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## **Placement of Gate Operator Controls**

In many instances, automatically operated vehicular gates are opened and closed by means of permanently mounted controls in the vicinity of the gate. Controls include such devices as key switches, card readers, keypads and telephone entry systems, depending on the preference of the building/property owner and/or the type of security feature desired. Placement of these controls is extremely critical from a safety standpoint.

**A PERSON SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO “REACH THROUGH” A VEHICULAR GATE TO INITIATE OPERATION. THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION AND SHOULD BE PREVENTED BY PROPER PLACEMENT OF GATE OPERATOR CONTROLS.**

The UL 325 standard includes some instructional requirements that installers of automated vehicular gates are strongly urged to follow. These requirements are as follows, with explanatory comments after each of the quoted requirements:

1. **“Gate operator controls intended for user activation must be located at least six feet (6’) away from any moving part of the gate and where the user is prevented from reaching over, under, around or through the gate to operate the controls.”**

EXCEPTION: Emergency access controls only accessible by authorized personnel (e.g. fire, police, EMS) may be placed at any location in the line-of-sight of the gate.

“Intended for user activation” indicates the intent to move the gate. Reset buttons and other similar controls that do not move the gate do not fall under this requirement.

Six feet (6’) is the minimum distance required to provide protection for a person from being injured by a moving gate. This distance may need to be greater based on site specific conditions.

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**Note: Technical Data Sheets are information tools only and should not be used as substitutes for instructions from individual manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and check the applicable local regulations.**

This Technical Data Sheet was prepared by the members of DASMA's Operator & Electronics Division Technical Committee. DASMA is a trade association comprising manufacturers of rolling doors, fire doors, grilles, counter shutters, sheet doors, and related products; upward-acting residential and commercial garage doors; operating devices for garage doors and gates, sensing devices, and electronic remote controls for garage doors and gate operators; as well as companies that manufacture or supply either raw materials or significant components used in the manufacture and installation of the Active Members' products.

“Lock boxes” that may be required by local fire departments are frequently mounted near gates; therefore, safe use by fire department personnel must be provided as well. **Although emergency access controls can be placed at any location in the line-of-sight of the gate, the controls should not be placed in a manner that could result in contact with a moving gate.**

2. **“Gate operator controls must be placed so that the user has full view of the gate area when the gate is moving.”**

**Only controls providing continuous pressure to activate the gate fall under this requirement, whether the control is evaluated and used as a Type D (continuous pressure) entrapment protection device, or it is used in response to reversals of other entrapment protection systems. The user must see the gate during full operation to ensure no one is in the vicinity of the gate and thus potentially subject to contact with the moving gate.**

3. **“The Stop and/or Reset button must be located in the line-of-sight of the gate.”**

When the operator is to be stopped or reset, it is very important for the person doing the stopping or resetting to have a full, clear view of the gate system to ensure that the cause of any entrapment protection device activation has been removed from the path of the moving gate prior to resetting the gate for further activations.

4. **“Outdoor or easily accessible controls shall have a security feature to prevent unauthorized use.”**

Although this is no longer included in UL 325, some older instruction manuals may contain this sentence. Reasoning for this requirement: Sometimes it is necessary to protect controls on the side of the gate accessible to the general public. When gate access needs to be protected, controls used should be protected or secured. Controls can be secured via keys, keypads or other access control systems.

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