

# ASK JOE HETZEL

**DASMA Technical Director**

## Non-Compliant Gate and Garage Door Openers

**Q** An automated vehicular gate is not in compliance with the ASTM F2200 construction standard. If the opener needs to be replaced, do I need to upgrade the gate to be in compliance with the F2200 standard?

**A** **Joe:** Yes. The installation instructions accompanying the new gate opener will indicate that the existing gate needs to be upgraded.

Although there are no federal laws or building codes applying to automated vehicular gates about retrofitting, the labeling and listing terms and conditions of a gate opener are reflected in the installation instructions, which any installer is expected to follow. The customer should be advised of this situation.

**Q** What if the vehicular gate was in compliance with both UL 325 and ASTM F2200 at the time it was automated, but updated opener standards require changes to the gate? Does the gate still need to be upgraded when the existing opener is replaced with that new opener?

**A** **Joe:** Yes. Same answer as above.

**Q** When I go to repair an automatically operated residential garage door and find no photo eyes, what do I do?

**A** **Joe:** When you arrive at the property, first verify the opener's manufacturing date or use the make and model to see when it was manufactured. If the opener was manufactured before 1993, inform the customer that the opener should be replaced.

For any opener manufactured in 1993 or later, see if you can obtain the installation instructions to confirm that the opener is designed for photo eyes as a required entrapment protection device.

Upon confirming that photo eyes are needed, install photo eyes compatible with the opener and ensure the beam is no higher than six inches off the floor. ■





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