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Installation Height of Photoelectric Sensors

Introduction

Federal law requires that residential automatic garage door operators be designed and manufactured with features that aid in the prevention of an individual from becoming entrapped beneath a closing garage door. One way to achieve this entrapment protection is the incorporation of a secondary entrapment protection device, which is required to be added onto the door and operator system. This can consist of a photoelectric sensor, an edge sensor, or any other system that meets the protection requirements tested by UL 325.

Photoelectric Sensor

A photoelectric sensor consists of a photoelectric beam that extends across the garage door opening. This sensor is designed to detect an obstruction while the door is closing, and send a signal to the garage door operator to reverse the door movement, thus avoiding a potential entrapment situation.

PROPER INSTALLATION HEIGHT OF A PHOTOELECTRIC SENSOR IS ESSENTIAL TO THE INTENDED OPERATION OF THIS DEVICE.

Installation Height

Photoelectric sensors should be installed per the garage door operator manufacturer's instructions, with the top of the photoelectric eye lens no higher than six inches above the garage floor. If installation is above six inches, the photoelectric eyes may not detect what they are intended to protect, an individual lying down on the garage floor under the descending door.

Important

DASMA recommends that customers, service personnel and installers conduct the required regular testing of automatic garage door and operator systems. The manufacturer's instructions provided along with the garage door operator should be reviewed concerning this testing.

In addition to monthly testing of the inherent reversing mechanism, the photoelectric sensors should be tested for proper working order. Start the door moving down. Then apply a controlled obstruction in the path of the photoelectric beam. Verify that the garage door movement reverses direction and returns to the fully open position

Note: Technical Data Sheets are information tools only and should not be used as substitutes for instructions from individual manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and check the applicable local regulations.

This Technical Data Sheet was prepared by the members of DASMA's Operator & Electronics Division Technical Committee. DASMA is a trade association comprising manufacturers of rolling doors, fire doors, grilles, counter shutters, sheet doors, and related products; upward-acting residential and commercial garage doors; operating devices for garage doors and gates, sensing devices, and electronic remote controls for garage doors and gate operators; as well as companies that manufacture or supply either raw materials or significant components used in the manufacture and installation of the Active Members' products.