

Application Information

ADA Door Force Requirements

Building entrances and internal doors must be designed and maintained to allow ease of access to all potential persons. Heavy or hard to open doors are especially difficult for people with disabilities, seniors or even children who may lack the strength to open them.

One government regulation which provides guidelines for the maximum door opening resistance force is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A key standard within the ADA comes from section 4.13.11 which states that interior hinged, sliding and folding doors must have a maximum opening force of 5 lbf (2.3 kg). Exterior doors must also not prevent access due to resistance with recommended opening forces in the 8.5 – 15 lbf (3.9 – 6.8 kg) range.

To verify that building interior and exterior doors are within the ADA standards, one state government entity utilizes the Shimpo MFD-05 Mechanical Force Gauge with dual 45 lbs. & 20 kg capacity scales. By setting the MFD gauge in Peak Mode with its selection knob, the maximum sensed force reading remains on the scale until it is manually reset to zero. This feature allows the operator a fast and easy means of viewing and recording the door force measurement as required by the government regulation.

Equipment Used

- MFD-05 45 lb (20 kg) Dual Scale Mechanical Force Gauge

