DASMA Explores Expanding to Related Products

DASMA is now considering expanding its membership to include several new categories of door and access systems-related products. The potential expansion is based on feedback from existing members, contacts outside the industry, and information gathered at the 2010 Expo. DASMA is considering rolling screen door and air curtain manufacturers as potential committees within the High Performance Door Division. In the Operator & Electronics Division, DASMA is exploring the addition of a committee for barrier arm operator manufacturers.

Joe Hetzel, DASMA technical director, says that a number of manufacturers in each category are being contacted. Some existing DASMA members that manufacture barrier arm operators may soon form a committee.

Dealers are asked to encourage manufacturers of rolling screen doors, air curtains, and barrier arm operators to join DASMA. Special new member rates are offered.

Gate Operator Provisions Now In All Pertinent Model Codes

On May 21, 2010, the International Code Council approved automated vehicular gate systems requirements for inclusion in the 2012 International Residential Code. The newly added requirements apply to gates on the lots of one- and two-family dwellings. This addition completes the task of referencing such systems in four pertinent ICC model codes.

The gate operator standard (UL 325) and a gate standard (ASTM F2200) are also referenced for gates in buildings and other structures beginning with the 2009 International Building Code. Beginning with the 2009 International Fire Code, these standards also apply to gates across fire apparatus access roads. Maintenance requirements will appear in the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code.

The inclusion of these requirements in these four ICC model codes (IRC, IBC, IFC, IPMC) was first envisioned in 1998 by representatives of AFA, NOMMA and DASMA. The May 21 action completes the code-referencing task and is viewed as a significant accomplishment for the industry.

“Dealers should begin to see increased requests for code-compliant gates and consistency in job specifications,” says Rick Sedivy of DoorKing, a DASMA member who has been involved from the start of the activity. “The public will win because of increased performance and safety.”

NFRC Approves SHGC Calculations for Garage Doors

In April, the membership of the National Fenestration Rating Council approved procedures for determining the Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) for garage doors with glazing. The procedures, found in the NFRC 200 standard, give a basis for garage door manufacturers to document their published SHGC values.

The 2009-2010 U.S. energy tax credit involving garage doors requires an SHGC of 0.30 or less. Garage doors with at least one full row of glazing are of interest in this requirement.

“This accomplishment is another step toward completing sound technical standards for determining thermal performance values also including U-factor and air infiltration,” says Joe Hetzel of DASMA. He adds that DASMA is exploring a possible SHGC research test to help validate the calculation method.
DASMA Announces Two New Rolling Door TDSs

This past spring, DASMA published TDS 290, “Protecting Rolling Steel Fire Doors from Vehicular Traffic Related Damage,” and TDS 291, “Rolling Doors and High Wind Events.” The new Technical Data Sheets were developed over the past year and approved by the Rolling Door Division, responding to interest from dealers and building facility owners on the two subjects.

TDS 290 gives recommendations on guard posts, horizontal guards, and guide mounting used to protect rolling steel fire doors from trucks, forklifts, and any other motorized vehicular equipment. TDS 291 describes five items to consider for high wind events, including objects against a door, closing the door, operating the door, non-manufacturer-specified reinforcement, and “break-away” construction.

Steve Hahn of Lawrence Doors says that DASMA Technical Data Sheets continue to be helpful tools used by his company and its dealers. “These two new documents addressing often-overlooked issues will help further the effectiveness of rolling door products and enhance DASMA’s reputation of publishing useful information.”

DASMA Standards Cited in New Florida Mitigation Form

After more than a year of effort, DASMA was able to get two wind-related test standards referenced in a “code-plus” oriented uniform mitigation verification inspection form. The form is part of a Florida program promoted by the insurance industry in conjunction with higher-performing building components against high-wind events. ANSI/DASMA 108 (wind load) and ANSI/DASMA 115 (windborne debris resistance) are referenced in model codes and Florida codes, but were previously not included in the mitigation form. Garage door manufacturers and dealers had expressed frustration about the lack of “code-plus” program acceptance of test data to those DASMA standards.

Wanda Edwards of the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) assisted DASMA in getting the form revised. She says, “Recognition of the DASMA standards will enhance opportunities for ‘code-plus’ garage doors to be sold and installed in other states as well.”

Dealers are asked to communicate with their manufacturer suppliers regarding “code-plus” opportunities in their market areas.

New Certification Guidelines for Non-Traditional Manufacturers

After months of effort, this spring the DASMA membership expanded its garage door certification program to include “non-traditional” manufacturers. This group includes companies that purchase sections and hardware from different sources. In the certification program, a manufacturer is defined as the party primarily responsible for the final assembly of garage door components.

The voluntary DASMA certification program was created to streamline the product-approval process and provide more industry control in places such as Florida for wind-load and windborne debris-resistance performance. The program label mark has been registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and the program is undergoing ANSI accreditation for recognition in jurisdictions such as Florida.

“The program now has a broader scope of opportunity for industry participation with potential benefits to more manufacturers and dealers doing business in high-wind enforcement areas,” says Angus Lewis of DoorLink, who was instrumental in coordinating DASMA subcommittee activity.

Companies that may be eligible to participate are encouraged to contact the DASMA office for more information about the program.
Texas Product Submittal Requirements Revised

In March, DASMA submitted final comments to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) on new product submittal requirements. DASMA members had been working with TDI staff since the summer of 2009, including a meeting in November 2009 in Austin, to update the requirements at TDI staff request.

Requirements have been clarified for rational analysis, test witnessing, glazing, louvered doors, and framing/jamb fastener conditions. The scope of the document was also expanded to include garage doors and rolling doors.

Paul Bove of the TDI staff says the effort will improve the processing of product submittal requests. Jim Campbell of C.H.I., who attended the Austin meeting and participated in the DASMA subcommittee, says, “Our efforts have resulted in a streamlined process for manufacturers that will improve clarity for dealers and result in a stronger built environment for Texas.”

DASMA to Complete Collaboration With MBMA

As a result of DASMA’s five years of collaboration with the Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA), several initiatives have begun to improve the wind performance of rolling steel doors and metal building framing.

DASMA’s Joe Hetzel says that a new Technical Data Sheet is being developed to explain the interface, revisions to TDS 251 are being developed to include rolling sheet door details, and a DASMA Technical Research Document on anticipated loads is being compiled.

LeRoy Krupke of Overhead Door, who participated in a DASMA/MBMA task force, says the collaboration yielded benefits. “Both organizations know a lot more about how rolling doors and metal building framing affect each other,” he says. He adds that those involved in the construction process should see even better-performing doors in metal buildings.