

Hetzel Receives IDA's Distinguished Service Award

In April at Expo 2014, Joe Hetzel, the technical director of the Door & Access Systems Manufacturers' Association (DASMA), received the Distinguished Service Award from the International Door Association (IDA). Paul McManus, chair of IDA's Exposition Committee, presented the award at the President's Awards Banquet on April 24 at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas.

"I was stunned when I first got the news," says Hetzel. "I started to reflect on all the years I've put in and all we've accomplished together. I guess I've been fulfilling my calling in my work in the door and access systems industry."

IDA presents the award to one person each year to "an individual who is an innovative leader, with high integrity, honesty, quality oriented, and who has made a significant contribution to the door and access systems industry."

The Right Man at the Right Time

Hetzel first came into the industry in 1996 when he was hired to be DASMA's first full-time technical director. At the time, the industry was faced with many building codes and regulations that did not accurately or fairly represent garage doors and other industry products.

As a registered professional engineer (P.E.) with 17 years of experience in civil, environmental, and structural engineering, Hetzel proved to be the right person for the job.

"When the DASMA board decided to invest the funds to hire Joe in 1996, they envisioned that he would eventually serve an important role that would benefit the entire industry," says John Addington, DASMA executive director. "This award confirms that DASMA's original vision is being fulfilled."

A Long-Term Positive Impact

In presenting the award, Paul McManus said, "For nearly 20 years, he has worked tirelessly to make a long-term positive impact on the products we work with every day ... from garage doors to springs to jambs and screws.

"He has been the voice of technical expertise on such issues as UL 325, thermal performance, safety standards, fire resistance, wind-load and impact resistance, and dozens of others," he added.

In his position as technical director, Hetzel works directly with all of DASMA's product divisions, including commercial and residential garage doors, door and gate operators, rolling doors, and high performance doors. He has personally appeared before scores of official code bodies, committees, and regulatory boards throughout the country to influence countless positive changes that affect all manufacturers and dealers.

His work has also helped to produce a large volume of helpful documents that are free to everyone in the industry. These documents include industry standards, research data, and more than 100 Technical Data Sheets, all available at dasma.com.

"We're very proud of Joe," said Ray Neisewander III, DASMA president, "and we deeply appreciate IDA's generous act of bestowing on him this special award." ■

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Paul McManus (left) and IDA President Bill Gibson (right) present the Distinguished Service Award to Joe Hetzel.