Constant pressure
A good thing?

TECH CORNER

DAVE MONSOUR

Editor's note:
In this installment of the Tech Corner, DASMA Technical Director Dave Monsour discusses constant pressure to close operation and how it relates to UL 325 requirements for entrapment protection.

Adding more pressure, let alone constant pressure, to our lives sounds like a terrible idea, but there is at least one time when "constant pressure" is a good thing. The question proposed to DASMA staff, detailed below, provides an opportunity to discuss some key provisions of UL 325 for door operators and how they contribute to the safe installation and use of garage door systems.

Q — I heard that I'm supposed to have a constant pressure switch for my garage door. Where can I get one?
A — It's interesting that you believe that you need a constant pressure switch for your garage door. This is a common misconception in the field. Most likely, you're wondering how to obtain *constant pressure to close operation for your garage door.*

Q — I thought the law states that a constant pressure switch is required?
A — Constant pressure control does not refer to a switch; it refers to a mode of operation, which is a feature of the operator as supplied. Also, UL 325 does not require constant pressure in all cases. It specifies that *constant pressure to close operation* is required only when certain other entrapment protection features are not present. This applies to both residential and commercial applications.

Constant pressure control does not refer to a switch; it refers to a mode of operation, which is a feature of the operator as supplied.

Q — What does "constant pressure" mean?
A — Constant pressure refers to a mode of operation in which the door can only close under application of manual pressure on the Close control, and will stop or reverse as soon as that pressure is removed. The same button or control switch can typically be used in both constant pressure and non-constant pressure applications.

Q — What is the purpose of "constant pressure to close operation"?
A — The purpose is so that the person operating the door will remain in view of the door while it is closing. It can also be used to allow someone to close a door if the external entrapment protection devices are not present or functional. The wall button or control station should be mounted within sight of the door, so that the person operating the control will be able to watch the door as it closes. If an entrapment occurs, they can immediately stop or reverse the door by releasing pressure on the control.

Q — How can I make sure my garage door system has the required entrapment protection?
A — Consult with the operator manufacturer for details on safe installations and compliance with UL 325. Residential installations need two or more types of entrapment protection. The first type is an inherent force sensing system, which is a permanent and integral part of the operator. An option for the second type is constant pressure to close. Other options include external devices such as photo eyes or an edge sensor.

Commercial installations should have one or more type of entrapment protection. Constant pressure to close is one option. Other options include external devices such as photo eyes or an edge sensor.

.

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