

FAQs

The new DASMA thermal performance program

Answers to your questions

As the result of a decision by DASMA members, the garage door industry will soon be using U-factors instead of R-values to rate the thermal performance of garage doors. When the DASMA Thermal Performance Verification Program launches in early 2020, it will affect all door dealers who sell garage doors in the U.S. and Canada.



Here are 10 common questions about this program.

1

What door type is covered by the program?

The scope is sectional-type doors.

2

Will glazed doors also use U-factor ratings?

The focus is on "opaque" doors, which are defined as doors with 50 percent or less glazing.

3

Will R-values still be used to measure thermal performance for garage doors?

The program promotes the use of U-factor ratings only, not R-value.

4

Is there a specific certification entity required to verify a door's U-factor rating?

No specific test laboratory is mandated. Manufacturers may choose from a list of test laboratories that have been vetted by DASMA. The ongoing third-party administrative/verification duties will be handled by Intertek. DASMA plans to market its program so that it gains wide acceptance.

5

Does the program affect both commercial and residential garage doors?

Yes, the program covers both commercial and residential installations.

6

Will architects soon be specifying certain U-factors for garage doors?

Military documents such as Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) 08 36 13 already specify the use of U-factor ratings for sectional doors. DASMA is working to get MasterSpec and SpecLink language updated to specify U-factor.

7

(For manufacturers) What code documents apply to garage doors rated by U-factor?

The main document is the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), but ASHRAE 90.1 is an alternate path that code officials may use. Keep in mind that the DASMA program is intended to verify thermal performance values regardless of code requirements. The ultimate goal is to get accurate, relevant information in the hands of specifiers and purchasers so that they can make informed decisions when selecting doors.

8

Is a particular U-factor required for garage doors?

In some codes a minimum U-factor is required. Those codes contain tables that identify the acceptable maximum U-factors. At this time, codes cover only commercial installations, but we expect that demand for thermal performance requirements will continue to grow and may expand to conditioned residential garages.

9

(For manufacturers) What test standard is used to achieve a garage door's U-factor?

The test standard is ANSI/DASMA 105, which is referenced in the IECC.

10

When a garage door is tested for U-factor, are air leakage and solar heat gain measured?

Solar heat gain applies to glazing only. Air leakage and solar heat gain are both tested separately and distinctly from U-factor. ■

If you have questions about the program, contact Joe Hetzel, DASMA technical director, at jhetzel@thomasamc.com or at the DASMA office at 216-241-7333.