



DASMA
Door & Access Systems
Manufacturers Association
International

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL GARAGE DOOR DIVISION

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

#165

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Garage Door Manual Operation

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.

THE NEED FOR MANUAL OPERATION

Common reasons for manually operating a normally automated garage door include:

- Power outages. During a power outage, besides the continuation of the convenience of garage use, it may become necessary to open and/or close a garage door for safety or emergency reasons.
- Garage door operator malfunctioning. In order for a homeowner or building owner to continue to move vehicles and other items into or out of a garage in the event of a garage door operator malfunction, the door would need to be operated manually until the operator is properly serviced. Note: DASMA recommends that a trained door systems technician provide service for malfunctioning garage door operators.
- Routine door maintenance. Published industry guidelines recommend that homeowners and building owners perform periodic routine maintenance steps on the door itself, including disconnecting the operator to check the door's balance and overall operation. See DASMA Technical Data Sheet #167 for a recommended checklist to follow.

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

Note: Technical Data Sheets are information tools only and should not be used as substitutes for instructions from individual manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and check the applicable local regulations.

This Technical Data Sheet was prepared by the members of DASMA's Commercial & Residential Garage Door Division Technical Committee. DASMA is a trade association comprising manufacturers of rolling doors, fire doors, grilles, counter shutters, sheet doors, and related products; upward-acting residential and commercial garage doors; operating devices for garage doors and gates, sensing devices, and electronic remote controls for garage doors and gate operators; as well as companies that manufacture or supply either raw materials or significant components used in the manufacture and installation of the Active Members' products.

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

A total of four handles or suitable gripping points are required to meet Section 7 of ANSI/DASMA 116, the voluntary industry standard governing 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.

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