

STANDBY POWER AND GARAGE DOOR OPENERS - TIMELINE

FROM EARLY 2000s

From the early 2000s, government regulators have been publishing targeted energy saving proposals relating to reductions in power consumption of household equipment.

After 2007 this accelerated through banning the sale of incandescent light globes from November 2009 and targets were set for standby power consumption of household equipment from the current 2W.

FEBRUARY 2011

The garage door industry became aware that from October 2013 the Australian & NZ governments plan to introduce regulation, which might affect garage door openers.

The regulation is defined as standby and off mode electric power consumption of electrical and electronic household and office equipment being ≤ 1 W (plus 1W allowance for any displays in the equipment) as Europe is introducing such regulation (EC 1275/2008) from 1 Jan 2012.

SEPTEMBER 2011

In September 2011, AGDA set up a meeting with the Director of Appliance Energy Efficiency Team Shane Holt who advised that:

- A Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) to be issued for public comment in early 2012.
- Europe's implementation date is now 4th December 2012 (4th anniversary of issue of the regulation). *[NOTE: AGDA understands EC 1275/2008 will NOT apply to European garage door openers.]*
- Implementation in Australia still 1st October 2013 to harmonise with the European regulations, regardless of whether or not European garage door openers are included in those regulations.
 - It will be targeted at manufacturers / importers.
 - It will apply to NEW products made or imported on and from 1st October.
 - Existing stocks will be permitted to be sold.
 - Government to enforce the regulations through energy rating star labels and rely on manufacturers / importers / consumers identifying organisations not complying.
- The default position for compliance with regulation for passive standby power reductions is NO exceptions. However the Department realises there will be issues in achieving the 1W, and there will be limited scope only for exemptions based on-
 - Negotiated Time scale.
 - Minimum managed performance standards for the equipment (above prescribed level).
 - Voluntary Industry Code

DECEMBER 2011

In December 2011 it was established that:

- The RIS has been subject to further internal delays, so release MIGHT BE mid 2012?

- The government is moving to regulation as despite improvements in standby consumption, most appliance categories still have at least 25% of products failing to meet proposed regulations.

MAY 2012

In May 2012 it was established that the RIS has been subject to even further internal Departmental delays with possible knock on effect from the public response process that the legislation will NOT make the 2013 target.

WHAT NEXT?

AGDA will respond to the RIS, when issued, **with an objective to minimise cost imposts on the market arising from Government proposals**, along the lines:

- Reconfirm AGDA understands and supports in principle energy efficiency objectives, provided they are broadly implemented around the world.
- Reconfirm that EC 1275/2008 will NOT apply to European and US garage door openers, hence most garage door openers in the world will not comply with standby power targets in that document.
- State that with Australia 'going it alone' on standby for garage door openers the industry here will be at an economic disadvantage due to lack of economies of scale arising from short production runs for Australia (and NZ), garage door openers.
- Express concern that there will be no regulatory 'policing' of the standby regulations disadvantaging complying organisations.
- Recommend as a consequence and the RIS delays, that October 2013 is too soon to implement the Australian and NZ proposed regulation as far as garage door openers are concerned and that the implementation date should be 2015.

IDA INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE DIRECTOR MEETING

AGDA secretary met with one of IDA's International Affiliate Directors, Robin Oliver in Sydney on 14th May 2012.

Apart from his IDA role he owns and is CEO of Oliver Overhead Door Co., Ltd, Berkeley House, Syresham, Brackley, Northants NN13 5HL, United Kingdom.

The business is mainly commercial doors, is not far from Oxford and the product range includes insulated sectional doors made in The Netherlands.

His son Tom now looks after the operational side of the business.



This plus slow down in UK since late 2007 has allowed him time to do more IDA International activities, encouraging Associations to join IDA, and attending a range of IDA affiliate meetings and conferences in Germany, Canada, England and US.

Mr Oliver worked as

Mechanical Engineer for a large Swedish firm (became MD) which acquired/merged with Hörmann Group, a door manufacturer now probably second largest in world with Sanwa Group (origin Japan) probably the world's largest.

He became chief of operations at Hörmann UK but was 'moved' aside then left 19 years ago and started his own door business which is 2 miles from Silverstone Raceway. The raceway facilities were recently refurbished and his operation won the contract to supply 100+ doors and provide same day service in response to installed door issues. (All sorts of different groups occupy the pit buildings etc. throughout the year with many different people operating the doors leading to a Course management decision that all doors be manual chain operated).

He decided to return to UK from the IDA international conference in Las Vegas, earlier in May 2012 via Sydney taking an opportunity to touch base with AGDA.

He is keen to see that IDA provides as much encouragement as possible to o/seas bodies such as AGDA to ensure continued growth of the industry based around appropriate ethics and business practices.

He said Chris Long of IDA sends his regards and IDA appreciates an Australian body being affiliated with IDA.

Mr Oliver has been encouraging start up of a South African Door Assn to then affiliate with IDA although those plans have not eventuated.

A number of Mexican bodies and companies have joined / become affiliated with IDA in last 18 months.

A Russian company DoorHan is in process of joining IDA with the Russian industry body representing Russia and the CIS states. Mr Oliver added that DoorHan has indicated an interest in setting up manufacturing in Australia, maybe sooner than later. In addition to 20 plants in Russia and CIS, they have a large operation in China as well as the Czech Republic.

TRULY EXPOSED

This article on repair abuses by garage door technicians is reproduced from the US magazine Door & Access Systems Newsmagazine, Summer Edition 2012 and the extracts below are reproduced with their kind permission. The full text of the article is available from the web link <http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace/2012/whenthepairmanknocks/>

Door & Access Systems Newsmagazine Editor's Note: A year ago, on May 15, 2011, "Dateline NBC" exposed unethical practices of garage door technicians in a special prime-time hidden-camera investigation. The show sent shockwaves through our industry.... A nationwide television broadcast in Canada exposed even more abuses by garage door technicians.... As always, our goal is to lead the industry to higher levels of professionalism.

A Summary of the Broadcast

Show Title: CBC Marketplace

Episode Title: "When The Repairman Knocks"

Broadcast Date: Friday, March 2, 2012, 8:00 p.m. (ET)

Host: Tom Harrington

Location of Home: Toronto, Canada

Appliances Affected: Toilet, Faucet, Dishwasher, and

Garage Door

Viewers of the Episode: 1,351,000 (Source: CBC)

Two Garage Door Problems: On the day before technicians are called, a new opener is installed by a garage door expert, Tom Adams of Superior Garage Doors, who also tilts the photo-eyes out of alignment and pushes the vacation switch.

Technician #1: Jason of JP Overhead Door diagnoses the problems correctly and fixes them.

Technician #2: James of Double Star Garage Doors does the same.

Harrington: "Neither charged more than 100 bucks."

Technician #3: Mark from the North York franchise of "Dormaster, a national chain" recommends a new circuit board and surge protector. When the homeowner exits the garage, he aligns the photo-eyes.

Technician #4: Rem from "Promaster" also says it needs a new circuit board and a surge protector. Harrington: "We contacted those last two companies (Dormaster and Promaster) after we'd seen many complaints online about the work they do."

Technician #5: Adam from Access Garage Doors also says it needs a new circuit board and surge protection. After the homeowner goes inside the house, Adam adjusts the photo-eyes then urinates into a bucket in the corner of the garage. Harrington: "I don't know what to say about this at all. [deep sigh] Oh, my God."

NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESSES IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

[Sourced from ATO July 2012]

Tax Agents have been advised by the ATO that if they have clients who operate a business in the building and construction industry, they need to be aware of new reporting requirements. From 1 July 2012, they need to report to the ATO each year, the total payments they make to each contractor for building and construction services. Businesses need to report if all of the following apply:

- They are in the building and construction industry.
- They make payments to contractors for building and construction services.
- They have an ABN.

The details to report will generally be contained in the invoices businesses receive from their contractors.

The first *Taxable payments annual report* is due 21 July 2013 for payments made in the 2012-13 financial year. In this first year, businesses that lodge their activity statement quarterly, may lodge by 28 July 2013. For more information, refer to Taxable payments reporting – building and construction industry to find:

- A list of activities and occupations that are considered to be building and construction services
- Examples of situations where reporting is required
- A blank worksheet to help with recording payments made to contractors
- Exclusions from reporting requirements.

The ATO further stated such businesses need to prepare now to ensure they can meet their reporting requirements for the year 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. Changes may be needed to the way they currently record payments made to contractors to make it easier to complete the annual report.