

New perimeter and spring requirements for California

DASMA CONTINUES TO CLOSE THE GAP

As always, DASMA and its technical teams are at the forefront of issues that have an impact on commercial and residential gates and garage doors. The upcoming changes to requirements in California codes involving garage door springs and the garage door perimeter gap exemplify our pivotal role in the industry. These changes will become effective on Jan. 1, 2020, and DASMA was actively involved in the development process.

Changes at a glance

The changes for garage door springs include 1) referencing the ANSI/DASMA 103 spring standard, 2) correcting the definition of a door cycle, 3) changing the phrase “containment device” to “restraining device,” and 4) a number of other improvements to building code language.

The changes for garage door perimeter gaps expand on weatherstripping requirements and provide three options for controlling gaps between doors and door openings. The State of California Business Standards Commission section 708A.4, titled “Garage Door Perimeter Gap,” states that exterior garage doors shall resist the intrusion of embers from entering by preventing gaps between doors and door openings—at the bottom, sides, and tops of doors—from exceeding 1/8” (3.2 mm).

Gaps between doors and door openings must be controlled by one of the following methods:

1. Weatherstripping products made of materials that: a) have been tested for tensile strength in accordance with ASTM D638 (Standard Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics) after exposure to ASTM G155 (Standard Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Non-Metallic Materials) for a

period of 2,000 hours, where the maximum allowable difference in tensile strength values between exposed and non-exposed samples does not exceed 10%, and b) exhibit a V-2 or better flammability rating when tested to UL 94 (Standard for Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances).

2. Door overlaps onto jambs and headers.
3. Garage door jambs and headers covered with metal flashing.

DASMA and the development process

For the past two years, DASMA worked with the California Building Standards Commission and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) during the writing/development of the 2019 codes. DASMA technical director



Joe Hetzel headed up one of the task groups responsible for developing various Wildland-Urban Interface proposals, including the garage door perimeter gap proposal.

In January 2018, the task group began to examine alternative ways to minimize garage door perimeter gaps. After test results were presented and discussed, the task group agreed on three alternatives. According to Hetzel, these findings helped improve the existing code language while highlighting the common materials and methods being used.

From proposal to code

Next, Hetzel led the drafting of a proposal that incorporated revised language and submitted it to the California Building Standards Commission to review. Hetzel developed a spring proposal separately with the help of DASMA’s Garage Door Technical Committee.

During code hearings held in Sacramento July 31-Aug. 1, 2018, the California Building Standards Commission approved both proposals. In the fall 2018 issue of Door + Access Systems magazine, DASMA featured a press release announcing the approved code proposals and detailing the specific revisions.

In September 2019, the chief of code development and analysis for the OSFM, Greg Anderson, conducted a presentation at the DASMA Fall Technical Forum held in Chicago, Illinois.

Anderson reiterated the revisions that DASMA helped develop to a group of over 30 technical representatives of sectional, rolling, and high-performance door manufacturers. He also overviewed the Wildland-Urban Interface and its code development process as well as the California Building/Residential/Energy Code development process.

Hetzel said the California code development process requires carefully focused effort. He said, “California Building Code development is a time-intensive process involving the collaborative efforts of several groups. DASMA is pleased to be an active contributor to the ongoing improvements and revisions of codes affecting the gate and door industries we represent.”

Beginning in January 2020, the Code of Regulations involving perimeter gaps will become effective. DASMA is grateful to have participated in the process, and we will continue to keep our readers updated on additional changes pertaining to this or other industry-related topics. ■