

# Saflex®: A Rich History



80 years ago, the originators of the Saflex business started an entirely new industry based on the belief that glass could be made better through lamination. While glass was a common material in 1927, it typically occupied relatively small spaces in automobiles and buildings. But with lamination, and the introduction of Saflex interlayer, things began to change. Through the years, the Saflex business has contributed to the world of design – making it possible to open up the facades of entire buildings and bring comfort and protection to passengers in automobiles. While glass brings light into people’s lives, Saflex does it in a manner that adds safety, security, comfort and style.



1927: First plant in Indian Orchard, MA, USA

Saflex® is the world leader in the production of performance interlayer for laminated glass, serving the automotive and architectural industries. Saflex protective interlayer for laminated glass is found in nearly 50 percent of laminated architectural and automotive glazing applications globally.

With our rich history of serving the laminated glass industry, Saflex has a unique understanding of the market and the business of laminated glass. Saflex offers the knowledge to provide solutions that no one else can deliver through our dedicated people and superior products. At the end of the day, we know that it is our collaboration with our customers in helping them grow their business that makes us different. We are proud to work with you and look forward to serving your businesses needs for years to come.

Our longevity has laid the groundwork for what people have come to expect from the Saflex brand - a trusted provider committed to our customers’ success. The qualities that the industry has come to expect from the global leader in PVB interlayer will remain the same: high quality products, reliable service and expertise that’s second to none. That’s Saflex.

## Timeline: Key Saflex Milestones

**1927** Springfield, MA plant produces the first plastic interlayer (nitrocellulose) used in laminated windshields.

**1938** The first PVB sheet is produced. All US domestic windshields are converted from cellulose acetate to PVB. Legislation requiring laminated windshields begins to appear in several states.

- 1951** Saflex introduces the first automotive gradient product for use in windshields
- 1961** PVB production begins in Europe with a plant in Ghent, Belgium.
- 1965** Monsanto introduces Saflex HPR (high penetration resistance) interlayer. This triples the penetration resistance of windshield interlayer, and is called the greatest automotive safety development of its time. This product is such a dramatic success that the entire auto industry converts by 1966.
- 1967** US Federal Standards mandating penetration resistance are implemented.



1938: Saflex team, Indian Orchard, MA, USA

- 1984** Our company introduces New Color Process (NCP) co-extrusion process which is a major breakthrough that reduces customer lead time.
- 1997** Solutia is formed from the Chemical group of Monsanto
- 1997** Next generation Saflex interlayer introduced based on improved adhesion control chemistry to give superior long term durability, edge stability, and reduced moisture sensitivity.
- 1998** Solutia starts up the Saflex Finishing Center in Singapore to improve service to the Asia Pacific architectural and automotive markets
- 1999** Solutia opens the Asia Pacific customer service center in Singapore providing reliable service and support to the growing Asia Pacific region
- 2006** Saflex acquires full ownership of Santo Toribio, Mexico manufacturing facility.
- 2007** 80th Anniversary: Focus on rich interlayer history and launches new branding initiative, including renaming their performance interlayer division, Saflex, a unit of Solutia Inc.
- 2007** Saflex Q series advanced acoustic interlayer for the automotive industry is introduced. This multilayer, co extruded, drop in acoustic solution offers improved handling for laminators while delivering improved edge stability to automotive designers.
- 2007** Solutia opens their newest Saflex Plant in Suzhou, China in response to the growing needs of the China market.
- 2008** Solutia will start up the third extrusion line at the Ghent, Belgium plant to serve the growing needs of European architectural markets.

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