

Dealers Should Replace, NOT Repair Old GDOs

Nationwide Campaign Coming to Consumers



The DASMA Operator & Electronics Division is urging dealers to replace, not repair, residential garage door operators manufactured before

1993. In addition to the appeal to dealers, DASMA is also launching a nationwide campaign to urge consumers to “replace not repair” pre-1993 operators. After the campaign gets rolling, dealers will find more customers to be supportive of the “replace not repair” option.

Why Replace the Operator?

“It has been 20 years since the law was enacted requiring additional entrapment protection,” said Chris Johnson, DASMA assistant executive director.

“The changes to UL 325, as a result of close work between DASMA members, Underwriters Laboratories, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), have greatly reduced serious injuries. The industry wants to build on that success by replacing the remaining pre-1993 operators.”

There are several good reasons to replace these operators.

- Due to entrapment concerns, some state laws restrict service and repair of pre-1993 operators.
- In some states, repair personnel must notify homeowners that their operator is not compliant with the current UL or CPSC standards and applicable laws.
- Manufacturers no longer provide replacement parts for most of these older operators.
- Even if you find some parts online, these parts could be old or defective and thus may increase personal risks.
- A dealer who chooses to service pre-1993 operators could incur significant litigation costs if an injury is associated with those operators.

DASMA Technical Data Sheet 351 contains a helpful list of common questions from dealers and detailed answers concerning the 1993 law and how installing dealers should respond. The TDS is highly recommended and freely available at www.dasma.com.

Taking Advantage of Advancements

Thanks to advancements in technology, new operators have more safety features and improved entrapment protection. Current operators are also available with many new convenience features such as battery backup, Internet connectivity, and smart control stations and remote controls.

If homeowners are concerned about the cost of a new operator, they will be pleasantly surprised. When adjusted for inflation, the cost of today’s standard operators turns out to be about the same as it was 20 years ago. In short, new operators are improved, safer, smarter, and very affordable.

Post-1992 Requirements

Homeowners who still have the older operators are missing out on important safety enhancements. Since 1993, operators manufactured for sale in the U.S. must:

- Reverse the door upward after two seconds of sensing an obstruction.
- Reverse the door upward if the door has not reached the fully closed position in 30 seconds.
- Include an additional entrapment-protection device that may be either an external device (such as an edge sensor or photoelectric eye) or a second inherent, force-sensing device.

All operators have a label that includes the manufacture date. If the label says 1992 or earlier, dealers are urged to replace it, not repair it.

“The campaign to ‘replace not repair’ is good for dealers, homeowners, and manufacturers,” added Johnson. “We encourage dealers to start the campaign now.” ■

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