

# THE UNSUNG HERO OF THE INDUSTRY: THE TDS

## A straightforward guide to DASMA’s valuable document database

By Vicki Jones, Editor

For more than 25 years, members of the Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) have collaborated to produce a Technical Data Sheet (TDS) database for the industry. The incredible collection of over 150 documents serves as a unique and accessible resource for both professionals in the door and access control products industry and general end users.

If you’re not currently using DASMA TDSs, then you’re missing out. The following article is intended to demystify TDSs so that more people can and will turn to them for valuable technical information.

### What is a Technical Data Sheet?

A TDS is a document developed by DASMA members; each one provides critical information about a technical issue or product used in the door and access control industry.

As of September 2025, there are 156 TDSs covering a wide range of topics. New documents are created in response to emerging issues or proposed topics while existing TDSs are periodically reviewed to ensure they remain accurate and relevant.

### What is the purpose of the TDSs?

TDSs are designed for architects, distributors, purchasers, installers, specifiers, end users, and other industry professionals. Each TDS is given a specific number and name based on their topic.

TDS documents should not be used as a substitute for manufacturer manuals or instructions sheets but rather as another supplemental resource. You should always consult individual manufacturers for product-specific recommendations and review applicable local regulations. TDSs serve a different purpose.

“Technical Data Sheets enable the industry to speak with a unified voice on common questions and concerns that arise from other industry stakeholders,” said Dave Monsour, DASMA’s technical director.

“Many manufacturers get the same repetitive questions from their customers. Having a Technical Data Sheet provides a handy and concise response. The TDS also allows the manufacturer to demonstrate that the answer is endorsed not only by themselves but by the entire industry,” added Monsour.

“TDSs are considered the industry standard in many applications because they have the backing of DASMA,” said Greg Matias, director of compliance and validation at The Genie Company.

### What topics are covered in the TDS database?

DASMA TDSs cover a vast and comprehensive spectrum of technical topics. Some focus on codes and requirements while others provide product installation guidance, troubleshooting information, performance details, and more.

Currently, the database is grouped into four categories:

- Commercial & Residential
- High-Performance Door
- Operator & Electronics [includes both door and gate operators]
- Rolling Door

Each category contains a growing number of documents as new issues and technologies arise and more TDSs are developed and approved.

### TDS TOTALS AS OF AUGUST 2025

TDS Category	Number of TDSs
Commercial & Residential	60
Rolling Door	50
Operator & Electronics	36
High-Performance Door	10

Source: [www.dasma.com/technical-data-sheets](http://www.dasma.com/technical-data-sheets)\*

Numbers may change as DASMA develops new documents.

### How are TDSs developed?

There are many paths to the initiation and final creation of a Technical Data Sheet. Usually, a TDS begins with a question and follows a structured process. The following is a detailed outline of the typical development, review, and approval process:



### 8. The release

Once approved, the final TDS is distributed via bulletin to division members and posted on the public DASMA website.

### Who can and should use TDS documents?

TDSs are valuable resources for a wide variety of groups, including door and access control dealers, architects, purchasers, specifiers, homeowners, general product end users, and homeowner associations.

Since these documents are carefully developed and contain extensive information about industry products, it's no surprise that so many groups can benefit from the technical knowledge they offer. Plus, the ongoing review process allows for modifications as necessary to take new developments into account.

"They are valuable tools for dealers and installers who reference them when working with inspectors and other trade groups," said Matias. "At Genie we use DASMA TDSs on a regular basis. They are a trusted reference for training for both employees and customers."



### 1. The question

A question is proposed by an industry stakeholder or DASMA member — serving as the seed for a potential TDS. The question must be technical in nature.

### 2. The discussion

The question is presented to one of the DASMA divisions during a scheduled in-person or virtual meeting — either as a prepared agenda item or under the "New Business" topic.

### 3. The idea

Members present at the meeting discuss whether or not the topic warrants the development of a new TDS.

### 4. The vote

The Chair calls for a motion to explore the TDS. That decision is not taken lightly because even the initial drafting and preparation of a new TDS requires a significant amount of work. If the motion is made and seconded, then a time for discussion follows wherein any supporting or dissenting voices are heard, the motion is carefully considered, and a vote is taken. If the motion carries, the process progresses to the next step.

### 5. The author(s)

A volunteer — or sometimes a small Task Group of two to four members — drafts the document. In some cases, the DASMA Technical Director will prepare an outline. The authors are invited, but not required, to follow the format outlined in a "TDS Template" prepared by the Rolling Door Division with the concurrence of the other divisions in 2023.

### 6. The draft

The Task Group (or additional authors) prepares one (or more if necessary) drafts. Once the authors are satisfied with the content, DASMA staff circulates the draft to the larger group for review.

### 7. The review and approval

Feedback is gathered from members through a process of draft circulation and review. The draft is gradually improved and then submitted for a final vote. All objections submitted during the vote must be addressed before approval. The committee or division approving the document rules each dissenting comment as either "persuasive" (requiring changes) or "nonpersuasive" (allowing approval).

### Which TDSs are most relevant to you?

With more than 150 TDSs available, it can be challenging to know where to start. Reviewing the TDS categories, titles, and descriptions will help you identify the documents most relevant to your needs.

Below is a list of potential user groups along with a few examples of TDSs particularly useful for each.

### A small sample: TDSs based on user group

The list below references 10 of the many TDS documents available for these groups. For a complete list, refer to [www.dasma.com](http://www.dasma.com).

#### 1. ARCHITECTS AND SPECIFIERS

- **TDS 155 — Residential and Commercial Wind Load Guides**  
A go-to reference when specifying doors on projects with known wind pressure requirements. It is intended to aid in the process of specifying the proper garage and rolling doors for buildings with wind load requirements.
- **TDS 265 — Standard Rolling Door Architectural Details**  
Outlines the standard rolling door products that are most specified and accurate depictions of these products and includes details associated with these products, such as dimensional parameters, product application recommendations, and associated conditions and limitations.

#### 2. CODE OFFICIALS AND HOME INSPECTORS

- **TDS 151 — General Code Inspection Guidelines for Sectional Garage Doors**  
Includes a general checklist designed for code officials performing a final inspection on an installed residential or commercial sectional garage door system. It is intended to help quickly identify any deviation from either the code or the manufacturer's installation instructions/job approval drawings.

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- **TDS 167 – Residential Sectional Garage Door & Electric Operator Checklist for Home Inspectors and Consumers**

Offers a basic checklist to assess the condition of a residential sectional garage door (connected to an automated door operator when applicable). It is intended to help home inspectors maximize the value of their service to homeowners and home buyers.

### 3. DOOR AND ACCESS CONTROL INSTALLING DEALERS

- **TDS 164 – Drywall Surfaces and the Mounting of Garage Door Hardware**

Includes information on mounting track brackets, side and center bearing brackets, and steel angles with respect to drywall. In all installations – particularly when retrofitting a garage door – installers should responsibly inspect jamb, header, and ceiling conditions for adequacy so that hardware can be mounted – particularly when drywall is present.

- **TDS 354 – Loop Systems and Depth in Road Pavements**

Includes potential effects to the loop system, pavement, and loop detector when installing an “underground loop” into an existing road. It also offers some possible solutions and items to consider.

### 4. HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS (HOAS)

- **TDS 163 – U-factor and R-value for Residential and Commercial Garage Doors**

Intended to provide a standard definition for manufacturers (and the customers they supply) to determine, communicate, and interpret the thermal values of commercial and residential garage doors.

It also details the two methods used to determine thermal properties of garage doors: testing and calculation.

- **TDS 371 – Automated Vehicular Gate Systems: Checklist for Inspectors and Property Owners**

Includes a checklist to assist inspectors and owners of automated vehicular gate systems, which are typically a very large moving item on a property. This resource is intended as an aid in checking the principal elements of gate systems.

### 5. HOMEOWNERS AND GENERAL PRODUCT USERS

- **TDS 167 – Garage Doors and High Wind Events**

Outlines key items that homeowners should consider and/or check before high-wind events to help increase wind load performance.

- **TDS 174 – Checking a Garage Door for Damage**

Provides a residential building occupant a guideline to access sectional garage door damage. It is particularly helpful when the occupant needs to check for damage after an extreme weather event such as a tornado, hurricane, seismic activity, or flooding.

### TDS value and benefits

TDSs are often-overlooked assets that can make a real difference. They're packed with reliable, vetted information and are developed and updated by industry experts. Whether you're installing, specifying, inspecting, or simply trying to gain a better understanding about our industry's products, these documents offer clear guidance. If you haven't explored the DASMA TDS library yet, then now's a great time to start. Visit <https://www.dasma.com/technical-data-sheets> for more information. ■

