



DASMA
Door & Access Systems
Manufacturers Association
International

OPERATOR & ELECTRONICS DIVISION

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

#358

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Gate Operators And OSHA Requirements

There are Federal laws administered by the Department Of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that regulate installation of electrical equipment. These laws govern a workplace where construction is taking place. A gate operator that is considered “acceptable” within these guidelines is defined in the Definitions section (1910.399) of the “Safety Requirements For Special Equipment” portion of 29 CFR Chapter 17.

An installed gate operator is deemed to be “acceptable” if it meets one of the following criteria:

1. **If it is “accepted, or certified, or listed, or labeled, or otherwise determined to be safe by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.”** The terminology that best suits gate operators in this case is “listing and labeling.” The applicable standard would be UL 325. Keep in mind that a “nationally recognized testing laboratory” is one that has met certain criteria maintained by an independent laboratory evaluation agency.
2. **Where the criteria in #1 is not applied, if it is “inspected or tested by another Federal agency, or by a State, municipal or other local authority responsible for enforcing occupational safety provisions of the National Electrical Code and found in compliance with the applicable provisions of the National Electrical Code (NEC).”** If the operator is inspected, the gate operator manufacturer will likely need to produce satisfactory evidence of compliance with the NEC. If the operator is tested, it may be by an entity authorized to do such testing by the applicable authority.
3. **If it is determined to be “safe for its intended use by its manufacturer on the basis of test data which the employer keeps and makes available for inspection to the Assistant Secretary and his authorized representatives.”** Please note that the gate operator manufacturer should not only have test data, but also documentation that the operator meets applicable acceptance criteria. Certification of the documentation by a registered professional engineer is highly recommended.

DASMA suggests that installers of gate operators, when working in conjunction with a construction project, check with the building owner and/or contractor to find out whether Federal OSHA based laws govern the project.

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 Operator & Electronics 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.