

# ULTRA-LITE shutters

## POLICY UPDATE

### Entrance & Exits

Ultra Lite will attempt to adhere to all standards and will enforce such standards when selling its products. Compliance with standards such as UL325 and Egress is critical to the safety of individuals. Ultra Lite will NOT knowingly sell any of its products operated via a motor to be installed at an egress opening.

### Egress Openings

a) That portion of a means of egress system that leads from any occupied portion of a building or structure to an exit. Door exits must maintain a min of 6'-8" in height at all points and 28" in width. If MANUALLY shuttered, these are the clear opening distances that must be met between the rails and from the floor to the underside of the base slat when the shutter is opened.

b) **Exits:** The building codes define "means of egress" and an exit system that provides a continuous, unobstructed and undiminished path of exit travel from any occupied point in a building or structure to a public way. Means of egress are required by the building codes to provide a point of emergency escape and rescue. The codes require at least one emergency escape and rescue opening in every sleeping room and basement with habitable space. This is typical of buildings not exceeding four floors in height. Means of egress for residential windows, as defined in the major building codes, address issues relative to minimum clear opening dimensions, height of the windowsill and operation of the window. To facilitate emergency egress, building codes state that windows used as a means of egress shall be operable from the inside without the use of separate tools or keys.

- c) With a few exceptions, generally 2 exits per floor are required for egress.
- A window can be considered egress if clear opening is greater than 5.7 sq.-ft., min \*20" wide, minimum. \*24" high, and windowsill not greater than \*44" above the floor. Note: a 3'x5' double hung with the bottom sash lifted just meets egress at approx. 32 in. w x 27 in. h clear opening when the sash is fully up. (*Dimensions can vary by local codes*).

d) The manual rolling shutters at exit doors shall be releasable by a simple method without "special knowledge" or effort. The interior thumb turn latch typically meets this requirement (*99% of the time*). There is some subjectivity from one code inspector or location to another.

e) Determining whether a shutter meets egress/escape code is the responsibility of the dealer. If the dealer is uncertain, they should contact their local building code inspector for an interpretation. Ultra Lite will not compromise where safety is a concern. It is better to walk away from a project than to put people at risk or to create a liability issue for the dealer or Ultra Lite.

## Motorized Shutters at Pedestrian Openings

- a) Any motorized shutter located in an area where people or pets can normally walk under a shutter (*provided NOT an egress opening*) will require a momentary switch (*button or key which must be pushed/held continuously during the shutter's operation. Release of button/key will stop the shutter's progress*).
- b) Line-of-site operation while holding the switch is required for the UL325 electrical requirement.
- The UL325 sticker on the shutter is for the whole shutter system and assumes the operator “has full view of the gate area when the gate is moving” utilizing a momentary switch.
  - UL325 60.1.6 A gate operator having provision for a type D entrapment protection device as described in 31.1.16 and 31.1.17 shall additionally be provided with a placard that is marked in letters at least 1/4-in (6.4mm) high with the word “WARNING” and the following statement or the equivalent: “Moving gate has the potential of inflicting injury or death-do not start gate unless path is clear.”

## Garage Doors

Ultra Lite motorized shutters do not meet US code for garage doors and shall not be sold in that application. While it is possible to have electronic eyes and reversing sensors (*w/ SMC controllers*), the motors are not torque sensing compliant. A garage door shutter must sense an obstruction via torque sensing, which line voltage shutter motors cannot accomplish.