
FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AND MANAGERS

Is your gate safe? A UL 325 self-check

Eight checks you can run yourself, and what to do with the answers.

Before you start. This is yours to use however you like. Run through it, keep a copy, hand it to whoever looks after your gate. Most of it takes about ten minutes.

What UL 325 is

UL 325 is the safety standard for automated gates. It exists because a gate is a heavy machine that moves on its own, and before the standard, people were seriously hurt by them. Children most often.

The standard asks your gate to do a few basic things. Sense that something is in the way and stop. Warn people that it moves on its own. Be built for the amount of traffic it actually gets.

Here is the part that matters most. A gate that fails this standard usually works perfectly well. You cannot tell by watching it. It opens and closes the way it always has, right up until the day something is in the way and it does not stop.

Most gates in service today were installed before the current requirements. If yours does not pass, that is not a knock on you or on whoever installed it. The rules changed in 2016.

Before you test anything

Never test a gate with your hand, your foot, a child, or a pet. Use a solid object like a cardboard box or a length of lumber, and stand clear. If you are not comfortable running a test, skip it and note it. Skipping a check is not a failure, it just means a technician needs to look.

The checks

	YES	NO	NOT SURE
1 Does it stop and reverse? With the gate closing, put a solid object in its path. The gate should stop and back off. If it keeps pushing, that is the most important thing on this list.	☐	☐	☐
2 Are there photo eyes? Look for a small sensor on each side of the opening, roughly knee height. Break the beam with an object while the gate is closing. It should stop and reverse.	☐	☐	☐
3 Is there an edge sensor? A rubber strip along the leading edge of the gate that senses contact.	☐	☐	☐
4 Warning signs. There should be a sign on both sides of the gate saying it moves automatically and to keep clear.	☐	☐	☐
5 Gaps and pinch points. Where the gate meets the post or slides past a fence, could a small child or a dog get caught? Are chains, rollers, and moving parts covered?	☐	☐	☐
6 Can it come off its track? A slide gate should have stops at both ends so it cannot run off the end.	☐	☐	☐
7 Is there a way for people to walk in? People on foot should not have to use the vehicle gate.	☐	☐	☐

8 Is the operator rated for your traffic?

☐
☐
☐

A gate at a busy commercial site does far more cycles than a home driveway, and the operator is supposed to be built for it. Most people do not know the answer to this one, and that is fine.

Good to know, though not part of the standard

These are not UL 325 requirements. We include them because they are the things people wish they had known at the worst possible moment.

■ Do you know where your keys are?

☐
☐
☐

Your operator cabinet locks, and so does your call box. Without those keys you cannot get at the equipment, and neither can we without cutting something. They tend to disappear with a previous owner, a former property manager, or a staff change nobody wrote down.

■ Do you know how to release the gate by hand?

☐
☐
☐

Every operator has a manual release so the gate can be moved without power. On a lot of systems that release is inside the locked cabinet, which is why the keys come first.

■ Does it work when the power is out?

☐
☐
☐

Battery backup, and does the battery still hold a charge? Batteries quietly die after a few years and nobody finds out until the power does.

What your answers mean

If everything checked out, good. Put a note in your calendar to run through this again next year.

If something did not, or you could not tell, that is normal. Some of this you can see from outside. The rest takes someone with the operator open.

If you want us to look, here is how that goes. We tell you plainly what it needs. There is usually more than one way to fix it, so you get the options and what each costs, and you decide. No pressure to have us do the work, and the items that aren't safety related can be phased however your budget needs.

The safety items are different. We don't keep servicing gates that fail on those. That's just where our line is.

NEXT STEP

Have a technician confirm the checks you could not.

Repair when it breaks, maintenance so it does not, upgrades when you want more. Call us or book an inspection and we will tell you what your gate needs, in writing.

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