

**IDEA launches eLearning initiative for industry new hires**



In July, the new president of the Institute of Door Dealer Education and Accreditation (IDEA), Bill Earnest, announced a new eLearning initiative that includes two “day-one” videos — “Intro to garage doors” and “Intro to garage door operators.”

The videos are free to everyone and designed to help improve the onboarding of every new hire in the door and access industry. Earnest said, “We observed that most manufacturers and dealers have a very informal method of training when it comes to educating new hires about the basic product terminology used in our industry. The process is typically time-consuming and very inconsistent from hire to hire.”

The goal of the “day one” videos is for every human resources department in the industry to utilize the videos to help educate all new hires. Hiring managers should direct new employees to visit [www.dooreducation.com](http://www.dooreducation.com), click the eLearning tab, watch both videos, and take a test on each.

“After scoring 80% or higher on both tests, the new hire will receive a Certificate of Completion; they should bring it or a photo of the certificate to their first day of work,” said Earnest.

“The onboarding process helps new hires feel more comfortable on day one because they will have some industry terminology [knowledge] and will also be educated about the wide range of career choices available in the industry.” ■

**Manufacturers join forces to support IDEA/certification goals**

New IDEA President Bill Earnest outlined the 2024 goals for IDEA and a new alliance with industry manufacturers as the organization continues to find ways to evolve and better serve the industry. IDEA is working to further establish its certification programs by following the blueprint laid out by the automotive industry and their certification entity — the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Since 1972, the independent nonprofit organization “has worked to improve the quality of vehicle repair and service by testing and certifying automotive professionals,” Earnest said. Today, the ASE is the standard for automotive mechanics and is supported by industry manufacturers, dealers, and technicians.



**ASE blueprint**

“The goal of the IDEA Board is for ‘Dealer Accreditation’ and ‘Technician Certifications’ to carry the same status as being an ASE mechanic,” said Earnest. Since IDEA wasn’t founded until 1996, ASE has a 24-year head start. However, many individuals have spent countless hours developing and testing the IDEA accreditation programs, and as a result, IDEA has become the recognized expert organization for testing and accreditation in garage doors, garage door operators, and gate operators.

**Evolving and improving**

IDEA is actively working on numerous new initiatives to better serve our industry. Since its inception, countless volunteers have contributed to the growth and success of the organization. “Working to create something out of nothing takes considerably more thought and effort than simply revising existing content. We would not be where we are today without the hard work of the many industry volunteers who preceded us,” said Earnest.

**Certification reimbursement**

In August, IDEA announced that several manufacturers have demonstrated their commitment to improving the industry by reimbursing eligible employees for IDEA testing expenses. Amarr Company, Clopay Corporation, C.H.I., Genie, LiftMaster, Linear, Raynor, Sommer, Overhead Door, and Wayne Dalton are the companies that have signed up so far.

**Easy to apply**

1. Go to [www.DoorEducation.com](http://www.DoorEducation.com) and apply for one of the many programs offered.
  2. Submit your accreditation or certification to your manufacturer for reimbursement.
- Please note that all manufacturer programs are unique, so what can and cannot be reimbursed must be decided between you and your supplier.* ■

### A major update to TDS 161

In May, the Commercial & Residential Garage Door Technical Committee released a major update to Technical Data Sheet (TDS) 161, Connecting Garage Door Jambs to Building Framing.

The update includes new details on mounting to five thicknesses of steel ranging from 16ga (0.056") to 3/16" and features fastener calculations and specifications for sizes ranging from 9' to 20' wide and wind pressures ranging from 10 psf to 60 psf.

TDS 161 has consistently been one of the most popular technical documents on the DASMA website over the years — it now contains 19 separate fastener-spacing charts. ■



### UL 325 proposals under review

In July, nine proposed revisions to UL 325, Standard for Door, Drapery, Gate, Louver, and Window Operators and Systems, were updated and posted for public review and comment. The nine proposals were originally posted in February; the July versions included minor revisions.

Additionally, 11 new proposals were posted in July for a new total of 20. The three DASMA proposals included the incorporation of new provisions for battery backup operation, instruction manual changes, and new definitions for "door" and "gate."

Initial response to the DASMA submissions has been favorable. Votes for the latest round are due by Sept. 10. ■



### New TDS 196 promotes U-factor and the DASMA TPVP

In July, the Commercial & Residential Garage Door Technical Committee released a new Technical Data Sheet (TDS) 196: U-factor on Garage Doors and the DASMA Thermal Performance Verification Program (TPVP). The new TDS advances DASMA's multiyear effort to promote the adoption and use of U-factor for measuring garage door thermal performance.

Key elements include a definition of U-factor, a discussion of the value of U-factor versus R-value, an outline of the DASMA TPVP, and marketing materials from the program. TDS 196 offers another resource for manufacturers and dealers in the industry's ongoing transition from R-value to U-factor measurements of thermal performance. ■



**SCHWEISS**

# DOORS

**HYDRAULIC — OR — BIFOLD**

**ONE-PIECE DOORS**      **STRAP LIFT DOORS**

**SCHWEISSDOORS.COM**

**THE DOOR LEADER**

- AVIATION
- SHOP DOORS
- AG DOORS
- BARN DOORS

**507-426-8273**