

What ANSI/DASMA 102 is — and is not

Clarifying the purpose and use of this foundational DASMA standard

Editor's note:

In this installment of the Tech Corner, DASMA Technical Director Dave Monsour discusses one of the oldest and most cited DASMA documents.

Recently, the DASMA staff was contacted by a dissatisfied door customer who was having trouble finding a door “tested to ANSI/DASMA 102.” Why would it be hard to find a door tested to such a well-known standard — and why is that not cause for concern?

Q — What is ANSI/DASMA 102?

A — ANSI/DASMA 102 Specifications for Sectional Doors is an ANSI national standard that provides assembly and component requirements for commercial and residential garage doors. It was created by one of DASMA's predecessor organizations: the National Association of Garage Door Manufacturers (NAGDM). The standard was adopted by DASMA early on and has been updated multiple times since then.

Q — What is this standard used for?

A — The standard establishes a comprehensive set of minimum design and performance criteria for garage doors. It is intended to be used as a baseline for the garage door manufacturers and to enable all stakeholders in our industry to rely on the quality of products conforming to the standard.

Contact us

If you have questions about this topic or suggestions for future content, please email Dave Monsour at dasma@dasma.com.



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Q — What areas does this standard cover?

A — Items like spring calculations, safety factors on bottom brackets, maintenance, proper use, labeling, spring calculations, cycle testing, motor operation, and more. It is a consensus-based American National Standard and is publicly available on the DASMA website.

Q — The inspector is asking for ANSI/DASMA 102 test reports. All reputable garage door manufacturers will be able to provide test reports proving their doors meet DASMA 102, right?

A — No. ANSI/DASMA 102 is not a test standard and does not include test methods, although it does reference some test standards. It should be thought of as an umbrella standard that encompasses specifications, design practices, and performance criteria that can be met through a variety of methods, including (but not limited to) testing, calculation, and rational analysis.

Each manufacturer that advertises conformance to ANSI/DASMA 102 should be able to explain and provide background information on the methods used to meet the standard, but in this case, the inspector in question is looking for oranges on an apple tree. ■

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