COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL GARAGE DOOR DIVISION

DASMA TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Door & Access Systems
Manufacturers Association
International

#165

1300 Sumner Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2851
Phone: 216-241-7333 • Fax: 216-241-0105
E-mail: dasma@dasma.com

Manual Operation of an Automatic Garage Door

Introduction

Handles or suitable gripping points are a practical and convenient way to operate a garage door manually. This Technical Data Sheet is intended to help clarify the need for occasional manual operation of an automated garage door including the use of handles/suitable gripping points for such operation.

Please note that the garage door operator manufacturer's instructions should be carefully followed when disconnecting an operator from a door.

⚠**WARNING**: The section-to-section joint is not a suitable gripping point. Gripping the door in such area could result in serious injury.

Factors Associated with Manual Operation

Handles versus Suitable Gripping Points

Over the years, many manually operated garage doors have included handles that typically protrude from the surfaces of garage door sections. As an alternative to handles, "suitable gripping points" are considered to be acceptable if the operator of the door can grip the garage door to apply sufficient force to manually open or close a door. These gripping points may either protrude, or be recessed, with respect to garage door section surfaces.

Number, Location and Placement of Handles / Suitable Gripping Points

For residential sectional garage doors, a total of four handles or suitable gripping points are required to meet Section 7 of ANSI/DASMA 116, the voluntary industry standard governing residential garage door section interfaces. Two handles / suitable gripping points are to be

located on the inside garage door surface, and two are to be located on the outside garage door surface.

The standard describes that the placement of the handles or gripping devices shall be within 8 inches of the bottom edge of the bottom section, and on the second or third section, placed vertically in line with one another to allow manual operation of the door.

Design of Handles / Suitable Gripping Points

Manufacturers have the option to design/manufacture any configuration of handles or suitable gripping points, provided they are satisfied that users can effectively manually operate doors with such configurations.