

EPA RRP LEAD PAINT UPDATE

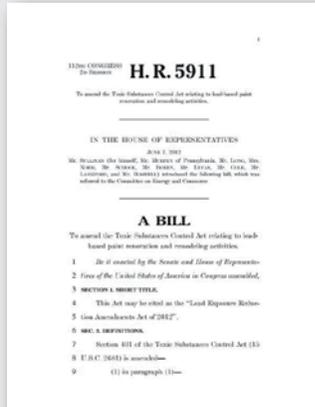
House Bill Would Restore Opt-Out Provision

On June 7, a bipartisan group of co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives introduced H.R. 5911, a bill that would restore the “opt-out” provision of the EPA’s Lead Paint RRP rule.

The bill, the Lead Exposure Reduction Amendments Act of 2012, is similar to a Senate bill (S. 2148) introduced on March 1. While the Senate bill is co-sponsored only by Republicans, the House bill is co-sponsored by four Democrats and 21 Republicans.

By restoring the opt-out provision, the Senate and House bills would allow homeowners to waive RRP practices if no children under the age of six or pregnant women reside in the building.

The bills also address remodeling industry complaints about approved test kits, the addition of public and commercial buildings, fines for paperwork errors, “hands on” recertification training requirements, and other issues. For more information on the bills, see www.govtrack.us. ■



Opt-Out Challenge Fails in Federal Court

On June 22, a federal court denied a petition to review the “opt-out” provision of the RRP rule. The District of Columbia circuit court ruled that EPA had the right to remove the opt-out provision.

The petitioners, which included the National Association of Home Builders, the Window & Door Manufacturers Association, and two other housing industry groups, argued that EPA acted arbitrarily when it removed the provision.

The court disagreed and denied the petition. Industry groups that seek to restore the opt-out provision are now pinning their hopes on legislative attempts (e.g., H.R. 5911 and S. 2148). ■

Harvard: Remodeling Activity Poised for Growth

With home sales and construction picking up, U.S. remodeling activity is in a position to see accelerated growth by the end of this year and into 2013. That conclusion comes from the Leading Indicator of Remodeling Activity (LIRA) released in July by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University.

The LIRA suggests that annual home improvement spending may reach double-digit growth by the first quarter of 2013. Kermit Baker, director of the Remodeling Futures Program, says the combination of low financing costs, stronger consumer confidence, improving home sales, and the perception that home prices have generally stabilized are encouraging owners to resume remodeling projects. ■

Census: Homes Down, Big Garages Up

In June, the U.S. Census Bureau released its report of “Characteristics of New Housing” for the 2011 calendar year. The report is available at www.census.gov/construction/chars/.

Key findings for the garage door industry are:

- The number of newly completed single-family houses dropped to its lowest point in at least 40 years. (The report only goes back to 1971.) Only 447,000 homes were completed in 2011, dropping from 496,000 in 2010 and the all-time high of 1,654,000 homes in 2006.
- The percentage of homes built with 2-car or 3-car garages increased slightly to 80 percent, up from 79 percent in 2010 but down from the all-time high of 84 percent in 2005.
- The percentage of 3-car garages bounced back to 18 percent of all homes, up from 16 percent in 2010 but down from a peak of 20 percent in 2005. The Midwest leads all regions, with 30 percent of new homes built with 3-car garages. ■

Next Gate Operator Installer Training: Nov. 11-17

The next Gate Operator Installer School will be held in Tulsa, Okla., from Nov. 11 to 17. The training covers classroom training on UL 325, ASTM F-2200, types of gates and operators, accessories, and electrical, followed by hands-on workshops.

Curriculum covers the Self Study Guide for the Gate Operator Installer Certification Program, which should be studied before attending. The certification exam is optional and is given by IDEA at the end of the course.

For fee and registration information, go to www.AmericanFenceAssociation.com. Students are admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. ■

High Performance Door Division Expands Its Energy Focus

Citing a need to increase recognition of the energy savings of high-speed doors, the DASMA High Performance Division is working to provide input into various key ASHRAE documents.

The division is also developing an energy calculator to demonstrate the energy savings inherent in high-speed doors. The calculator considers door air infiltration, air exchange, U-factor, and motor power consumption.

"We are confident that high-speed doors will ultimately be technically recognized as significant energy-saving devices," says Joe Hetzel, DASMA technical director. The targeted documents are ASHRAE 189.1 and its User's Manuals, the ASHRAE 90.1 User's Manual, and an ASHRAE Advanced Energy Design Guide.

High performance door manufacturers not in DASMA are encouraged to join the organization and provide input to this work. ■



Rolling Door Test Draws National Attention

In July, more than 40 media representatives were among a group of 150 professionals who witnessed a wind test of rolling sheet doors on two types of buildings. The event, which gained national television exposure, was conducted at the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) research facility in Richburg, S.C.

The research test, primarily sponsored by the insurance industry, showed a dramatic comparison between "common practice" (non-code-compliant) and code-compliant rectangular masonry buildings of similar dimensions. The buildings were constructed alongside each other. Live feeds of the tests were broadcast by the Fox News Channel.

The common practice building used a rolling sheet door without windlocks, which failed under a 115-MPH wind. A rolling sheet door with windlocks in the code-compliant building survived a 135 mph wind without any damage.

IBHS representative Bill York is scheduled to present the findings to DASMA members at the DASMA Fall Forum in late September. ■

DASMA 207 Approved as American National Standard

This past summer, a DASMA standard for rolling sheet doors formally obtained recognition as an American National Standard. The standard, now formally designated as ANSI/DASMA 207-2012, defines minimum design and performance specifications for non-fire rated rolling sheet doors.

Bray Allen, DASMA Rolling Sheet Door Committee chair, says the standard "can now be readily referenced in any code, specification, or other industry standard where needed."

The newly approved standard can be freely viewed and downloaded at www.dasma.com. ■



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Revisions to TDS 171 and 277 Released



This past summer, the DASMA membership approved revisions to DASMA Technical Data Sheets 171 (Coding for Torsion and Extension Springs) and 277 (Rolling Door Terminology).

Changes to TDS 171 improve the accuracy and completeness of metric conversions, and they revise spring wire diameters to better reflect what is being used in the industry. TDS 277 was updated to clarify many door terms such as rolling grille door, rolling sheet door, rolling service door, and many others. The revised TDSs are available at www.dasma.com. ■

TDI, DASMA Cooperate on Inspector Training in Texas

The Texas Department of Insurance has begun windstorm program inspector training involving garage doors. The training should improve communication between dealers and inspectors on code and product approval issues.



The two-part training began with an August 2012 general training session in Austin, led by Joe Hetzel, DASMA technical director. The training materials will be used throughout the state. Manufacturer-specific training sessions are expected to be coordinated with TDI staff throughout 2012.

Sam Nelson, TDI Inspections Division chief engineer, has worked with DASMA on various technical matters since the late 1990s. "This is another effort to further enhance communication between our department and the industry," he says.

Dealers are encouraged to coordinate Texas-specific requirements with manufacturer suppliers. ■

The Most-Downloaded Technical Data Sheets

Downloads*	DASMA Technical Data Sheet
190	TDS 155 Residential and Commercial Wind Load Guides
130	TDS 161 Connecting Garage Door Jambs to Building Framing
123	TDS 151 General Code Inspection Guidelines for Garage Doors
106	TDS 156 Standard Wood Header and Jamb Detail Guidelines
72	TDS 182 Technical Considerations for Dock Doors

*May 15, 2012 – Aug. 15, 2012

More than 100 Technical Data Sheets are freely available at www.dasma.com under Publications (www.dasma.com/PubTechData.asp). These documents have been prepared and are continually reviewed by the DASMA Technical Committees and technical staff. ■

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