



**DASMA**  
Door & Access Systems  
Manufacturers Association  
International

GATE OPERATOR & ACCESS CONTROL POINT SYSTEMS DIVISION

# TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

**#378**

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## Automated Vehicular Gate System Emergency Access

### General

This Technical Data Sheet provides guidelines for the establishment of emergency access requirements for areas controlled by automated vehicular gate systems. These guidelines are intended for use by automated vehicular gate system designers as well as governing bodies having authority over municipal zoning and emergency safety regulations. The guidelines address Class I, II, III, and IV gate and operator systems as defined by UL 325 and ASTM F2200.

For purposes of this Technical Data Sheet, an emergency access device is a device that is intended to work in conjunction with a vehicular gate operator system. The device either provides a signal to the gate operator or allows the gate to be operated manually, thereby permitting vehicles in an emergency situation to obtain access to the area controlled by the gate.

Emergency access is intended for but not limited to fire department, law enforcement, emergency medical and homeland security personnel.

For information about terminology, refer to [DASMA TDS 302, Standard for Garage Door Operator and Gate Operator Terminology](#).

### Gate Requirements

1. Gate Operators: Gate operators should be listed to comply with UL 325 and should be installed according to manufacturer's instructions.
2. Gates: Gates should be designed, constructed and installed in accordance with ASTM F 2200.
3. Automated gate systems should follow the guidelines for either a Powered Emergency Access System or Mechanical Emergency Release System as required by the local authority having jurisdiction.
4. Emergency Access Orientation: Automated vehicular gates should accommodate emergency access when approached from the public side of the gate.

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**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.

5. Mutual Aid Compatibility: Emergency access devices should provide for mutual aid compatibility.
6. Person Obtaining Access: Emergency access devices should provide emergency access appropriate to the person obtaining access, including but not limited to fire department, law enforcement, emergency medical and homeland security personnel.
7. Gate Operation: Activation of an emergency access device should allow the gate to open to the fully open position.
8. Alternate Means of Power: Automated vehicular gates using alternate means of power (secondary or backup system) should include emergency access devices directly wired to the gate operator.
9. Testing: The gate system and the emergency access devices should be required to be tested regularly for proper operation, including secondary and backup systems, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
10. Gate systems that are damaged such that they cannot be operated using mechanical or powered access systems must be held in the open position until repairs are complete.
11. Maintenance: All gate system components should be maintained in an operative condition at all times and should be replaced or repaired when defective.
12. No mechanical locks or latches should be installed on the gate. A powered lock, e.g. magnetic lock or solenoid lock, integrated with the automated gate system, is acceptable if the lock becomes fail-safe (unlocked) upon loss of power.
13. If the gate is used for emergency access only, signs should be installed on both the interior and exterior of the gate indicating the gate is to be used for emergency access only. Vehicle parking should be prohibited in the vicinity of the gate.

If the gate system incorporates a mechanical emergency release system, the mechanical release should be designed as follows:

1. Incorporate a "single-action" device, such as a lever or a handle, to release the gate and allow manual operation of the gate, (NOTE: devices requiring a repetitive circular motion, such as cranks or wheels, should not be used for emergency release).
2. The emergency release device should be painted red in color, clearly indicating the direction of operation for release of the gate, and should be designed to be capable of being reset.
3. The gate should be constructed to allow for manual operation of the gate by one person without special knowledge, tools, or skills.

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