



**DASMA**  
Door & Access Systems  
Manufacturers Association  
International

GATE OPERATOR & ACCESS CONTROL POINT SYSTEMS DIVISION

# TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

## #356

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### **UL 325 and Gate Installations: Frequently Asked Questions** (Note: References to UL 325 have been updated to the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition)

1. **Is compliance with UL 325 a national law?** No; however, it became a state law in Nevada effective March 1, 2000. DASMA is continuing to monitor other states for potential legislation in this area. Also, many states have adopted the International Building Code, International Fire Code and the International Residential Code where UL 325 is referenced.
2. **Who is going to check the gate system to determine if it is in compliance with the new standard?** Since UL325 has been adopted into the International Building Code, the International Fire Code, and the International Residential Code, building inspectors and fire inspectors are now inspecting installations to ensure they are in compliance to UL 325. Keep in mind there is also the potential for liability if a gate system is not installed in compliance with UL 325.
3. **Am I required to upgrade existing installed operators to the new UL 325 standard?** No. There is no retroactivity with respect to UL 325.
4. **Can older operators that do not meet the standard be repaired?** Yes. You may wish to contact your attorney or your trade association legal counsel regarding liability issues in repairing older operators that have no entrapment sensing provisions. You should note that since 2000 two means of entrapment protection have been required in each entrapment zone. It is recommended that any gate operator manufactured prior to 2000 be replaced as it may not have the ability to attach entrapment protection devices to it.
5. **Can I upgrade, to the new standard, operators already installed?** There are no requirements to upgrade existing operators; however, upgrading is dependent on the product itself. The operator manufacturer must be consulted on this matter.

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6. **What is the significance of the operator usage classifications?** The classifications are intended to signify specific end use applications as defined in UL 325.
7. **Can operators be classified under more than one of the classifications?** Yes. UL 325 requires that “A vehicular gate operator shall be permanently marked to specify all intended Classes of applications.” (underline added)
8. **Do photoelectric sensors or contact edge sensors have to be installed on all gates?** These two options are among several acceptable options depending on which devices have been qualified by the operator manufacturer as entrapment protection devices. Refer to the operator manual or contact the operator manufacturer for acceptable entrapment protection devices to be installed on a particular gate operator system.
9. **Do I have to install both photoelectric sensors and contact edge sensors to be in compliance with the standard?** No; you do not have to put both on the gate if the entrapment requirements can be met with only a single device. However, ensure that each entrapment zone is protected by two separate forms of entrapment protection. If the operator is provided with inherent entrapment protection built into the operator, that counts as one form of protection.
10. **Will an operator manufactured in 2016, or after, function if a photoelectric sensor or contact edge sensor is not connected?** No. Beginning in 2016, these are considered “monitored devices” and must be connected and operational in order for the operator to work.
11. **How far away from the gate should an activation device (push button, card reader, etc.) be installed?** The applicable provision in UL 325 reads, “Controls intended for user activation must be located at least six feet (6') away from any moving part of the gate and where the user is prevented from reaching over, under, around or through the gate to operate the controls.” Emergency controls are an exception to this requirement. Such controls only accessible by authorized personnel may be placed at any location in the line-of-sight of the gate.
12. **If a reset switch is to be installed, where does it have to be installed?** UL 325 requires that “Controls intended to be used to reset an operator after 2 sequential activations of the entrapment protection device or devices must be located in the line-of-sight of the gate.”
13. **Do I have to install a separate pedestrian gate?** Yes, a separate gate will be required if pedestrian traffic is present in the area. UL 325 states that if the operator is for a vehicular gate, pedestrians must use a separate entrance.
14. **Do UL 325 requirements apply to both new and existing gates?** UL 325 requirements apply to all new construction of gates and existing gates intended to be motorized.
15. **Do I have to install guarding or screening on a gate?** Yes, but this applies only to horizontal sliding gates, vertical pivot gates and vertical lift gates. The requirements for gates can be found in the ASTM F2200 standard. UL 325 contains instructional requirements related to gate operators and gate construction. The important fact to remember is that if a gate system is not guarded or screened

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in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, it cannot be claimed to be in compliance with instructional requirements found in UL 325.

16. **Does the 2 1/4 inch sphere test start at the bottom of the gate or is it measured from the ground up to 6 feet?** UL 325 instructional requirements for horizontal sliding gates state that “All openings of a horizontal slide gate are guarded or screened from the bottom of the gate to a minimum of 6 feet above the ground to prevent a 2-1/4 inch diameter sphere from passing through the openings anywhere in the gate and in that portion of the adjacent fence...” (underline added) If the gate is less than 6 feet in height above the ground, the gate should be guarded or screened to the top of the gate.
17. **Do other gates besides horizontal slide gates require guarding or screening?** Yes, vertical pivot and vertical lift gates. Vertical pivot gates, like horizontal slide gates, also require screening to prevent a 2-1/4 in. diameter sphere from passing through. Vertical lift gates require screening to prevent a 4 in. diameter sphere from passing through a gap. Complete requirements for gate construction can be found in the ASTM F2200 standard..
18. **If a slide gate is on wheels and there is a 4-inch gap between the ground and the bottom of the gate, is this OK?** The standard does not include provisions governing the gap between the bottom of the gate and the ground.
19. **Do swing gates need to be guarded or screened so that a 2 1/4 inch sphere will not pass through it?** No. See ASTM F2200 for more information.
20. **Is there a difference between a UL listed product, an ETL listed product, or a product listed by anyone else?** Any listing by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) accredited by OSHA to test to the UL 325 standard, as well as to any required secondary standards such as UL 991, is acceptable.
21. **Is there a speed limit for a pivot gate, and if so where would this be measured?** The only limit on speed that is specified in the standard is that either a Class I and Class II horizontal slide gate cannot move greater than 1 foot per second. Note that this only applies to slide gates. There is no speed limit on swing gates, or on vertical pivot gates.
22. **Should a gate weight limit, as well as gate speed limit, be considered?** Yes, the gate weight and maximum speed should be considered during installation. A gate operator manufacturer must specify the maximum size, weight and drive train in order to determine a test plan to list a specific operator to UL 325. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions or markings for the maximum force the operator is intended to exert on the gate or the maximum load or gate weight with which it is intended to be used.
23. **Where should a hard wired input be located?** UL 325 provisions state that controls intended for user activation must be located at least six feet (6') away from any moving part of the gate and where the user is prevented from reaching over, under, around or through the gate to operate the controls. UL 325 provisions also define that the stop and/or reset buttons used to reset an operator after 2 sequential activations of the entrapment protection devices must be located in the line-of-sight of the gate.

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24. **Can a Warning Sign be mounted on a post as well as a fence or gate?** Yes. UL 325 instructional requirements clearly state that “all warning signs and placards must be installed where visible in the area of the gate.” The warning signs should be visible at all times, regardless of gate position.
25. **Should code language read “if a pedestrian gate is installed, it shall be located within 10 feet of a vehicular gate”?** UL 325 instructional requirements state that a separate pedestrian access opening should be provided. Acceptable pedestrian access locations are beyond the scope of UL 325.
26. **Should placement of non-contact sensors be quantified?** Every gate installation is different. With respect to non-contact sensors, UL 325 calls for “one or more” non-contact sensors to be located where the risk of entrapment or obstruction exists. This places some responsibility on the installer to be able to identify these areas of risk. The standard cannot quantify this. There is no way to ascertain the risk areas until the vehicular gate system is installed.
27. **Should non-contact sensors be also placed on the secured side of the gate?** Yes, if there is a risk of entrapment or obstruction.
28. **How many contact sensors should be used on a gate?** Every gate installation is different. With respect to contact sensors, UL 325 states that “one or more” contact sensors are to be located where the risk of entrapment or obstruction exists for slide gates. Paragraph 2 calls out “one or more” contact sensors for a vehicular vertical lift gate. Paragraph 3 calls out “one or more” contact sensors for a vehicular vertical pivot gate. Paragraph 6 calls for “one or more” contact sensors on the inside and outside leading edge of swing gate as well the bottom edge if there is greater than 4 inches but less than 16 inches at any point in its arc of travel.
29. **Is the difference between Classes I and II outlined in other provisions of UL 325 besides the definition section?** Regarding temperature testing, Class I is tested for limited duty and Class II is tested for continuous duty. Otherwise, there are no differences between Class I and Class II as described within UL 325.
30. **An airport security area appears to be a Class IV application. If a gate in this area is unmanned, is this a Class III application?** This would be a Class III application because the gate system is not manned, or guard controlled via a closed circuit connection, which is a requirement for a Class IV application. Keep in mind that a Class IV operator could not be used in this application.
31. **Can “monitor” be defined as used in UL 325?** In UL 325, “monitor” means that the operator must check for the presence of the device. This includes checking for the proper connection of the device, verifying that there are no short circuits in the connection of the device, and verifying that there are no open circuits in the connection of the device, at least once during each open and close cycle. Keep in mind that the monitoring function is applicable to those external devices that are used as an entrapment protection device.
32. **Are there two graphics offered for the Warning Signs (slide and swing)?** The graphics on the Warning Signs must comply with the standard practices for safety information as prescribed in the

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Standard for Product Safety Signs and Labels, ANSI Z535.4. UL 325 provisions allow for more than one pictorial to be used; however, most manufacturers are using placards as designed by DASMA for industry standardization. The one-sign design is acceptable for both slide and swing gate applications.

33. **Our city has a noise law, 10 PM- 7 AM daily, where noise cannot exceed 70 dB at the property line. How does this affect compliance with UL 325?** There may be provisions in the law that allow for safety related devices to exceed the 70db noise limit. If there is no such provision, then UL should be made aware of this for possible action.
34. **If a gate is not closed via a timer, does this affect any of the entrapment protection provisions that would be required for compliance?** No. The entrapment protection provisions are not dependent on whether an automatic close timer is employed or not.
35. **How many means of entrapment protection are required?** Two means of entrapment protection are required for each entrapment zone. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions regarding which types of entrapment protection can be used.
36. **Where can I obtain more information on UL 325?** You may contact UL directly at (847) 272-8800, or DASMA at (216) 241-7333, or you may purchase UL 325 from IHS Markit at (800) 854-7179 ([global.ihs.com](http://global.ihs.com)) or from Comm 2000 at 888-853-3503 ([shopulstandards.com](http://shopulstandards.com)).

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