

DASMA Sponsors Solar Heat Gain Coefficient Research

In July, DASMA sponsored a solar heat gain coefficient research test on a 7' by 7' insulated garage door with one row of 1/8" clear glazing. The test, conducted according to NFRC 201 by Architectural Testing Inc. at its facility located in Fresno, Calif., will help DASMA members determine door models that meet the 0.30 SHGC requirements of the 2010 energy tax credit.

DASMA members chose a door design that represents a typical door to be rated for SHGC. Preliminary results indicate that the door sample met the requirements of the 2010 energy tax credit.

Mike Thoman of ATI, who helped coordinate the test, remarked that the tested SHGC value appeared to closely parallel the values determined by theoretical calculations. He said, "We are pleased that this testing appears to validate solar heat gain performance similar to the successful test procedures we used to validate U-factor performance." ■

DASMA Submits New Wind-Load Chart to Florida

In August, DASMA code modifications were considered by the Florida Building Commission as they began the 2010 Florida Building Code development cycle. The hearings featured proposals to update the wind-load provisions to the new ASCE 7-10 standard. Specifically, DASMA submitted new wind-load charts to encompass the new wind-speed maps, wind-load equation, and building occupancy-based wind-load determination.

Eric Stafford, a consultant involved with ASCE 7-10, initiated the process of updating the Florida codes and provided DASMA with an independent review of the new DASMA wind-load charts. Knowing that garage doors are the largest openings in structures, he remarked, "It is good for the built environment that DASMA recognizes the importance of keeping up with the latest in wind-load provisions."

Final action on modifications is expected to take place later this fall. Implementation of the 2010 Florida Building Code volumes is slated for the end of 2011. ■



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New Guidance for Rolling Doors on Metal Buildings

In June, DASMA published TDS 292, describing steps a building design professional should take to ensure that the building framing can adequately support the specified rolling door.

Titled "Vehicular Access Door Interface With Building Framing," the document highlights six specific design items to consider, including door type, wind load, windlocks, applied door forces, change in door specified, and retrofitting. Information on door wind-load performance and contrasting door types (sectional garage doors versus rolling steel doors) is also included.

Lee Shoemaker, MBMA director of research and engineering, has been communicating with DASMA since 2005 on the topic of metal building framing interaction with rolling steel doors. He says, "The new Technical Data Sheet can serve as a useful reminder to metal building framing designers about considering rolling steel door forces." Shoemaker adds that MBMA continues to research the effect that a more flexible jamb may have on the forces and frame design.

The new Technical Data Sheet is posted at the DASMA Web site. ■

ASHRAE Approves Garage Door-Related Changes

In April, ASHRAE approved thermal performance changes that recognize air-infiltration issues and differences between garage doors and rolling doors. The changes will be published in an addendum to ASHRAE 90.1-2007, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings.

ASHRAE's changes:

- Exempt rolling doors from an air-infiltration requirement in semi-heated spaces only. ASHRAE recognized that "the necessary function of rolling door design does not allow for good air leakage control."
- Continue to allow garage door air-infiltration testing to ANSI/DASMA 105 as an alternative to ASTM E283.
- Clarify the air-infiltration requirement for garage doors as 0.40 cubic feet per minute per square foot.

Joe Hetzel, DASMA technical director, says the changes further distinguish garage door and rolling door performance characteristics from other types of doors, but adds that more clarification is needed. He notes that DASMA will be soon seeking a "continuous maintenance proposal" to distinguish glazed garage doors from other glazed products. ■

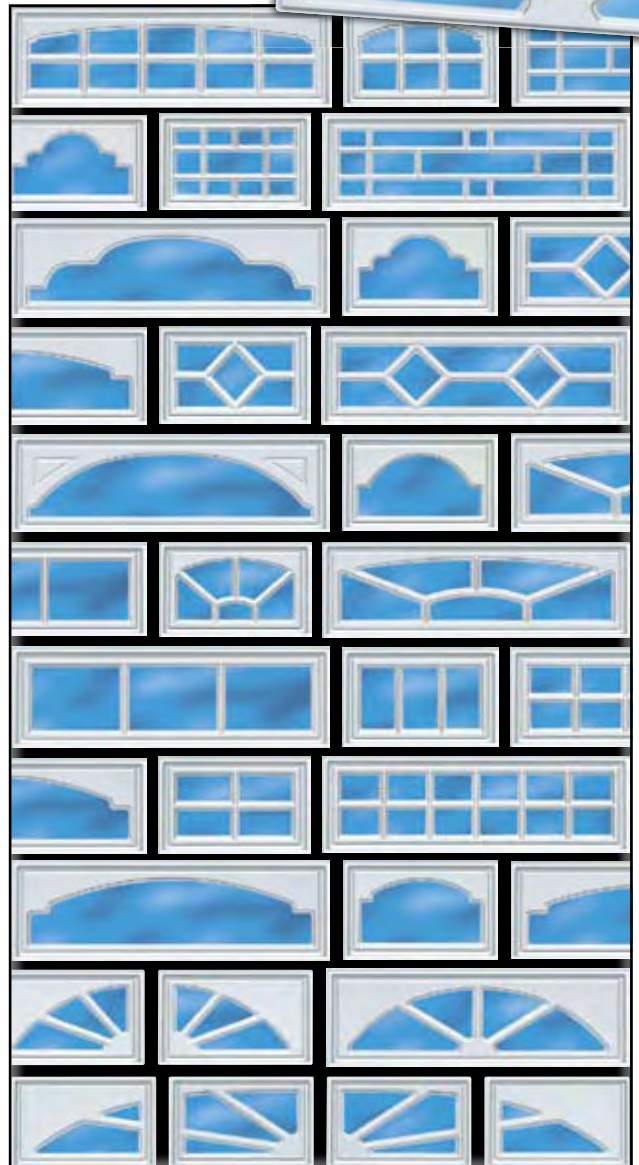
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DASMA Submits NFPA Amendment for Rolling Steel Fire Doors

In August, DASMA requested emergency action from NFPA to address the correct installation of wall sleeves for fire doors requiring through-wall fusible links. DASMA's proposed amendment is intended to allow free movement of the fusible link cable/chain so that the door automatically closes during a fire. Specifically, the amendment shows the proper sleeve size and configuration, and it requires that such sleeves must remain open and unobstructed so that the cable/chain can move freely during a fire condition.

The amendment was a response to code officials who questioned whether the sleeve was an acceptable penetration in a fire wall. The DASMA-led effort was also supported by IDA, UL, and FM.

Steve Hahn of Lawrence Doors is a DASMA Rolling Door Division member and representative to the NFPA 80 Technical Committee. He says that the incorrect installation of a sleeve, or a misguided attempt to seal it, can create a life-threatening condition if a fire door is prevented from automatically closing.

He adds, "DASMA's work on this subject, contained in TDS 254, proved to be a timely and valuable contribution for our submission to NFPA." ■

DASMA Groups to Study Technical Priorities

The DASMA High Performance Door Division and Rolling Sheet Door Committee are planning to establish technical priorities based on surveys recently submitted by members. These two DASMA groups were established a few years ago, and each is evaluating next steps to further DASMA's mission.

Dave Kendell of Megadoor, High Performance Door Division chair, says the division has great potential to have a favorable effect on the market. "The prompt and complete set of responses we received from members on the survey should result in a strong plan going forward," he added.

Bray Allen, Rolling Sheet Door Committee chair, adds that survey results should help the committee determine its next steps. "Rolling sheet doors continue to be a unique subset of rolling doors, and our group will continue to advance this interest," he says.

Manufacturers of high performance doors and rolling sheet doors that are not currently DASMA members are needed to strengthen DASMA's work and increase the industry's representation within DASMA. Dealers are encouraged to urge any non-member manufacturers to join the organization. ■

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