



DASMA
Door & Access Systems
Manufacturers Association
International

OPERATOR & ELECTRONICS DIVISION

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

#359

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Gate Operators and NEC Provisions

The National Electrical Code, also known as NFPA 70, published by NFPA, contains various provisions that may apply to gate operators. This TDS identifies those provisions and provides commentary for each provision that may be helpful to the automatic gate industry.

Article 90.4, Enforcement: The second sentence reads, “The authority having jurisdiction for enforcement of the Code will have responsibility for making interpretations of the rules, for deciding upon the approval of equipment and materials, and for granting the special permission contemplated in a number of the rules.” **Comment:** This is a reminder that the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ, i.e. the local code official), and not UL, is ultimately responsible for 1) interpreting UL 325, 2) issuing “approvals”, and 3) allowing any exceptions; however, the AHJ may consult with UL on interpretations of UL 325.

Article 90.7, Examination of Equipment for Safety: The first sentence reads, “For specific items of equipment and materials referred to in this Code, examinations for safety made under standard conditions provide a basis for approval where the record is made generally available through promulgation by organizations properly equipped and qualified for experimental testing, inspection of the run of goods at factories, and service-value determination through field inspections.” **Comment:** This implies that a labeling and listing program is one means, but not necessarily the only means, by which an AHJ may “approve” a gate operator from a safety standpoint.

Article 100, Definitions: There are several of note.

- “Approved” is defined as “Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.” **Comment:** This reinforces Article 90.4.
- “Labeled” is defined as “Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of production of labeled equipment or materials and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.” **Comment:** Note that the label must be acceptable to the AHJ, and that the label on a gate operator would be intended to indicate compliance with UL 325.
- “Listed” is defined as “Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.” **Comment:** Similar to the comment for “labeled.”

Article 110.2, Approval: This reads, “The conductors and equipment required or permitted by this Code shall be acceptable only if approved.” **Comment:** This is part of the requirements for electrical installations. This also refers back to Article 90.7 as well as the definitions of “Approved”, “Labeled” and “Listed.”

Article 110.3, Examination, Identification, Installation, and Use of Equipment: Subsection (a) states eight different considerations that shall be evaluated in judging equipment. The first consideration is “Suitability for installation and use in conformity with the provisions of this Code.” There is a note below this consideration that indicates suitability of equipment *may* be evidenced by labeling and listing. **Comment:** The NEC *does not require* products to be labeled and listed; it indicates that this is one method by which AHJs can approve products.

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.