



# AUTOMATED GATE OPERATOR INSTALLER TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION

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## *For safe and reliable Automated Gate Systems, use certified installers*

In today's security-conscious society, consumers demand high quality products installed by professionals. Automated gate systems in all shapes and sizes provide a means of controlling vehicle access to residential properties, gated communities, and commercial/industrial sites with a wide range of security requirements. When properly specified and installed, gate systems need to provide the security level anticipated by the customer; but they must do so in a safe and reliable manner. The purpose of this program is to promote the safety awareness and professionalism of the gate operator installers.

The gate operator installer's knowledge is an essential element of a safe and properly working automated gate system. The Institute of Door Dealers Education and Accreditation (IDEA) has worked with the American Fence Association (AFA), and the Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) to establish a program to validate the credentials of individuals who have the experience and skills in the installation and servicing of automated gate systems.



## Eligible gate operator installers are those who:

- Have completed a Self-Study Guide as written and endorsed by AFA and DASMA, and published by IDEA, intended to teach various aspects of automated gate operator systems.
- Can successfully pass a written examination based upon the information contained within the Self-Study Guide. Applicants for the examination are advised that the Gate Operator Installer Certification examination is based on a high degree of difficulty and is designed to validate exceptional expertise rather than just fundamental knowledge.
- Have two or more years of field experience both installing and servicing automated gate operator systems. An individual who does not yet have the two years of field experience installing and servicing gate operators may still apply for the certification program, receive the self-study guide, and take the examination. After passing the examination, the final certification will be issued when the two years experience criteria has been met.

Upon completing these three steps as described above, the applicant is awarded the designation of Certified Gate Operator Installer.

## Maintaining Certification...

Gate Operator Installer Certification applies for a three-year period beginning with the effective date assigned by IDEA after completing all of the program requirements. In order to maintain certification, each applicant will be required to submit a renewal form with a renewal fee. In addition, certified installers must earn 9 Continuing Education credits (1 hour of education equals 1 CE credit) during the three-year renewal cycle. IDEA will provide certified installers with additional information regarding the availability of eligible CE courses.

## Preparing for Examination Through a Unique and Thorough Course of Study

IDEA has created a comprehensive curriculum for the Automated Gate Operator Installer Certification program. This course of study is designed to both measure and enhance expertise.

### Introduction

- Why is all this worth your time and energy?
- Industry Organizations
- IDEA Programs and Services

### UL 325

- Who is Underwriters Laboratories?
- Codes Referencing UL 325 and ASTM F2200
- Manufacturer Compliance with UL 325 Standards
- Adherence to UL 325
- Current General Entrapment Protection Provisions
- Entrapment Detection Devices
- UL 325 Standard after January 2016
- What Happens When an Entrapment Device is Activated?
- Installation of Warning Signs

### Introduction to ASTM F2200 and M.U.T.C.D.

- ASTM F-2200 History
- Scope of ASTM F-2200
- Specific Applications of ASTM F-2200
- M.U.T.C.D. - Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways

### A Professional Approach to Safety

- Safety and the Installer
- Protective Clothing and Equipment
- Tools and Equipment

### Types of Gate Operators

- Overhead Track Slide Gates
- Rolling Gates
- Cantilever Slide Gates
- Swing Gates
- Vertical Lift/Pivot Gates
- Primary/Secondary Gates
- Sallyport Systems/Entry Control Point Facilities

### Gate Operator Basics

- Gate Operator Industry History
- System Design and Safe Installation Practices
- Common Gate Operator Applications

### Gate Operator Accessories

- Basics of Controls and Accessories
- What is a Relay?
- Types of Controls and Switches

### Gate Operator Installation

- Professionalism
- Specifications/Contract Requirements
- Site Survey and Job Coordination
- Installation Requirements
- Electrical Power and Control Wiring
- Final Adjustments/Customer Review
- Maintenance and Dealer's Warranty

### Electricity Basics/Testing

- Introduction to Electricity
- Battery Types
- Types of Circuits/Control Boards
- Testing Electrical Components/Tools

### Timers and Vehicle Detectors

- Timers to Close
- Vehicle Detectors
- Vehicle Detector/Loop Theory
- Loop Installation
- Vehicle Detector Settings
- Moving Metal Sensors
- Configuration and Testing

### Telephone Entry and Access Control

- Systems Overview
- Understanding How Systems Work
- Types of Telephone/Access Systems
- General Installation Guidelines
- General Wiring Guidelines
- Programming/Troubleshooting

# How the Program Works:

Certification is earned by completing all of the steps and meeting the eligibility criteria established by the IDEA Board of Directors.

- ◆ The first step is to complete an application for Gate Operator Installer Certification and return it to IDEA. There will be a fee for the Self-Study Guide, which also includes the costs for the testing. A completed application is required for each individual seeking certification.
- ◆ Upon receiving the application, IDEA will provide the Self-Study Guide to the applicant. The applicant may take as much time as necessary to learn all of the information contained within the Self-Study Guide before taking the examination. Although other employees within a company are also encouraged to study the manual, the testing and certification is limited to the applicant.
- ◆ The employing company owner must provide documentation that the applicant has two or more years field experience involving the installation and service of automated gate systems. If the applicant has not been employed by the current company for two years or more, but is otherwise eligible, the employer may provide a notarized written statement attesting to the applicant's qualifications.

## The Self-Study Guide

The next step in the certification process is to successfully complete a comprehensive written examination based on the Self-Study Guide. The study guide covers a full range of gate operator theory, professionalism, product accessories, and other issues.

The examinations are proctored and can be scheduled in a variety of locations throughout North America, as well as by appointment. Examinations are graded on a Pass-Fail basis with a minimum passing score of 80%. It is the intent of the AFA to offer the examination at their annual Trade Show or even at Chapter Meetings throughout the country. In addition, AFA will offer the examination at the conclusion of their Field Training Schools. The written tests are multiple choice and True-False, and are based solely on the Self-Study Guide materials.

Upon successful completion of the written examination, and the two years field experience, the applicant will receive a certificate suitable for framing, shirt patches, and an identification card.

## Benefits

The program has a number of benefits affecting the technical, marketing, liability and legislative aspects of automated gate systems. Today's consumers are demanding professional qualifications for services effecting the security and value of their property. The public perception of the gate operator industry will advance knowing this training and certification is available.





The Institute of Door Education and Accreditation (IDEA) is an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) educational foundation, dedicated to serving the public interest by enhancing professionalism and safety within the door systems industry. IDEA is supported and partially funded by the International Door Association and the Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association.



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