

THE ADVANTAGES OF DOOR OPERATORS

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Door operators are one of the more interesting architectural hardware items for the locksmith to install and service. There are three types of swing door operator: low energy and high energy and power-assisted operators.

High energy swing door operators are the type used in commercial applications such as entry and egress from supermarkets. These operators require auxiliary sensors, since they have the power and move the door fast enough to possibly cause personal injury to pedestrians, especially the very young and the elderly or disabled. High energy operators also frequently require guard rails and presence sensors.

Low energy swing door operators are the usual retrofit sale for the locksmith. They are self-contained and designed to be installed without auxiliary sensors or safety equipment, although I often do.

This is because although the low energy operator has integral sensors and is designed to stop when the door encounters an obstacle while swinging, after you have spent enough time in the field, you realize that some individuals do not have to actually come into contact with a door for an injury to occur. Designing auxiliary sensors around a low energy operator is a great way to provide a custom-designed system for your customer.

Low energy operators require switches that pedestrians press to actuate the operator, perform a "knowing act." A large selection of sensors and actuators is available to the installer.

The standard to which door operators are manufactured, installed and adjusted is covered by ANSI/BHMA

A156.19 – Power Assist & Low Energy Power Operated Doors. ANSI/BHMA A156.10 – Standard for Power Operated Pedestrian Doors applies to full power operators.

The national trade association of door operators is the AAADM; the American Association of Automatic Door Manufacturers. Among the services and resources they provide are training to certify installers; providing information to end-users and architects, and an inspection checklist that can be used as a benchmark to determine that a door operator has been properly installed or that the door operator is in proper working order. They also have a listing of certified dealers and inspectors on their website for individuals looking for qualified professionals to supply or install door operators. I have been AAADM certified for several years.

The following is a representative selection of door operators for your review. We are planning a detailed article on installing a door operator in an upcoming issue.

Hager Door Operators

Low energy power operators, such as Hager's 8200 and 8400 series, are designed to enhance accessibility for pedestrian use. Both the 8400 and 8200 meet ANSI A156.19.

The 8400 Low Energy Power Operator is quiet when in operation which eliminates noise in sensitive areas, making it ideal for hospitals, libraries, senior care centers and universities.

Other key features of the 8400 series include built-in adjustable door stop for protection against wind or abusive environments, obstacle recognition upon opening and closing, interfaces with electric door hardware, UL Listed for up to 3 hours, blow open function for smoke ventilation, and operates as a manual closer if power is disconnected.

Hager's 8200 Series Economy Low Energy Power Operator is an economical solution for openings that require ADA compliance. Other features include self-learning micro-processor controller with on-board digital programming that provides flexibility during the system configuration, UL listed for interior and exterior doors up to 48" wide x 275 lbs. and operators as a manual closer with or without power.

Touchless actuators provide an immediate benefit to facilities that wish to minimize the spread of germs and bacteria such as medical facilities, assisted living facilities and schools. The activation range can be adjusted up to 4" and is NEMA rated for outdoor installation and includes a light blue illuminated border for easy visual recognition. Touchless actuators also provides anyone using mobility aids such as walkers and canes more stability by allowing them to keep their hands where needed.

More Info: www.hagerco.com

