

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
LOG OF MEETING**

CPSC/OFC OF THE SECRETARY  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

**SUBJECT:** Garage Door Safety

2000 AUG 15 P 12:17

**DATE OF MEETING:** March 21, 2000

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** John R. Murphy, ESME

*JRM*

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** August 11, 2000

*[Signature]*  
NE Mrs/Priv/Blrs of

**LOCATION:** Room 715

Products Identified

Excepted by

Firms Notified,

Comments Processed

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Nicholas V. Marchica, ESME  
John R. Murphy, ESME  
Renaë Rauchschalbe, CRC

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEES(S):** John H. Addington, Executive Director, DASMA  
Joseph R. Hetzel, P.E., DASMA  
Alan R. Leist, DASMA  
Naomi Angel, DASMA Counsel  
Albert W. Mitchell, DASMA  
Richard A. Brenner, DASMA

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

The meeting convened at 10:30 AM. The meeting was requested by the Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association, International (DASMA) to present a new voluntary "Standard for Section Interfaces on Residential Garage Door Systems" (DASMA 116) to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff. The DASMA members present represent the technical committee that drafted the standard. This standard addresses a hazard identified by the CPSC staff which involves finger injuries that occur when a consumer gets one or more fingers caught in the joint that is created between garage door sections as the sections rotate to the vertical position near the top of the door. The injuries include amputation, fracture, and crushing. John Addington provided an explanation of the standard. The standard contains a performance test for pinch resistant section joints. The performance test follows previous CPSC recommendations and goes further to provide a test method for guarded section interfaces and possible future innovations in garage door design. As an alternative to pinch resistant joints the standard allows lift handles or gripping points provided they are installed on, or incorporated into, both the inside and the outside of the door.



John Murphy stated that the CPSC staff believes that doors that meet the standard by passing the performance test for pinch resistance are more likely to prevent finger injuries than doors that meet the standard by providing handles. The reason is that it is far better to design a hazard out of a product rather than leave the hazard in the product and try to change consumer's behavior. The CPSC staff asked DASMA for an estimate of the number of doors that will meet the standard by offering pinch resistance and the number of doors that will meet the standard by offering the mandatory handles in order to judge the effectiveness of the standard.

In a letter dated October 13, 1999 the CPSC staff made suggestions that provisions allowing handles should be phased out after a period of time. The DASMA members indicated that it was not necessary to phase out the requirements since the standard will become an ANSI standard and will be required to have a ANSI five-year review. The DASMA technical committee indicated that all DASMA members understand that the standard places responsibility for installing handles on the manufacturer of the garage door. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 PM.