



# ASK JOE HETZEL

## DASMA Technical Director

### U.S. Tax Credits and Garage Door SHGC Ratings

*I found out that garage doors qualifying for energy tax credits now need to meet a certain SHGC rating. What is an SHGC rating?*

**Joe:** SHGC stands for Solar Heat Gain Coefficient. In addition to the other requirements, a garage door must have an SHGC rating of 0.30 or less to qualify for the 2009-2010 U.S. energy tax credit.

Like U-factor or R-value, the SHGC rating is another measure of energy efficiency. When applied to garage doors, SHGC refers to a garage door's effect on the garage space due to solar radiation. The SHGC is affected by how much glazing is in a garage door, along with the SHGC of the glazing itself.

The rating is determined as a weighted average for the entire garage door assembly and not for the glazing alone. Here's a simplified example that assumes that the non-glazed area of a garage door has an SHGC rating of 0. If the door's clear glazing has an SHGC of 0.87 and the windows comprise 25 percent of the surface of a garage door assembly, the composite assembly would have an SHGC rating of approximately 0.22 ( $0.87 \times .25$ ). Non-glazed doors have an SHGC rating of approximately zero.

The SHGC rating takes into account garage door components such as glazing frame, edge-of-glazing, center-of-glazing, door panel core, edge-of-panel, and stile area.

Contact your garage door supplier to obtain the SHGC rating for the glazed doors you sell. Your supplier may have already posted SHGC ratings for qualifying products on its Web site. ■

*To comment on this article, send an e-mail to the editor at [trw@tomwadsworth.com](mailto:trw@tomwadsworth.com) or to Joe Hetzel at [jhetzel@thomasamc.com](mailto:jhetzel@thomasamc.com).*

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