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Rolling Doors and Hurricanes

Rolling doors are typically in the largest openings associated with non-residential structures. There are several items that should be kept in mind regarding a rolling door's wind load performance in hurricanes and other high wind events.

1. Adding any door reinforcement not recommended by the manufacturer can create a dangerous situation that may result in property damage and/or personal injury, and should not be done.
2. A rolling door is subject to either being blown into the building or pulled out of the opening. Therefore, backing a vehicle or placing an object against a rolling door is not recommended and will not increase the strength of the door. Further, this may damage the vehicle and/or the door. The appropriate protection is provided with a rolling door that is wind resistant to local requirements.
3. A rolling door should be closed prior to a high wind event. The door should be wind resistant to local requirements. Keeping a rolling door open during a hurricane leaves the interior walls, ceilings and roof structure vulnerable to structural damage and possible collapse of the structure. There are some coastal areas that are subject to storm surges where it is more important that the door "break away" from the structure rather than resist wind load. Contact your local building department if the structure in question may be included in this requirement.
4. If you question your rolling door's ability to resist hurricane force winds, contact a design professional to evaluate both the door and the surrounding frame of the opening. Keep in mind that the attachment of both the door guides and the door jambs to the structure are just as critical as the strength of the door itself.

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 Rolling Door 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.