Without a properly functioning door closer on a door, a strong wind could cause it to swing open, slam shut or remain open inadvertently.

N THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, BUILDERS,
architects and construction specifiers rely on sound door closers, as well as other door hardware, to function properly and provide a safe measure of ingress and egress.

To ensure that the product is up to the job, certified products are put through a series of rigorous tests designed to measure its performance capabilities. The product, in this example a door closer, can be certified when it complies with the established criteria of a specified standard. In the case of builders hardware, certification indicates that products meet the recognized American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association (BHMA) standards for durability, strength and performance.

“Certainly, BHMA testing does set at least a minimum level of performance,” said Thomas Breese, AHC, CCPR, for Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies in Covina, CA. “The owner can be confident that the product meets that level. At least they can be assured that a Grade 1 door closer will survive 2 million cycles. And even if it undergoes a certain amount of stress, the product will still perform reliably and predictably.”

Today, more and more architectural hardware and door hardware consultants throughout the United States are using BHMA certified products as opposed to non-certified products for commercial building projects.

Certified products are tested, graded, proven to meet the relevant standard and assured to do their job, time and time again.

by Mike Tierney
A product bearing the ANSI/BMHA Certification mark provides the buyer with a certain level of quality assurance. Certification requires that the product be tested and audited, which leads to higher design specifications and manufacturing procedures, resulting in a higher-quality product.

BHMA is the only U.S. organization accredited by ANSI to develop and maintain performance standards for builders hardware. Currently, there are 33 ANSI/BHMA standards in existence, with several more in development.

The ANSI/BHMA standards establish performance requirements for products and set parameters for operational, strength, cycle, finish, and security tests. Procedures described within the standards are performed under laboratory conditions. For example, locks that are designed to withstand the force of heavy blunt instruments (e.g. sledgehammers and battering rams) must undergo impact tests that can involve repeated blows with mechanical rams.

The standard for Auxiliary Locks and Associated Products (ANSI/BHMA A156.5-2001) includes auxiliary bored and mortise locks, rim locks, cylinders and push button mechanisms. Tests performed include security tests, operational tests, finish tests and dimensional criteria. The equipment for security tests in this standard includes the door ram, the vertical impactor, the torque applicator and the tension-loading device. In the cylinder guard test, for example, the vertical impactor is positioned so that the striking weight makes contact with the top of the cylinder guard, and the

---

**Access Management. Batteries Included.**

*No Wires...No Controller...No Power Supply...*

---

**SDC E70 Electronic Door Lock: HID Compatible Proximity Card & PIN Reader or Keypad Only**

SDC’s battery powered E70 EntryCheck™ keypad lock retrofits existing lock preps in 10 minutes, while the optional HID compatible reader enables use with existing HID cards. EntryCheck™ starts at just $470 (MSRP). ANSI Grade 1 Heavy Duty Cylindrical or Mortise lockset or Exit Device Interface models available.

- Keypad Managed for basic applications
- PC Managed for demanding applications • 32-3000 users

Manufacturers of Premium Grade Access Hardware Box 6219 Westlake Village, CA 91359-6219 • 805.494.0622 FAX: 805.494.8861

FREE ADVERTISER INFORMATION AT: www.thru.to/dhi

---

**FREE ADVERTISER INFORMATION AT: www.thru.to/dhi**
center of gravity is in a vertical line through the center of the cylinder. The lock is subject to at least two blows of 100J (0.1 btu) each (Grade 3) and a maximum of 10 blows of 100J each (Grade 1). After each impact, an attempt is made to withdraw the bolt from the strike by end pressure and by the manipulation of any exposed lock mechanism by hand or screwdriver.

Choosing a product that meets the requirements of the standard contributes to life safety and security for the customer. With the certification, you’re confident that product has been independently tested and graded to assure you that it will do its job.

Within the standards, there are grades indicating performance levels. Grades are determined by the product’s ability to hold up to operational, strength, cycle, finish, and security tests outlined in each standard. There are usually three grades—grade 1 represents the highest level of performance. It is important to consult with knowledgeable industry experts and select the proper products. Door design, strength, reinforcement, casing and locking devices need to be compatible and the appropriate grade level needs to be identified.

BHMA certification requires third-party certification, meaning that an independent lab or testing facility must perform follow up tests required by the product standard. To make sure a certified product continues to conform, random samples are audited.

Thomas P. Lewis, AHC/CDC, an Architectural Development Manager for ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions, in Tucson, AZ, said all the major builders hardware companies gauge their products based on ANSI/BHMA standards.

“Certainly, you’re getting some level of standard uniformity across the board when you use a certified product,” Lewis said. “It has to meet a certain level of quality durability when it’s tested by BHMA. Certification guarantees that you are getting a level playing field for the products being specified on a job.”

During the course of the year, BHMA offers workshops on the importance of certified build-
The Sargent Leader - For a Reason.

Akron Hardware has quickly become the nation’s leading wholesale distributor of high quality Sargent products. We are the only national Sargent wholesale distributor with a strict policy of no end-user or contractor sales. While the other Sargent wholesalers compete with you every day, Akron Hardware is focused on your success - not on your customers.

Akron Hardware combines a no-compete policy with extensive product knowledge, a comprehensive inventory, and a fast, accurate order processing system. Call one of our hardware professionals by 5:00 p.m today, and your Sargent products will be on the road tonight. Our Distribution Centers in Ohio, Tennessee, Arizona, and Eastern Pennsylvania, will have it to you in two days or less via standard UPS Ground service.

Akron Hardware – a closer, faster, better, and non-competitive source for Sargent products.

Phone 1-800-321-9602 www.akronhardware.com
“You know that if the company manufacturing the product takes the time to get it certified, the product is going to have longevity,” Aviles said. “If you do have to buy a part for a particular item, or need an additional part in the future, you know that they are going to be there, even if the manufacturer changes the product somewhat.”

That might not be the case if a product has not been subjected to the testing and auditing procedures required for it to become a BHMA certified product.

“If a product hasn’t been certified, UL approved, or was outsourced from a manufacturer overseas, it might be difficult to find the part, or someone who represents the product when you try to reach out to the company,” Aviles said.

In the case of some imported products manufactured in the Pacific rim such as China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Japan, Malaysia, and Cambodia, the manufacturer is fraudulently attempting to pass off their products as equivalent to U.S. products. In some instances, these products barely meet the level of BHMA testing but do not meet the level of performance of U.S. products they are copying, Breese said.

“We’re seeing a lot of copying and patent infringement,” Breese said. “We’re seeing various U.S. manufactured products copied and being represented as just as good, even though they’re inferior products.”

James Berg, CDC, AHC, President of Berg Marketing Associates, Inc. in Kansas City, MO, said having a BHMA standard is how experts in the builders hardware industry compare competitors’ products.

“There are no other standards,” Berg said. “So if you’re going to refer to one, it has to be a BHMA standard.”

Over the years, Berg said he has worked on several commercial projects, including federal and government buildings, colleges and public schools that specifically asked for products that meet BHMA standards.

Aviles said several clients have requested that certified products be used on projects his firm has worked on in the past as well.

“We’ve used these products on projects for the New York City Construction Authority, different school districts, purification plants, high-rise condominium buildings; more often than not, the people have asked for them,” Aviles said.

Aviles said he would always recommend a certified product over a non-certified one because of the level of quality and greater product uniformity that comes with it. Certified products also ensure fewer call-backs in the field.

“It’s like buying a McDonald’s hamburger, no matter where you are, it’s always going to taste the same and be of the same quality,” Aviles said. “In the end, if something fails or doesn’t meet the requirements, you have the standards to back it up.”

Certified products bear the “BHMA Certified” logo on the product. For more information on certification, specifying certified products and product standards, or to view the Certified Products Directory, please visit www.buildershardware.com.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** What does ANSI/BHMA certification mean?

**A:** ANSI/BHMA certification means that a product has been tested against standards developed by BHMA and the American National Standard Institute, certified by an independent laboratory and found to comply with the standards developed for its product type and class.

**Q:** Does a manufacturer have to be a BHMA member in order to have its products ANSI/BHMA certified?

**A:** No. Any manufacturer of builders hardware may have their products certified and consequently listed in the BHMA Certified Products Directory, regardless of whether or not they are a BHMA member.

**BHMA Certification Program**

Throughout the year, BHMA members are recruited or volunteer to speak on behalf of the association about The Importance of BHMA Certification at local chapter meetings across the United States. To learn more about this program please contact Colleen Danz at 212-297-2108 or by email at cdanz@kellencompany.com dh

*About the Author: Mike Tierney is the Standards Coordinator for BHMA. www.buildershardware.com*