

# Making Progress: Automated Vehicular Gate Systems

## Industry Activity Highlights, 1993-2008

By Joe Hetzel, DASMA Technical Director

Since its inception, the Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association has created standards and made significant technical contributions to every area of our industry. Here we highlight the major milestones of technical progress for the automated vehicular gate systems industry.

**1993** After legislation is passed regarding garage door openers, the Door Operator & Remote Controls Manufacturers Association (DORCMA) and other gate operator industry members voluntarily begin a rewrite of the UL 325 standard to apply to automatic vehicular gate operators. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) begins to monitor the progress of the rewrite.

**1996** DORCMA and the National Association of Garage Door Manufacturers (NAGDM) merge into a single association, and the Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) is born. The DASMA Gate Operator Committee is formed and immediately begins contributing to the UL 325 rewrite.

**1997** The updated UL 325 standard is approved, with an effective date of March 1, 2000. The updates include the creation of classes for gate operators and provisions for both primary and secondary entrapment prevention. Language is also added requiring specific instructions in the manufacturer's installation manuals.

**1998** UL advises the industry that a separate standard should be created for the vehicular gate itself. ASTM F2200 standard development is initiated by the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of members representing DASMA, the American Fence Association (AFA), and the National Ornamental & Miscellaneous Metals Association (NOMMA).

**1999** At the International Garage Door Expo in Toronto, DASMA presents its first mock trial involving an automated vehicular gate system accident.

**2000** UL publishes revisions to UL 325. CPSC initiates a building code proposal referencing UL 325.

**2001** DASMA publishes DASMA 302, Garage Door and Gate Operator Terminology, along with a gate warning sign and placard.

**2002** ASTM F2200 is published. DASMA begins the process of incorporating compliance to UL 325 and ASTM F2200 into the International Building Code (IBC).

**2003** AFA, DASMA, and NOMMA begin development of a study guide for a gate operator installer certification program.

**2004** DASMA publishes its "Automated Vehicular Gate System Safety Guide."

**2005** With AFA, NOMMA, and DASMA input, Texas clarifies its licensing requirements to exclude automated vehicular gate system installers. The exclusion saves installers from burdensome and unnecessary licensing requirements.

**2006** DASMA begins the process of referencing compliance to UL 325 and ASTM F2200 into the International Fire Code (IFC).

**2007** The Institute for Door Dealer Education and Accreditation (IDEA) unveils the Gate Operator Installer Certification Program, administered by IDEA and supported by DASMA, AFA, and the International Door Association (IDA).

**2008** The International Code Council approves requirements in the IBC (for buildings and facilities) and in the IFC (for "fire apparatus access roads") requiring compliance to UL 325 and ASTM F2200 for automated vehicular gates.



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## 2009

In 2009, the DASMA Gate Operator Committee plans to pursue the following activities:

- Respond to proposed state legislation on licensing of automated vehicular gate operator installers.
- Submit proposals to incorporate into the International Residential Code compliance to UL 325 and ASTM F2200 for lots of one- and two-family dwellings, and to incorporate into the International Property Maintenance Code gate-related maintenance requirements.
- Work with AFA, IDA, and NOMMA to incorporate solid-state device troubleshooting into the Gate Operator Installer Certification Program Study Guide and to study other proposed revisions to the guide.
- Develop continuing education materials for the Installer Certification Program.
- Address emergency access issues.
- Propose updates to the Installer Checklist (DASMA TDS 371) and the Consumer/Inspector Checklist (DASMA TDS 373).
- Conduct periodic reviews of DASMA Technical Data Sheets.

*DASMA welcomes additional gate operator manufacturers to join DASMA to assist with the ongoing activities of the Gate Operator Committee. Contact DASMA at 216-241-7333 or [dasma@dasma.com](mailto:dasma@dasma.com). Visit [www.dasma.com](http://www.dasma.com) for more information on joining DASMA. ■*