NEWSLETTER
Vol 5 No. 5

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EXTRA SAFETY FOR GARAGE DOORS.

SURVEY & EXTRA SAFETY

Aussies are renowned for their laconic laid back attitude to life - "she'll be right mate" – but this is not a good attitude in regard to safety and garage doors. Many of us as kids heard our parents say "better safe than sorry" and while this is important when it comes to safety in general, it is particularly relevant to garage door safety.

Garage Doors should be fitted with an entrapment protection system being part of the drive that protects against trapping which could result in the human body being squeezed or crushed by the door. Garage Doors may be fitted with extra safety devices to give consumers more protection and peace of mind about garage door safety.

Statistics from the recent survey by Australian Garage Door Association of over 500 garage doors fitted with electric openers around Australia yielded the following:

- **96%** of doors were NOT fitted with PE beams or safety edges.
- **25%** of doors fitted with PE beams or safety edges did NOT operate effectively.

Some industry sources contend that devices to provide extra safety for garage door operation might only be fitted to 1% or at most 2% of garage doors in Australia. This compares very unfavourably with the USA where since such extra entrapment safety devices were mandated in 1993 and now only between 1 and 2% of doors are NOT fitted with such devices.

Of course regular checking and if necessary maintenance or servicing is necessary to ensure all entrapment protection devices function properly.

STANDARDS & EXTRA SAFETY

What does the Opener Standard AS/NZS 60335.2.95:2005 say about entrapment protection systems?

- It acknowledges that an **entrapment protection system** may be incorporated in the motor assembly and this is the case for nearly all garage door openers marketed in Australia and New Zealand.

Generally this type relies on the leading edge of the door coming into contact with an object, immediately stopping and/or reversing to the open position. In relation to this type of device the Standard clearly states **Drives** incorporating an **entrapment protection system** with sensing devices which rely on the door contacting an obstacle shall not cause injury resulting from a moving door. Pressure or edge sensor devices are extra devices activated by contact with an object.

- It further acknowledges that an **entrapment protection system** may be installed separately. It may consist of one or more devices, such as pressure sensitive edges, passive infrared, active light sensing devices or a biased-off switch.

Generally the most common devices of this type are passive infrared or the active light sensing type, providing extra safety by detecting an object in the path of a closing door without the door making contact with the object and the door immediately stopping and/or reversing to the open position. In relation to this type of device, the Standard clearly states that **Drives** incorporating an **entrapment protection system** with sensing devices which prevent the door coming into contact with an obstacle shall not cause injury resulting from a moving door.

These extra safety devices provide additional entrapment protection so they can 'kick in' when an object is in the way of the door.

The standard then defines stringent testing methods for all entrapment protection systems so that consumers can have confidence in products which comply with those provisions in the Standard. AGDA strongly recommends to its members that any openers they import, supply or install are fully compliant with the Australian Standard particularly regarding entrapment protection.

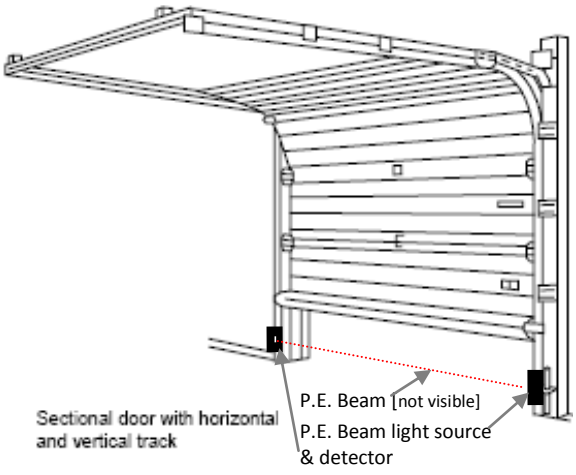
MOST COMMON EXTRA SAFETY DEVICE

A photo electric eye or PE beams are common terms for a combination of a light source and a light detector which can tell when the light source i.e. the 'beam' is shining on it and when it is not.

Typically, a light source is mounted on one side of the garage door, and the detector is mounted on the opposite side, no higher than 100mm above the floor to detect small objects. These must be lined up correctly so the detector "sees" the light source beam, which may be infra red so that "stray" light won't activate the system.

As long as the photo detector is illuminated by the light source beam, it sends a signal to the garage door opener that it is safe to close the door. If the light is not visible at the sensor, the signal to the garage door opener (drive) is interrupted or the beam is blocked, then the door will return to and remain in an open position.

An object between source & detector blocks the beam.



SUMMARY

A "she'll be right mate" attitude doesn't cut it with garage doors and safety. The garage door industry urges consumers to adopt a "better safe than sorry" attitude and seriously consider extra safety devices such as PE beams or pressure sensitive edges, as additional safety measures for their garage doors.

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DEALER MEMBERS OF AGDA

The following organisations have become Dealer members of the Australian Garage Door Association and are cordially welcomed.

The constitution of AGDA permits representaiton of Dealers to serve on the Executive Committee. **Garry McGregor** [ph: 0408 183 817- email: garry@nqdoors.com.au] of NQ Door Specialists and **Les Sutherland** [ph: 0412 667 147- email: sales@expressdoors.com.au] of Express Door Services, having nominated, were declared as dealer representatives at the executive meeting held 7th September 2011. They invite you to contact them on industry matters.

There is one further representative position on the executive committee available for Dealers for this year. Should any one nominate, he or she would be most welcome.

ACT
Capital Doorworks, Hume

NSW
Baulkham Hills Doors, Kenthurst
Byrnes Doors & Shutters, Dubbo
Express Door Services, Prestons
IPM4U, Parkes
Shoalhaven Door Centre, Nowra

QLD
Ammo Garage Doors, Underwood
Best Doors, Pinkenba
Coastal Auto Doors & Gates, Palmwoods
Doors Direct, Boondall
NQ Door Specialists, Cairns
South Burnett Garage Doors, Kingaroy
Remote A Door, Underwood

SA
The Roller Door Doctor, Blair Athol

TAS
Garage Door & Gate Solutions, Launceston
Tom Moore & Son, Kingston

VIC
A K Garage Doors, Warrnambool
Automatic Entry, Campbellfield
Ezy-Action, Moorabbin
CC Victoria Door Co, Keysborough
Doormation, Attwood
Garage Door & Gate Solutions, Braeside
Garage Door Solutions, Attwood
Motorised Control Systems, Greenvale
North Vic Garage Doors, Mooroopna
Prestige Garage Doors, Somerton
S.T.Y. Metals, Wangaratta
The Door Doctor, Melton

WA
24 Seven Door Services, Canning Vale
89 Enterprises + Force Shutters, Willetton
Anvil Metals, West Perth
Blue Tongue Garage Doors, Broome
Door Emergency Australia, Seville Grove
Jim's Garage Doors Servicing & Repairs, Gosnells
KAJ Installations & Services, Mandurah
West Coast Garage Doors, Joondalup

AGDA WEB SITE LISTING

Dealer members are entitled to be listed, subject to their agreement to be so listed, under a separate tab on the AGDA website so that consumers viewing the site for the supply/install of doors and/or openers, will be able to view current contact details of financial AGDA dealer members.

DEALER MEMBER WELCOME PACK

A dealer member welcome pack is being sourced and is planned to be comprised of:

- Membership sticker for display area or vehicle
- Logo in electronic format for dealer marketing
- Web site listing entitlement
- Code of Ethics statement
- 250 Consumer Safety Leaflets for dealer marketing

GUIDELINES FOR INSPECTION OF GARAGE DOOR SURFACES

AGDA is developing a *Guide to Visual Inspection of Garage Doors* the main focus being to assist garage door people in the field to more easily counter unreasonable claims for replacement etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT DRAFT FOR AS/NZS4505 GARAGE DOORS ISSUED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Standards Australia issued, on 2nd August 2011, DR AS NZS 4505 Large access doors (including domestic garage doors), the closing date for public comment was 4th October 2011.

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee BD–14, Metal Cladding.

The objective of this Standard is to provide specifications covering the construction and performance of large access doors including domestic garage doors. It addresses minimum performance requirements for structural loads as well as manufacturing, installation issues.

This Standard is written with reference to the wind classification systems embodied in AS/NZS 1170.2 or AS 4055, and it is bound by the limitations of the Standard as applicable.

This Standard now incorporates the test methods that were previously included in AS/NZS 4504.

Review work had commenced prior to the Cyclone Yasi devastating wind event in Queensland. The cyclone has merely reinforced the need for that review particularly as there were garage door failures in the cyclone, the vast majority of which were standard doors not installed to the design classification required to resist wind loads for the region's wind category.

The issue for the industry is to ensure there is an educated market willing to accept the responsibility for correctly designed and specified doors to be installed to withstand wind events impacting on the whole building envelope recognising any such designed doors will cost more than standard doors.