Safety of your new Automated Garage Door

A consumer leaflet produced by **dhf**

Automated Garage Doors

When a new garage door is supplied, it must comply with two pieces of product safety criminal legislation:

Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations (Machinery Directive)
Construction Products Regulations

These two pieces of criminal product safety legislation make it a legal requirement for the door to have undergone type testing to ensure that it will be safe for users. It must be prevented from squashing a person and protected against falling back should its balancing system suffer a failure.

Squash protection must be provided by one of the following methods:

1. Hold to run

Hold to run means that the safety of the door during closing is provided by the user operating a control that is so designed and installed that it will only function when the user is at the door and in full sight of it. A door being operated by hold to run will only move when the user is pressing the appropriate button or switch; whenever pressure is released, the door must stop.

Hold to run is not allowed to be used via a hand-held radio control, unless its range is so limited (eg 1 - 2m) that it will only function at the door. If it is capable of being used away from and out of sight of the door, additional safety systems must be provided - see 2 & 3.

2. Pressure sensitivity (force limitation)

This is where the door will change direction when it makes contact with a person. It can be provided in any one of three ways:

- **Safety edge** - a rubber bump strip along the bottom of the door that contains a switching system that sends a signal to the drive unit control panel to make the door change direction on contact.
- **Sensitive drive unit** - a drive system that can sense the additional effort as the door makes contact with an obstruction; it will automatically change direction on contact.
- **Movement sensor** - a sensor that monitors the movement of the door; it will sense when the door is obstructed and automatically cause the door to change direction.

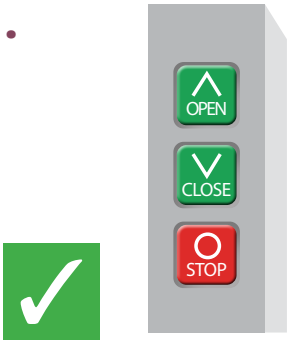
3. Light curtaining

This is where the opening of the door is monitored by multiple light beams that can detect the presence of a person anywhere in the closing space and cause the door to stop or change direction before contact is made.

BEWARE! - light curtaining should not be confused with a single photo beam. A single low-level beam is an enhancement device intended to supplement pressure sensitivity in higher risk environments or to provide vehicle protection where a door has been set to close automatically after a pre-determined time.

Provision of a low-level beam by itself, without pressure sensitivity, is in breach of the legislation.

1.

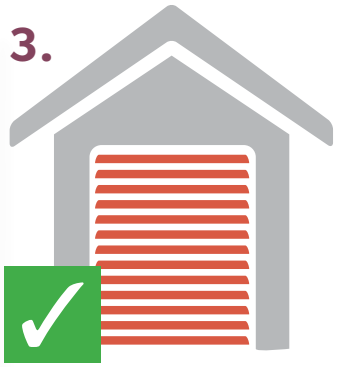


Hold to run

2.

Pressure sensitivity

3.



Light curtaining

Beam only (non-compliant)

4. Compliance documentation

When a door is being legally supplied, two important documents must be made available to the customer:

- **A Declaration of Conformity (DOC)** with machinery safety legislation, either the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations for UKCA marked doors or the Machinery Directive for CE marked doors.
- **A Declaration of Performance (DOP)** against Construction Products Regulations that must declare the performance of the door in terms of wind resistance, air flow, insulation and water ingress, and also declare that the required safety testing has been achieved in terms of operating force and safe opening (fall back protection).

The Declaration of Performance must include the manufacturer's contact details, the appropriate standard and the information shown below:

1.	**Dangerous substances**	**NONE**
2.	**Mechanical resistance & stability**	**PASS**
3.	**Resistance to wind load**	**CLASS 1-5**
4.	**Safe opening**	**PASS**
5.	**Operating forces**	**PASS**
6.	Water tightness	NPD
7.	Thermal resistance	NPD
8.	Air permeability	NPD
9.	Durability of water tightness, thermal resistance and air permeability against degradation	NPD

Items 1 to 5 must declare a value whilst, for garage doors, items 6 to 8 are optional and can be declared as NPD (no performance declared). For a powered door, safe opening and operating force must be shown as **PASS**. On the DOP, operating force refers to hold to run, force limitation or light curtaining in equal measure.

5. CE or UKCA marking

Doors that are legally supplied must bear a CE or UKCA marking plate indicating compliance with the above legislation.

6. Operation & maintenance manual

Doors that are legally supplied must come with safe operation and maintenance instructions that explain how to use the door safely and how to keep it operating safely over time.

About **dhf**

dhf is a not-for-profit trade association for companies allied with Locks & Building Hardware; Doorsets; Industrial Doors & Shutters; Domestic Garage Doors and Automated Gates.

Since 1897, **dhf** has amassed some 500 member companies and is the 'go to' place for technical advice and training which lends itself to raising the standards of the industry. Regarded as the 'Centre of Excellence', with a network of professional consultants in all sectors, it is the single source for technical expertise, information, knowledge, advice, and practical help.

dhf provides highly regarded product safety and legislation training courses for the door and gate industries across the UK and Ireland. It is mandatory for **dhf** member companies in these sectors to have the training.

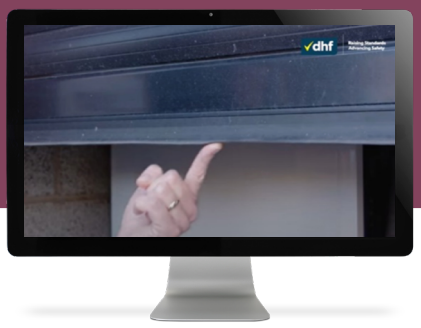
The federation supports its various industry sectors by representing them on BSI standards committees, liaising with compliance authorities such as the Health and Safety Executive, Trading Standards and many other security and fire safety organisations across the UK and Europe.

The **dhf** website provides a wealth of information for members, architects, specifiers, and consumers alike.

www.**dhf**online.org.uk

dhf has also produced a really helpful video that explains the various means of providing closing safety, together with some of the common non-compliances of garage doors found in the UK market.

You can watch the video by using the link here: https://bit.ly/3Hfy2d0



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