

## SECURITY INFORMATION WITHOUT ROCKET-SCIENCE

### A GENERAL GUIDE TO DOOR CLOSERS for hinged doors.

Door closers are intended to close hinged doors **automatically, quietly and smoothly**, without banging or noise. They play a vital role in safety and security as well as in protecting owners and managers from liability. Correctly specified and correctly fitted door closers are an essential part of any access control or fire exit system using hinged doors.



#### **Doors that do not close and lock automatically can cause losses and liability:**

Access control doors that do not lock automatically:

- can be used for unauthorised entry causing danger to life and property
- can be used for theft and other dishonest practices

#### **Fire Exits that do not close automatically**

- **will allow intruders to enter**
  - causing a danger to life and posing a loss-control issue
- **will allow fresh air to enter**
  - which will fan a fire and drive toxic smoke around the building

#### **Decrease your liability for losses, injuries or claims, by ensuring that doors close correctly every time!**

- Banging doors can injure fingers and hands – particularly children's
- Banging doors can break glass – which can cause many other injuries.
- Banging doors will - in time – damage locks, door frames and hardware fitted to it.

#### **PREPARING TO FIT A DOOR CLOSER:**

- Door frames must be **straight, square and properly secured** to the wall
- Doors must be **properly hung on good quality ball bearing hinges** (or pivots).
  - Saving a few Rands by using inferior hardware will prove very expensive in the medium to long term. Good quality stainless steel ball-bearing butt hinges cost little more than the inferior ones
- The door must be able to open fully without difficulty or hindrance
- The door must be able to be pushed fully closed all the way into the frame / locked position, with no difficulty, using only the pinkie-finger, with no discomfort.

**Only when all the above conditions have been met – can the door closer be fitted, and be expected to perform as it was designed to do.**

**The correct size of any surface-mounted door closer is determined by the SIZE of the door and the wind conditions – NOT the weight of the door.**

The door becomes like a sail in the wind, and it also displaces a certain amount of air as it closes. The bigger the “sail” – the heavier the door closer needs to be. Turning up the door closer speed to overcome other problems (like badly hung doors, or inferior or poorly fitted locks and panic hardware), is a common and INCORRECT practice which results in unnecessary noise and damage to hardware and to the plasterwork around the door frame. If the door is hung and working correctly and the hardware is correctly mounted, there is no reason for a correctly specified door closer not to close the door quietly- every time!

**NOTE: ‘Normal’ or ‘standard size door’ are not useable measurements when specifying or ordering an overhead door closer.**

The most commonly used door closers in South Africa are:

### 1. Overhead Door Closers with projecting arm

- The most versatile door closers
- Well suited for retro-fitting, or as an add-on
- Easy to fit correctly using the supplied templates
- Very fine control of latching action – suits latches
- Very long operating life – only if correctly fitted!
- Dual-action is well suited to access control applications
- Can be fitted outside or inside of the door – for push or for pull action
- Available with parallel arm and brackets - for special applications
- Specify Fire-Rated door closers on the risk-side of Fire-Rated doors
- Silver finish is standard. Other colours usually available on special order



**FITTING TIP:** Align the template vertically with the **CENTRE-LINE of the hinge or pivot**, and NOT with the edge of the door. An error of 10 mm is a BIG error!

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### 2. Cam-action Door Closers with parallel arm

- Neat appearance due to the parallel arm
- Easy closing action suits elderly and disabled users.
- Good latching action assists locking action of locks and latches
- Closing force rises as the door nears the closed position – suits latches



**FITTING TIP:** Align the template vertically with the **CENTRE-LINE of the hinge or pivot**, and NOT with the edge of the door. An error of 10 mm is a BIG error!

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### 3. Floor Springs

These are usually ‘designed in’ to a project and are built-in to the floor before the door is hung or tiles are fitted. Fitted flush into the floor – only the top cover plate is visible.



Most floor springs are unsuited to access control applications because they do NOT have a fine enough adjustment to close a latch under all conditions without banging the door.

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**THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS OFFERED ONLY AS A ROUGH GUIDE to a better understanding of door closers. It is always wise to consult an expert, and to have your door closers correctly specified and professionally installed.**