



DASMA
Door & Access Systems
Manufacturers Association
International

OPERATOR & ELECTRONICS DIVISION

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

#361

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Garage Doors Operated in “Tandem”

For a garage designed to accommodate two vehicles, it has been common for the garage to have been built to accommodate two separate one-vehicle doors as opposed to a two vehicle width single door. The design for two separate doors may be for aesthetic or functional purposes; one primary functional purpose being the ability to operate one door while the other door remains closed.

However, a homeowner may wish to operate both doors in “tandem”, i.e., use a single garage door operator to open or close both doors simultaneously. **DASMA does not support this type of door operation.** The primary reason for this is because the standard for safety that applies to garage door operators, UL 325, does not include provisions for operating a door in “tandem”. Because a “tandem” application is not within the scope of UL 325, the entrapment protection function has not been verified in such an application. The entrapment protection devices are not able to function reliably due to the inability to maintain a constant applied force over the width of both doors. Use of an operator in this application falls outside the scope of a manufacturer’s listing to UL 325.

There are many other variables that affect the performance of such a door/operator installation to warrant avoidance of a “tandem” installation. Included in these variables is the fact that variations in operability of each door, including variations in counterbalance, may contribute to a shortened operator life.

DASMA has worked diligently with other interested parties in establishing the safety provisions of UL 325, which are also incorporated into federal law governing automated garage door installations. The absence of provisions governing “tandem” door operation should emphasize that this type of installation is to be avoided, or if in existence, replaced with separate operators for each door.

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.