

At What Height Are You Installing Commercial Photo Eyes?

Since Aug. 29, 2010, UL 325 has required all commercial door operators to include constant pressure to close or to be equipped with a primary external monitored entrapment protection device, typically a photoelectric eye. In my travels, I have observed that some commercial door technicians are installing these photo eyes 3' above the floor or on one side of the door at a height of 6"

while shooting it at an angle to the opposing photo eye installed at a height of 4'.

While this may protect vehicles, it is in conflict with the purpose of the Underwriters Laboratories requirement as well as manufacturers' instructions. Photoelectric eyes intended for primary entrapment protection must be installed parallel to the floor and no higher than 6" above the finished floor. Installing the eyes higher than 6" exposes the installing dealer to liability.

By Dan Dombkowski, LiftMaster, Manager of Sales Training Chair of the DASMA Training & Education Committee



Responding to Objections

If a customer objects to the 6" installation height, technicians should reply that doing otherwise creates a dangerous environment and exposes the customer's company to liability. Such an unsafe installation can also result in an OSHA violation.

As reported in the winter 2012 issue of this magazine, the Minnesota OSHA fined the Barnesville Bus Company \$25,900 after one of its owners died in a March 2011 garage door accident. The man was reportedly found pinned under a garage door and asphyxiated by the door's pressure on his chest.

The door's safety sensor was said to be located 7' from the floor. The bus company was cited for failing to have garage doors with "safeguards to prevent entrapment of employees." Professional dealers can use this case to educate their customers about this issue.

Protecting Vehicles Appropriately

If customers want to protect vehicles, additional sets of photo-eyes can be used as well as safety edges, light curtains, or properly placed vehicle loop detectors. Any ancillary protection is not required by UL to be monitored.

Today's commercial door operators provide a much safer environment for your customers than they did in the past. However, these doors must be installed properly following the manufacturers' installation instructions. ■

Your **RE-SOURCE**™ for Flood Vents FOR GARAGE DOORS

- FEMA Elevation Certificate requires evidence that flood prone enclosed areas are vented properly to permit hydrostatic water pressure equalization
- Each Smart Vent® protects up to 200 Sq. Ft. of area below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Use fewer vents, and improve home protection
- Flood Insurance rates increase dramatically if no vents or non-compliant vents are used in areas below the BFE
- ICC-ES Evaluated, FEMA Accepted and approved by the Florida Building Code Commission



Insulated and Dual Function models available



Re-Source Industries, Inc. ■ Fort Worth, Texas ■ TOLL-FREE Order Line: 1-866-316-7337 ■ www.re-sourceind.com ■ FAX 817-222-9950