

An Overview of the ANSI/BHMA A156.10 Standard

What is ANSI/BHMA A156.10?

The ANSI/BHMA 156.10 *Standard for Power Operated Pedestrian Doors*, was developed by the Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association. The standard addresses swinging, sliding, and folding power operated pedestrian doors which open automatically when approached by users or by a knowing act. The standard contains provisions, including performance tests and dimensional requirements, that are intended to reduce the chance of injury to users.

The standard's status as an ANSI and BHMA standard indicates that the standard represents the industry consensus of "best practice" and is accepted as marking the industry approved minimum performance requirements.

What is an ANSI Standard?

Standards, such as the A156.10 standard, that have been recognized as American National Standards have successfully completed a lengthy approval process wherein a diverse set of interested parties have reviewed and approved the standard. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) serves as the coordinator for the development of American National Standards and has adopted procedures for demonstrating consensus of those directly and materially affected by standards.

When was the A156.10 Standard released?

The latest edition of the A156.10 standard was approved and released August 2, 2011. ANSI requires that action be taken to reaffirm, revise, or withdraw all American National Standards within 5 years of the date of their publication.

I just purchased an automatic door system in 2009. Why did the standard change?

Products are constantly evolving as technology, materials, and manufacturing methods improve and advance. New features and enhanced capabilities arise, and over time, standards become obsolete. The 5 year review cycle is required so that standards remain relevant and address the latest products and innovations. During the latest review of the standard, the A156.10 committee felt there were sufficient performance improvements to warrant release of a new, revised standard.

Following is a quote from the foreword of the A156.10 standard:

"This Standard is not intended to obstruct but rather to encourage the development of improved products, methods and materials. The BHMA recognizes that errors will be found, items will become obsolete, and new products, methods and materials will be developed. With this in mind, the Association plans to update, correct and revise these Standards on a regular basis. It shall also be the responsibility of manufacturers to request such appropriate revisions."