported Products in Main Screen**

#### The imported products are now shown in the Main Screen

When the products are imported, there are no results in the EPc and EPh columns

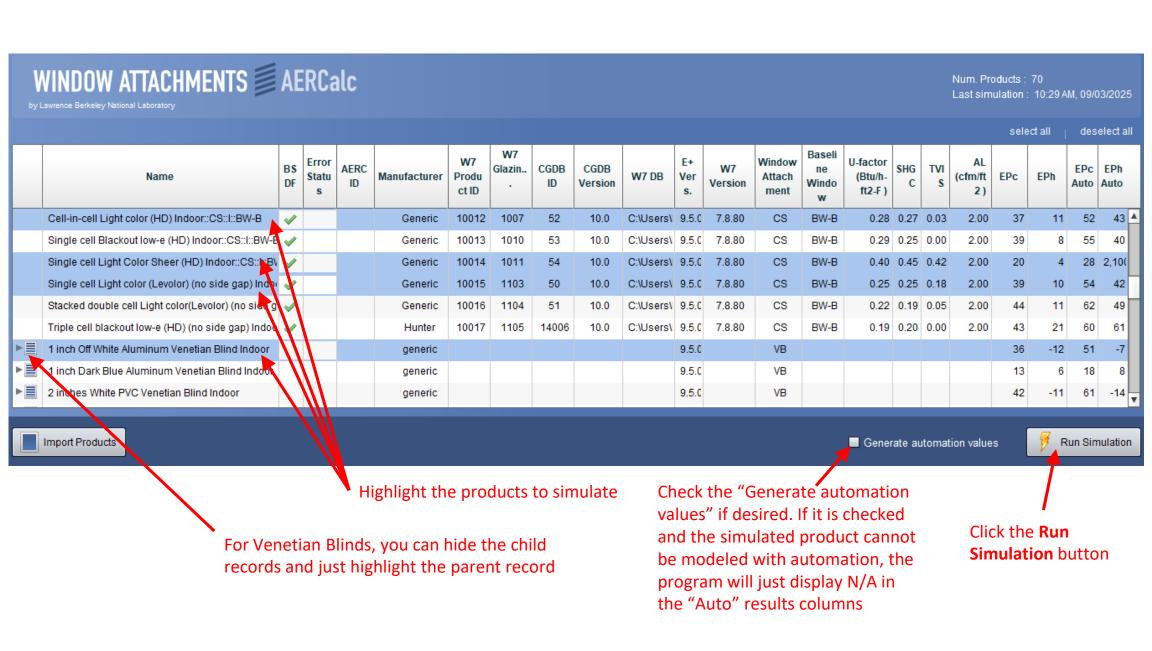
N/A in the EPc Auto and EPh Auto fields means automation will not be modeled for those products

	Name	B\$ DF	Error Statu s	AERC ID	Manufacturer	W7 Produ ct ID	W7 Glazin	CGDB ID	CGDB Version	W7 DB	E+ Ver s.	W7 Version	Window Attach ment	Baseli ne Windo w	U-factor (Btu/h- ft2-F)	SHG C	TVI S	AL (cfm/ft 2)	EPC	EPh	EPc Auto	EPh Auto
▼ 🗐	1 inch Off White Aluminum Venetian Blind Indoor				generic						9.5.0		VB						36	-12	51	-7
1	1 inch Off White Aluminum Venetian Blind	✓			generic	2001	2001	2001		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	VB0	BW-B	0.41	0.62	0.64	2.00			N/A	N/A
	1 inch Off White Aluminum Venetian Blind	4			generic	2002	2002	2002		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	VB45	BW-B	0.40	0.41	0.19	2.00			N/A	N/A
-\	1 inch Off White Aluminum Venetian Blind	✓			generic	2003	2003	2003		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	VB-45	BW-B	0.40	0.42	0.23	2.00			N/A	N/A
	1 inch Off White Aluminum Venetian Blind	1	111		generic	2004	2004	2004		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	VB90	BW-B	0.40	0.26	0.01	2.00			N/A	N/A
► <b>■</b>	1 inch Dark Blue Aluminum Venetian Blind Indoor				generic						9.5.0		VB						13	6	18	8
► <b>■</b>	2 inches White PVC Venetian Blind Indoor		11	$\mathbb{N}$	generic						9.5.0		VB						42	-11	61	-14
►≣	2 inches Wood Venetian Blind Indoor			M	generic						9.5.0		VB						15	7	21	13
	Light Colored Low Openness Roller Shade Indoor	1		<b>/                                    </b>	Alkenz -	3001	3001	7015		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	RS	BW-B	0.35	0.19	0.10	2.00	46	-15	64	14
	Dark Colored Low Openness Roller Shade Indoor	1			Alkenz	3002	3002	7026		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	RS	BW-B	0.35	0.49	0.00	2.00	12	12	16	28
	Light Colored High Openness Roller Shade Indoo	<b>4</b>			Alkenz -	3003	3003	7007		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	RS	BW-B	0.36	0.24	0.16	2.00	42	-13	59	13
	Dark Colored High Openness Roller Shade Indoo	✓			Alkenz -	3004	3004	7005		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	RS	BW-B	0.36	0.50	0.04	2.00	11	11	15	27
	Ligh Colored Low-e 0.04 Openness Roller Shade	<b>4</b>			erosol	3005	3005	20024		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	RS	BW-B	0.32	0.24	0.05	2.00	41	-1	58	29
	Light Colored Low Openness Roller Shade Outdo	✓			Aleenz -	3006	3006	7015		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	RS	BW-B	0.33	0.11	0.09	2.00	56	-21	78	14
	Dark Colored Low Openness Roller Shade Outdo	✓			Alky z	3007	3007	7026		C:\Users\	9.5.0	7.8.80	RS	BW-B	0.33	0.08	0.00	2.00	55	-21	76	13

Parent Venetian Blind Product Click the arrow icon to expand the records to show the associated "child" records or collapse the records to just show the "parent" record **Child** Venetian Blind Product records, one for each slat angle

### **Simulating Products**

Select the products to be simulated and click the Run Simulation button



### **Simulating Products: Automated Operation**

AERCalc version 1.5.00 has added the ability for all operable (both interior and exterior) shading systems to be modeled with automation.

- Awnings Operable
- Cellular Shades
- Pleated Shades
- Roller Shades
- Roller Shutters
- Roman Shades
- Venetian Blinds
- Vertical Louvered Shutters

For these window attachment types, the attachment operation consists of the attachment either fully deployed or fully retracted. The performance is calculated in a single EnergyPlus run utilizing the EMS (Energy Management System) feature to deploy or retract the shade for each simulation timestep based on a given deployment schedule. The deployment schedules for Automated 1D window attachments were developed by the AERC Automation working Group and are shown in the tables below.

Deployment Schedule for North (Heating) Climate Zone Window Orientations North South East West June 1 - August 31 Closed All Day September 1 – May 31 Open Open Open 08:00 - 12:0008:00 - 16:0012:00 - 16:00

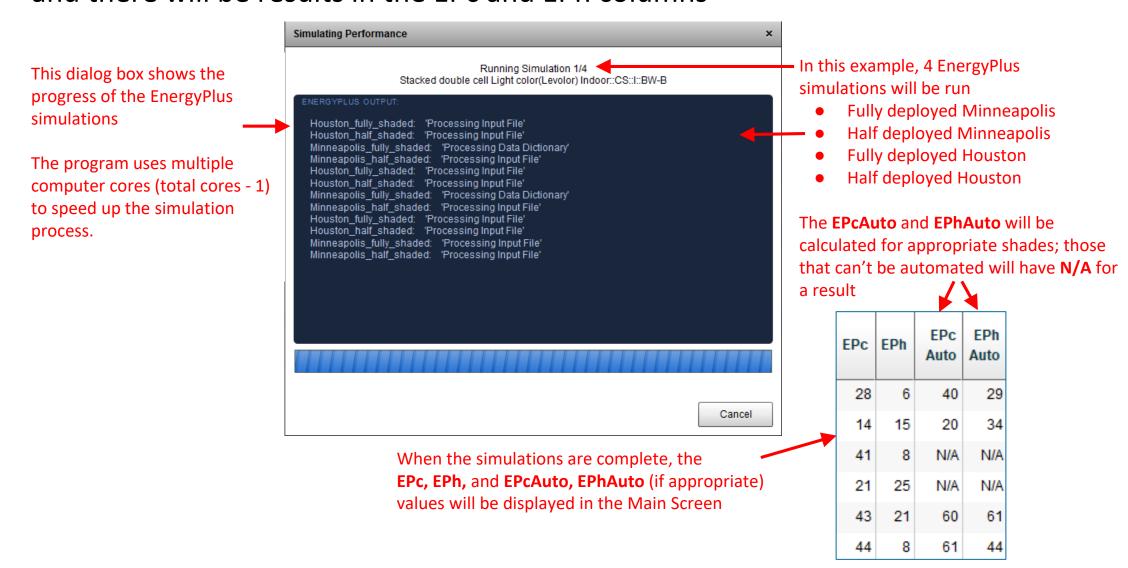
Deployment Schedule for South (Cooling) Climate Zone

	Window Orientations									
	North	South	East	West						
April 1 – October 31	Closed All Day	Closed All Day	Closed All Day	Closed All Day						
November 1 – March 31	Open 08:00 – 16:00	Closed All Day	Open 12:00 – 16:00	Open 08:00 – 12:00						

### **Simulating Products**

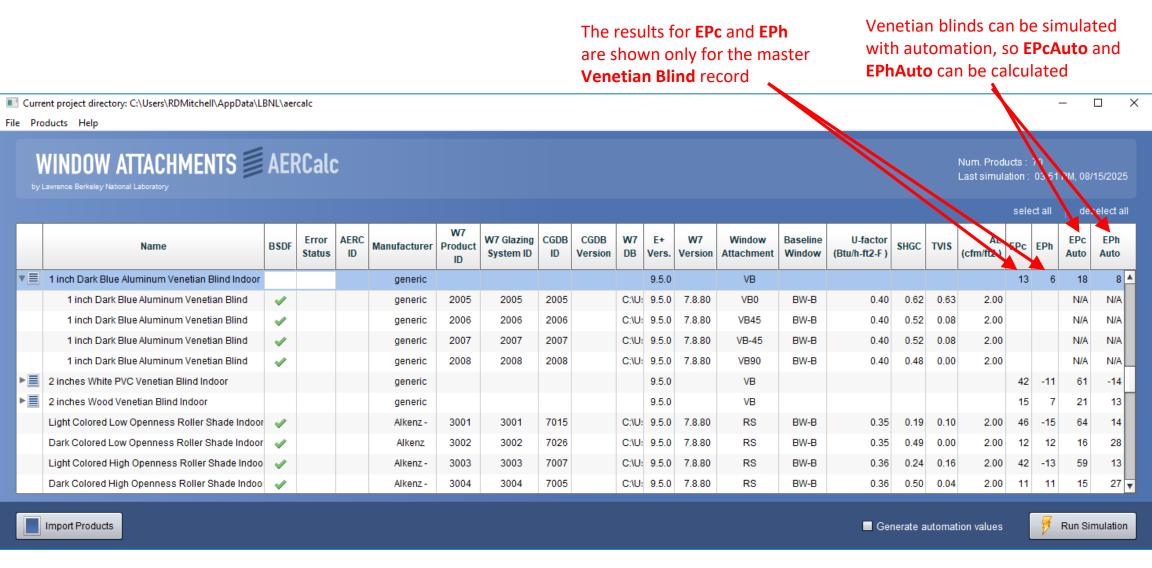
During the simulations, the program displays the progress
The simulations for each product will take quite a while, many minutes each

When all the simulations are complete, the Main Screen will again have focus and there will be results in the EPc and EPh columns



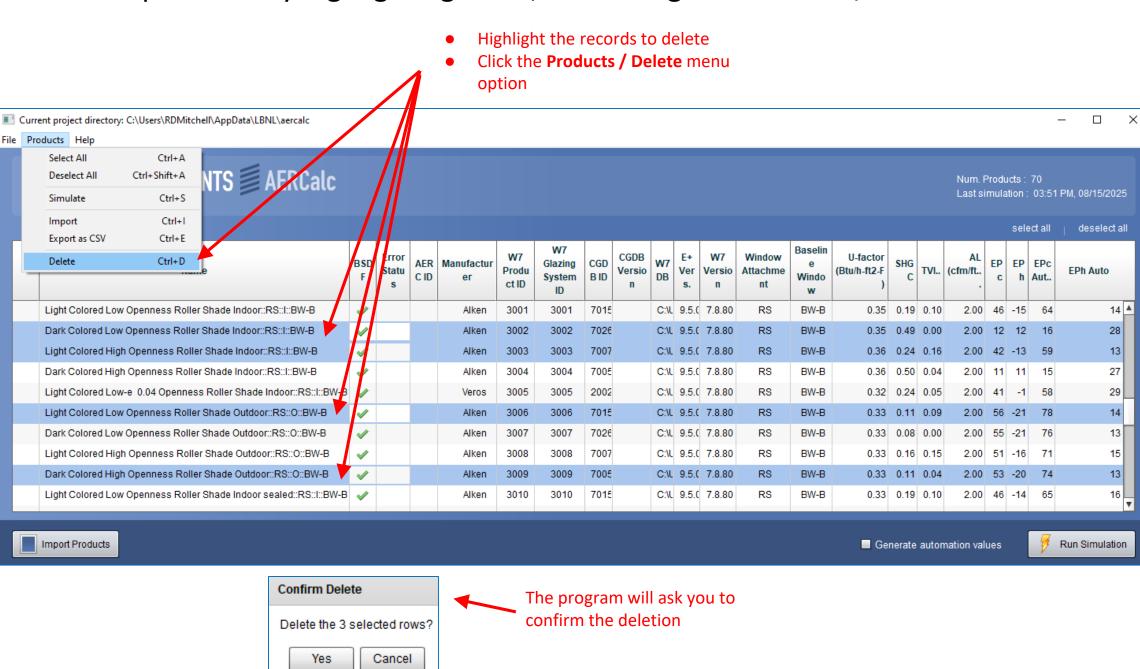
### **Simulating Products: Venetian Blind Simulation Results**

#### The main screen after the Venetian Blinds have finished calculating



#### **Delete Products**

#### Delete products by highlighting them, then using the Products/Delete menu

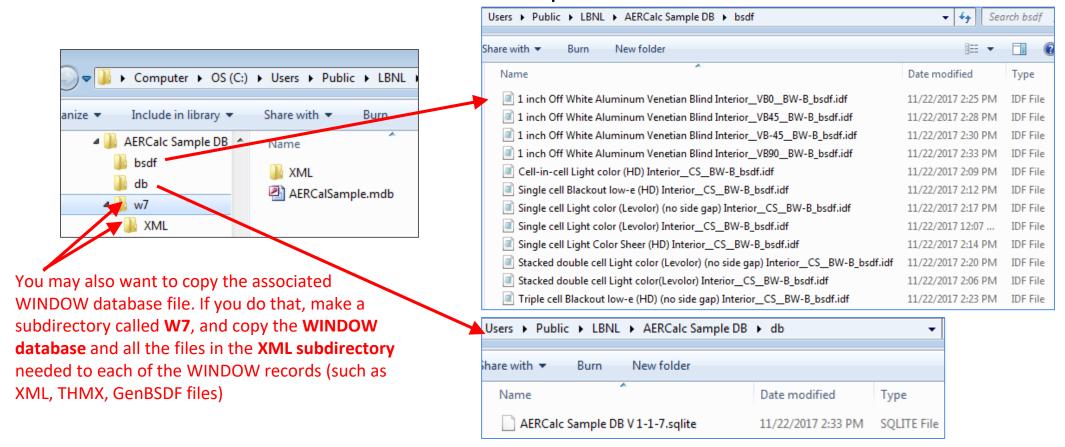


### **Projects**

#### AERCalc is organized around a concept of Projects

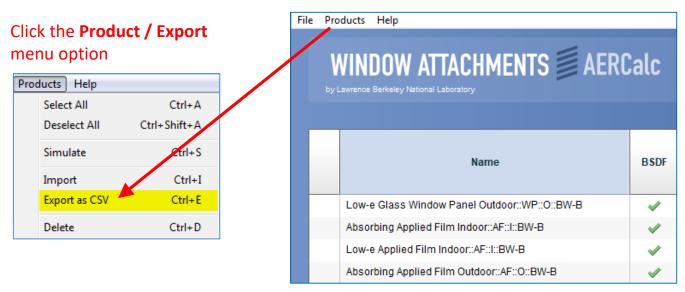
A Project is defined as a folder which contains the minimum set of files needed by AERCalc. These folders are

- o **bsdf:** a folder containing the Energy Plus BSDF IDF files (generated by WINDOW when records are imported into AERCalc) needed for the simulations that are used to calculate EPc and EPh. There should be one BSDF IDF file for every product in the AERCalc main screen
- o **db:** a folder that contains the AERCalc sqlite database



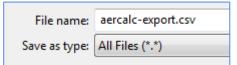
### **Export**

#### Export a CSV file of all the Products in the Main Screen

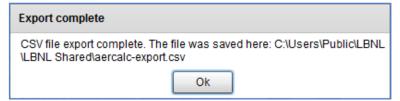


The program allows you to save the file to any

folder and with any name (keep the CSV extension)



#### The program confirms the filename and location



#### Open the file to view the exported results

AERCalc	Parent	Parent/	CGDB			W7 Glz	CGDB	Shading	AERC Baseline			
Record ID	ID	Child	Version	Simulated Product Name	W7 ID	Sys ID	ID	System Type	Window Type	U-factor	SHGC	VT
1			10	Single cell Light color (Levolor) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	1003	1003	50	CS	BW-B	0	0	0
2			10	Stacked double cell Light color(Levolor) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	1004	1004	51	CS	BW-B	0.263114328	0.214341	0.046162
3			10	Cell-in-cell Light color (HD) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	1007	1007	52	CS	BW-B	0.275512296	0.270322	0.028713
4			10	Single cell Blackout low-e (HD) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	1010	1010	53	CS	BW-B	0.278959121	0.248699	0.000004
5			10	Single cell Light Color Sheer (HD) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	1011	1011	54	CS	BW-B	0.342377564	0.433584	0.420052
6			10	Single cell Light color (Levolor) (no side gap) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	1103	1103	50	CS	BW-B	0.258484572	0.256318	0.17483
7			10	Stacked double cell Light color(Levolor) (no side gap) Indoor::CS::I	1104	1104	51	CS	BW-B	0.221463256	0.195161	0.046162
8			10	Triple cell blackout low-e (HD) (no side gap) Indoor::CS::I::BW-B	1105	1105	14006	CS	BW-B	0.187243498	0.207161	0.000056

### **Export: Venetian Blinds, Vertical Louvers, Awnings**

For Venetian Blinds, Vertical Louvers and Awnings, the Parent record in the export file will not have values for

> U-factor SHCG Tvis

These values are associated with the Child records for each of the four slat angle cases.

For the file to be uploaded to the CPD, the values for those field from the appropriate Child record must be copied into the Parent record.

# **Export: Fields**

The table below lists all of the fields in the AERCalc export file.

AERCalc Record ID	Auto-incrementing ID given to each record that is imported from WINDOW into AERCalc. It can be turned on and off in File/Preferences
Parent ID	For Venetian blinds and vertical slats that have Parent and child records, this is the ID of the parent record
Parent/Child	For Venetian blinds and vertical slate that have Parent and child records, this indicates which is the Parent (P) and the child (C)
CGDB Version	The CGDB version number for the shading layer
Simulated Product Name	Name of Window (product) as defined in the Window Library, that the record was imported from (from the WINDOW database)
W7 ID	Window ID from the Window Library (from the WINDOW database)
W7 Glz Sys ID	Glazing System ID used in the Window (from the WINDOW database)
CGDB ID	The Shading System ID used in the Glazing System in the Window (from the WINDOW database)
Shading System Type	Abbreviation for Shading system
AERC Baseline Window Type	Abbreviation for the AERC Baseline Window Type
U-factor	U-factor of the AERC Baseline Window with the shading system (from the WINDOW database). Units: (Btu/h-ft²-ºF)
SHGC	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient of the AERC Baseline Window with the shading system (from the WINDOW database)
VT	Visible Transmittance of the AERC Baseline Window with the shading system (from the WINDOW database)
TvT	TvT is a number that shows variability of the measurements between pieces of the same fabric. Not currently used.
AL	Air Leakage of the AERC Baseline Window with the shading system. Units: (cfm/ft²)
EPc Ratio	Energy Performance ratio for cooling
EPh Ratio	Energy Performance ratio for heating
EPc Auto Ratio	Energy Performance ratio for cooling for the Automation simulation
EPh Auto Ratio	Energy Performance ratio for heating for the Automation simulation

# **Export: Fields**

EPc	EPc Ratio multiplied by 100
EPh	EPh Ratio multiplied by 100
EPcAuto	EPc Ratio multiplied by 100 for the Automation simulation
EPhAuto	EPh Ratio multiplied by 100 for the Automation simulation
WINDOW Origin DB Filepath	WINDOW database name including full path
THERM Files	THERM files used to define the frames for the product being modeled
Manufacturer	Manufacturer of the product, from the Manufacturer field in the Shading Layer Library (WINDOW database)
Material Manufacturer	Material Manufacturer of the product, from the Shade Material Library reference in the Shading Layer Library (WINDOW database)
AERCalc Version	Version of AERCalc used to calculate the EPh and EPc results
WINDOW Version	Version of WINDOW used to import the products from the WINDOW database
EnergyPlus Version	Version of EnergyPlus used to simulate the models used to calculate the EPh and EPc values
ESCalc Version	Version of the internal AERCalc calculation module called "ESCalc", which calculates EPh and EPc from the EnergyPlus results
BSDF	The status of the EnergyPlus BSDF IDF file generated by WINDOW when a record is imported
Status	Indication of a record having been calculated with a previous version of AERCalc, EnergyPlus, WINDOW or ESCalc
AERC ID	An ID input by the user
Emissivity Front	Emissivity of the front side (Outside) of the product
Emissivity Back	Emissivity of the back side (Inside) of the product
Tsol	Solar transmittance of the product
Attachment Position	Position of the attachment in the glazing system, either Indoor or Outdoor.