

## Pennsylvania Now Requires Contractor Registration



As of July 1, 2009, most home improvement contractors working in Pennsylvania are required to register with the state. The Pennsylvania Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act applies to all residential contractors who perform more than \$5,000 worth of home improvements per year.

“The intent of the act is to protect consumers from unscrupulous contractors,” says Tom Corbett, the state’s attorney general.

Under the law, construction of a new home is not considered a home improvement. However, the law specifically affects those who install, replace, and improve garages, doors, security systems, and fences. Subcontractors who are paid directly by a general contractor are also affected.

### The Application

The law requires contractors to complete an application that includes:

- A non-refundable application fee of \$50;
- Insurance policy information showing at least \$50,000 of personal injury liability coverage and \$50,000 of property damage coverage;
- Information on any prior actions against their licenses, financial judgments related to home improvement transactions, and criminal pleas or convictions;
- and other details.

### Penalties for Not Registering

Any contractor who is not registered by July 1, 2009, will be prohibited from offering or performing home improvements until they become registered. Failure to register is a violation of the law, and unregistered contractors face legal action including civil penalties of \$1,000 or more. Contractors may register online and immediately receive a registration number.

### Your Ads and Contracts

The law requires that you clearly and conspicuously display your registration numbers in any advertisements, including ads on your trucks. The new law also contains specific requirements for contracts of more than \$500.

For the complete text of the act, click on the Home Improvement Law icon at [www.attorneygeneral.gov/hic.aspx](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/hic.aspx). The registration link for contractors is on the same page. ■

## Tax Credits Spike Traffic to GarageWowNow

Since the \$1,500 tax credit was announced in late February, traffic to the GarageWowNow Web site has doubled. The Web page with tax credit information, which didn’t exist before February, has been the most-viewed page on the entire site since March.



“Consumers are learning about the tax credit for insulated garage doors, and they’re flooding to the site for details,” says Dan Nixa of Chamberlain, the chair of the industry’s GarageWowNow committee. “We have a great opportunity to drive more sales right now.”

Since March, the GarageWowNow campaign has attracted scores of articles in major newspapers, magazines, and Web sites. The campaign has been jointly funded by DASMA and IDA since its inception in April 2007. ■

## “My Safe Florida Home” Program Expires



The “My Safe Florida Home” (MSFH) program expired on June 30, 2009. Efforts within the Florida legislature failed to continue funding of the program, but those efforts are expected to resume in 2010.

The program, administered by the Florida Department of Financial Services, was intended “to help Floridians learn how to harden their homes to better protect themselves and their families from windstorm damage.” Homeowners were encouraged to pursue a wind inspection to identify how to strengthen their homes or determine eligibility for discounts on wind insurance.

Joe Hetzel, DASMA technical director, worked with the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation to revise the Uniform Mitigation Verification Inspection Form to reference ANSI/DASMA 108, wind load testing standard, and ANSI/DASMA 115, windborne debris resistance testing standard.

In spite of the MSFH program expiration, Hetzel says that this effort was important because the form needed to be updated in time for the restarting of the MSFH program. He added that the form could also be used in conjunction with any other ongoing mitigation initiatives in Florida. ■

## Wood Doors Affected by New California Air Regulations

On July 1, 2009, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) fully implemented the first of two phases involving airborne toxic control measures to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, such as certain garage doors. The requirements for Phases 1 and 2 are as follows (numbers are in parts per million):

Wood Type	Phase 1	Phase 2 [Effective Date]
Hardwood Plywood, veneer core	0.08	0.05 [Jan. 2010]
Hardwood Plywood, composite core	0.08	0.05 [July 2012]
Particleboard	0.18	0.09 [Jan. 2011]
Medium Density Fiberboard	0.21	0.11 [Jan. 2011]
Thin Medium Density Fiberboard	0.21	0.13 [Jan. 2012]

The ARB evaluated formaldehyde exposure in California and found that one of the major sources of exposure is inhalation of formaldehyde emitted from composite wood products containing urea-formaldehyde resins. Since formaldehyde is designated as a toxic air contaminant (TAC) in California, state law required ARB to take action to reduce human exposure.

Joe Hetzel of DASMA says garage door manufacturers should approach their wood suppliers to see how they are handling the regulations, since suppliers will need to supply compliant wood materials for doors sold in California. Further information can be found at [www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/compwood.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/compwood.htm). ■



## Chicago to Host Fall Technical Forum

A number of technical experts are scheduled to speak at DASMA's ninth annual Fall Technical Forum from Oct. 5-8, 2009, in Chicago, Ill.

Key speakers include:

- John Rolfes, seismic analysis consultant. Rolfes will speak on seismic analyses and their application to exterior doors.
- Mike Thoman, director of thermal testing and simulations at Architectural Testing, Inc., in York, Pa. Thoman will discuss U-factor testing and simulation for garage doors and rolling doors using new procedures in NFRC 100 and NFRC 102.
- Paul Bove, Ph.D., P.E., engineering staff member at the Texas Department of Insurance. Appearing via conference call, Bove will explain new requirements for product submittals.
- Jerry Hatch, Metal Building Manufacturers Association Technical Committee chair. Hatch will discuss a wind load research test project involving a rolling sheet door attached to metal building framing.

Also scheduled are presentations involving a LEED analysis of a building, color matching, oil-based stain, Green Globes, CSI GreenFormat and MasterFormat, a green building update, and product liability/documentation from an engineer's viewpoint.

The forum also includes meetings of DASMA's Rolling Sheet Door Committee, the Rolling Door Division, the High Performance Door Division, and the Commercial & Residential Garage Door Technical Committee. ■



## The Most-Downloaded Technical Data Sheets

Downloads*	DASMA Technical Data Sheet
1,142	TDS 161 <b>Connecting Garage Door Jambos to Building Framing</b>
856	TDS 160 <b>Sectional Garage Door Terminology</b>
530	TDS 173 <b>Garage Doors and Ventilation</b>
502	TDS 162 <b>Wood Door Finishing Guidelines</b>
401	TDS 155 <b>Residential and Commercial Wind Load Guides</b>

\*May 1 - Aug. 1, 2009

More than 90 Technical Data Sheets are freely available at [www.dasma.com](http://www.dasma.com) under Publications ([www.dasma.com/PubTechData.asp](http://www.dasma.com/PubTechData.asp)). These documents have been prepared and are continually reviewed by the DASMA Technical Committees and technical staff. ■

## DASMA Makes Progress on SHGC Procedures

In July 2009, DASMA began a joint effort with the entry door industry to develop solar heat gain procedures for doors containing both glazed and non-glazed areas. The procedures would be included in NFRC 200, a standard maintained by the National Fenestration Rating Council.

The procedures will utilize area weighting principles to determine the solar heat gain coefficient, or SHGC rating, for affected door products. The principles used are similar to those used to determine garage/rolling door U-factor procedures in NFRC 100, which were approved in 2008.

Joe Hetzel, DASMA technical director, is coordinating this effort with Dave DeBlock, a product code compliance specialist involved with the NFRC Door Task Group. Hetzel and DeBlock are hopeful that the drafted SHGC rating procedures will be balloted within NFRC later this year. ■

## ICC Launches International Green Code

On June 29, 2009, the International Code Council (ICC) launched its International Green Construction Code (IgCC) initiative. The IgCC will focus on the design and performance of new and existing commercial buildings.



Residential issues will be addressed through the ICC 700, known as the National Green Building Standard.

"The proposed IgCC will be part of the ICC family of codes and standards; thus, it has the potential to be adopted across the United States," says DASMA's Jay Johnson, a LEED Accredited Professional.

The ICC formed a Sustainable Building Technology Committee (SBTC) to develop drafts of the IgCC. The first public draft of the IgCC has been posted at [www.iccsafe.org/IGCC/SBTC.html](http://www.iccsafe.org/IGCC/SBTC.html). The public comment period on the initial draft will begin in March 2010.

After reviewing the latest draft, Johnson says the areas of most interest to our industry are the following sections: Recycled and Regional Materials, Life Cycle Assessment, Compliance Electives, Door Energy Performance, VOC Content, and Sound Transmission. ■

## DASMA Releases Six New Technical Data Sheets

This past summer, DASMA published six more Technical Data Sheets to add to its growing online database of industry resources.

The new TDSs include:

- TDS 178 – Garage Door Wind Load Determination – Effective Wind Area
- TDS 181 – General Code Inspection Guidelines for Wind Load Rated Garage Doors
- TDS 281 – Rolling Door Wind Load Determination – Effective Wind Area
- TDS 288 – Special Considerations for Rolling Fire Doors on Exterior Openings

- TDS 289 – Rolling Sheet Doors – Accessibility in Self-Service Storage Facilities
- TDS 377 – Selection, Placement, and Quantity of Photoelectric Eyes for Automated Vehicular Gates

These new documents, like all other Technical Data Sheets and DASMA standards, can be freely viewed and downloaded at [www.dasma.com](http://www.dasma.com). ■



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## DASMA U-Factor Project Advances

Phase 1 of the DASMA U-factor research project using new NFRC testing and simulation procedures for garage doors and rolling doors is nearing completion. Joe Hetzel, DASMA technical director, says that project data indicates that the new NFRC 100 simulation procedures will be validated by NFRC 102 testing procedures.

Use of NFRC 100 and NFRC 102 will enable garage door and rolling door manufacturers to publish U-factors for multiple sizes of a particular door model. Meanwhile, DASMA continues to also support testing to ANSI/DASMA 105 as an acceptable alternative since the document is an industry consensus standard.

DASMA members will discuss potential additional research project phases at their upcoming October technical meetings. ■