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Do overhead powered door closers have to be provided with sensors?

Automatic garage door openers are extremely powerful, so powerful in fact as to be deadly to anyone struck or trapped by a closing door. CPSC cautions building owners that not all devices that open and close garage door are necessarily safe. PEOSH requires one of the following types of door safety devices, numbered in order of preference.



16 CFR1211 states that an automatic door opening device must stop and reverse the direction of the door within two seconds of encountering a 1-inch high object placed at the center of the door in the line of travel on the floor. Once it encounters the object, the opener must return the door to its full-up position. There is one paragraph in 16 CFR1211 wherein the parameters for UL testing have been set forth by CPSC where one *might* infer from the text that there is a quasi-standard of 15 pounds pressure for these devices. That section deals with doors equipped with a bottom edge sensor that doubles as a door gasket and states that testing must be done along the entire edge of the door. Since it must initiate reversal with 15 lbs of pressure on a door

More recent garage door openers feature photoelectric eye beams, which are mounted between 6 and 10 inches off of the floor, no higher and send an invisible beam across the door's path. If the invisible beam is broken, the garage door will automatically reverse into its fully open position even without contact. Facilities with sensor eyes should test them periodically, at least annually and the test results recorded.



Door controllers may also be of the momentary or constant contact type switches. These require the person opening the door to continue to apply pressure to the switch button for the entire time while the door is in motion. Letting go stops the door immediately. ***It should be noted that this type of control switch is incompatible with most radio frequency remote garage door openers that are typically used for doors at fire and ambulance service garages and many DPW facilities.***

If neither of the above items are installed; PEOSH mandates that a sign be placed adjacent to each single action controller with the words shown to the right, on the sign in minimum 1/4" letters.

WARNING

--- TO PREVENT ENTRAPMENT ---

DO NOT START DOOR DOWNWARD UNLESS DOORWAY IS CLEAR

OPERATOR IS TO STAY AT CONTROL STATION

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