

BEST PRACTICES AND GUIDELINES FOR GARAGE DOOR SYSTEM MANUFACTURERS AND COMPONENTIZERS

The members of the **Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA)** and the **International Door Association (IDA)** come from the garage door, operator, and access systems industry. They are manufacturers, dealers, installers, and suppliers who focus on the technical, safety, and regulatory aspects of industry products, as well as the professionalism of the individuals working in the industry and the promotion of its general interests.

Componentizers are those parties who manufacture garage door systems by buying and assembling components such as sections, track, hardware, and other related parts and accessories from various suppliers. The Consumer Product Safety Act and case law suggest that componentizers are to be treated as manufacturers. Therefore, componentizers - like other manufacturers - are responsible for both the design of the garage door system and the intended final assembly of its components. This responsibility encompasses all technical aspects and safety features of the garage door system.

The garage door, operator, and access systems industry has made great strides over the years to increase the safety and reliability of its products. The members of DASMA and IDA urge you, the manufacturer or componentizer, to be familiar with all applicable industry standards and technical data sheets, and to adhere to the following recommended best practices and guidelines:

- 1) **Understand your suppliers' warranties and the limitations on those warranties.** Often a supplier provides its warranty only on its product sold to the original homeowner. If you use the supplier's literature as a marketing tool to sell the product, inform the customers that they are not purchasing a complete door system from the supplier, and therefore, the supplier's complete door warranty does not apply. Provide only the supplier's applicable limited warranty. Customers should be notified of warranty coverage and limitations, particularly regarding the entire installed product versus individual components.
- 2) **Produce detailed drawings.** Drawings should be complete, accurate, and to scale where practical. Include pertinent elevation view, sections and expanded details, as well as performance limitations for intended use of the product. Put a process in place to keep drawings current.
- 3) **Supply written installation instructions.** Instructions with appropriate warnings and cautions should be made available to installers for use during assembly of the door system.

- 4) **Provide all appropriate supplier and industry warning labels.** Individuals operating and/or adjusting garage door systems may encounter safety hazards. Therefore, it is important that warning labels be affixed to the pertinent door system components at the time of assembly and or installation.
- 5) **Understand your products' capabilities and/or limitations.** Designing by assembling garage door sections, track, hardware, and springs requires an intimate knowledge of the capabilities of the various products. Know how to engineer the product to meet ANSI/DASMA industry standards.
- 6) **Be familiar with local applicable codes.** Code requirements are often different from community to community and state to state. Know the code content and any regional variations for your area, and stay informed on code changes that may impact industry business.
- 7) **Know and follow applicable industry standards.** This starts with applying ANSI/DASMA 102, the standard specification for garage doors. Other performance industry standards include the wind related standards (ANSI/DASMA 108 and ANSI/DASMA 115); the fire related standard (ANSI/DASMA 107); the thermal related standard (ANSI/DASMA 105); the cycle life standard (ANSI/DASMA 109); the section interface safety standard (ANSI/DASMA 116); and the counterbalance safety standard (ANSI/DASMA 103). These standards are periodically modified. Review them regularly to stay well informed and in compliance with the most current versions. Industry standards are available at the DASMA web site, www.dasma.com.
- 8) **Be aware of common industry practices and general guidelines.** These can be found in the form of DASMA Technical Data Sheets, the latest versions of which are also available at the DASMA web site.
- 9) **Be familiar with your reporting obligations under Sections 15 and 37 of the Consumer Product Safety Act.** The industry has worked with the CPSC over a number of years regarding certain safety related aspects of garage door systems. Establish an internal procedure by which safety related regulations and requirements are understood, implemented, and regularly reviewed.
- 10) **Verify the performance of your assembled door systems with proper testing and engineering.** You may need the services of a registered design professional, not only for the door performance data, but also for individual job situations. Remember that the overall door system performance must be evaluated as opposed to evaluating specific components.
- 11) **Thorough product performance documentation should be compiled and maintained.**

- 12) **If altering an installation, be sure to accomplish this with the intended garage door performance in mind.** Consider both safety and engineering as it relates to either manual or automated door usage. If weight is being added to the exterior face of a section, please refer to TDS-176.
- 13) **If replacing components on new or existing installations, be sure the assembly will maintain or regain its intended performance.** Replacement components should meet or exceed the manufacturers' specifications. The door system's overall thermal, wind and seismic performance may change if a component is substituted.
- 14) **Know your insurance requirements.** Contact your insurance company to ensure adequate coverage is in place for the type of manufacturing activity you are performing. Regularly review your insurance coverage.
- 15) **Provide a means to assure you are consistently furnishing high quality, complete, installed assemblies.** This is commonly known as “quality assurance.” Some areas require demonstration of such assurance. An outside agency may be needed to handle the program.

While this document attempts to highlight some of the guidelines componentizers and manufacturers may face, it is incumbent upon each to apprise themselves of the full range of responsibilities when assembling components into door systems. Componentizers and manufacturers may also have to deal with other guidelines, requirements, and/or responsibilities not included in this document.