



Standard Guide for Self-Closing/Self-Latching General-Purpose Gates¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the recommended minimum requirements for the design, construction and performance of self-closing and self-latching single leaf, general-purpose access gates. It is intended to provide an added degree of reliability in the performance of the self-closing and self-latching devices mounted to these gates.

1.2 This guide should be referenced whenever any other standard requires a single leaf access gate to be self-closing and self-latching, with the exception of standards for pool or outdoor child safety gates.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* After installation and inspection, it is the responsibility of the homeowner or property manager to inspect and adjust the hardware, or the gate, or both, to compensate for ground movement and other factors so that the gate continues to effectively self-close and self-latch.

2. Terminology

2.1 *access gate*—any portion of a fence or barrier that is designed to provide a pedestrian access way through the fence or barrier.

2.2 *double leaf access gate*—where two independently operating gate leaves are situated directly next to each other. Also known as double drive gates, the two leaves meet at one edge forming a continuous barrier. Both leaves are situated together between posts, walls, columns or combinations thereof.

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2.3 *general-purpose access gate*—a gate designed for a fence surrounding a home, garden, business, pets or other property, marina or sports field, not including a swimming pool or child play area.

2.4 *pool or outdoor child safety gate*—a gate on a fence that deters a child or children from accessing a dangerous area, such as a street (traffic), equipment or a water feature.

2.5 *self-latching device*—a latch that successfully engages on its own, without the application of manual pressure.

2.6 *single leaf access gate*—where one gate leaf is located between opposing stationary posts, columns, walls or combination thereof.

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This guide sets forth minimum standard requirements for use in building codes and ordinances relating to self-closing and self-latching single leaf access, general-purpose gates.

3.2 This guide does not apply to double leaf or double drive access gates.

3.3 This guide does not have the effect of law, nor is it intended to supersede Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, local codes or ordinances of a more restrictive nature.

4. General Performance

4.1 *Self-Closing General-Purpose Access Gates*—When it is specified that single leaf access gates must be self-closing, they shall be fitted with a self-closing device(s) that will return the gate to the closed position and operate the latching device without the application of manual force.

4.2 *Self-Latching General-Purpose Access Gates*—When it is specified that single leaf access gates should be self-latching, they shall be fitted with a device that latches in the closed position without the application of manual force.

5. Requirements

5.1 *Self-Closing*—Single leaf access general-purpose gates shall close from two open positions: 12 in. from the gate to the latch post and a 90 degree angle from the closed position of the gate without manual force.

5.2 *Self-Latching*—The latching device on single leaf access general-purpose gates shall completely latch without

manual force, through the action of the self-closing device, from two open positions: a static position 90 degrees from the closed position or when the gate has been opened at least 12 in.

5.3 The self-latching mechanism or self-closing device should be capable of adjustment to compensate for changes in gate alignment during and after installation.

5.4 The self-latching device on a single leaf general-purpose access gate shall be capable of sustaining manual force, including shaking, jarring or applying either an upward or downward manual force on the access gate at the time of installation without:

- 5.4.1 Any part breaking or fracturing;
- 5.4.2 Any component becoming permanently deformed by more than ¼ in. (6.4 mm) over its length;
- 5.4.3 The gate becoming unlatched; or
- 5.4.4 Allowing the access gate to be disconnected from the fence post.

NOTE 1—After installation and inspection, it is the responsibility of the homeowner or the property manager to inspect and adjust the hardware, or the gate, or both, to compensate for ground movement and other factors so that the gate continues to effectively self-close and self-latch.

6. Keywords

- 6.1 gates; pools; self-closing; self-latching

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