

# ASK JOE HETZEL

DASMA Technical Director

## IECC phasing out R-value

**Q** *How should garage doors comply with the International Energy Conservation Code? Is labeling needed?*

**JOE:** This answer applies to jurisdictions where the 2015 IECC has been adopted, and it applies only to heated and/or cooled garages. In the upcoming 2018 IECC, R-value compliance will not be an option. You must use U-factor.

### 2015 Compliance Alternative #1 (Component R-value)

- The code requires a minimum component R-value of 4.75 (Table C402.1.3) for all U.S. Climate Zones, and the R-value cannot be converted into an assembly U-factor. The 2015 code addresses U-factor requirements in Table C402.1.4.
- Manufacturers can supply component R-values for their products. Section C102.1 can be used as a guide for the manufacturer for supplying the documentation behind their published R-values.

### 2015 Compliance Alternative #2 (Assembly U-factor)

- Section C401.2 allows you to comply with ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA 90.1. For

example, in Table 5.5-4, which applies to Climate Zone 4 in the U.S., the maximum U-factor is 0.500 for garage doors in residential and non-residential buildings, and 1.450 for such doors in semi-heated buildings.

Regarding labeling, Section C303.1.3 applies to assembly U-factor only. Manufacturers can label their products to either NFRC 100 or ANSI/DASMA 105 as required by that section. Section C102.1 applies to product labeling involving component R-value.

Beginning with the 2018 IECC, wherever it is adopted, garage doors must comply with U-factor requirements. The R-value is going away.

**Q** *What do I do if the code applies to my door, but a certain aspect, such as egress, is not directly addressed in the code for my door?*

**JOE:** There is a section in every ICC code that involves “alternate” methods, materials, or designs. This allows a code official to be convinced that the product meets the intent of the code regarding strength, durability, safety, and other important code aspects.

The door manufacturer may then be required to supply documentation. In the case of egress, for example, the manufacturer would have to show how egress is achieved through the door by individuals who may or may not have special training.



**Q** *I am a gate operator installer. What should I do if I cannot completely follow the UL 325 instructions due to site limitations?*

**JOE:** (I have been asked to clarify my response to this question, which appeared in the last edition of the magazine.) Installers must follow all of the manufacturer’s installation instructions. If the job requires compliance with UL 325, the regulating entity (code official, homeowner association, specifier, etc.) must be advised that the associated UL 325 terms and conditions must be maintained. ■

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