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January 30, 2007

Dear Arm-R-Lite Door,

Please feel free to use this testimonial.

I have been servicing and installing overhead doors since 1980. Most notably for the service station and auto repair facilities market. Doors at these locations are typically aluminum sectional with all sections glazed and/or the bottom section will be aluminum paneled. Most doors are manual operation and tend to receive a lot of abuse. Any maintenance, preventative or otherwise, is almost non-existent. While servicing the many brands of aluminum doors found at these facilities, it becomes evident which brand holds up in this environment, and which ones do not. Additionally you can see patterns of failures related to a particular brand or method of construction.

The following are a just a few key features, along with the corresponding inferior items found on other brands, that I find make Arm-R-Lite (ARL) aluminum sectional doors far superior to other brands.

1. All meeting rails and end stiles are four sided (boxed) extrusions yielding superior strength.

➤ *Others use three sided (open) end stiles that flex and tear out at adjacent to hinge attach points. Others use three sided meeting rails and some incorporate “fins” to help strengthen the rails. The “knuckle joints” of these open type meeting rails require perfect alignment to mesh properly and carry the door section weight. As the hinges wear or if hinges become loose, the rails tangent ends misalign and slip over each other and bend or crush thus transferring all the weight of the above sections to the hinges. This action also helps tear the end stiles. Once the meeting rails no longer mesh properly, the door sections tear at*

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themselves each time the door travels through the radius and when being stopped upon contacting the floor when closing. The combined uplift force of the counterbalance and the weight of all sections above the rails actually compound the problem.

2. The concealed Heli-Arc welded construction of the boxed extrusions result in superior rigidity. Each section acts and feels like a single unit. To demonstrate the superior rigidity of ARL sections, I took very old intermediate glazed sections and from one end, while grasping the top and bottom rail twisted the section from laying flat to vertical without any noticeable deflection. I have done the same procedure with bolted sections (even much newer ones) and have cracked the glazing from the resulting deflection.

➤ *Others sections are made up of individual top and bottom rails, end stiles and intermediate stiles that are bolted together, usually with all thread, threaded rod or some type of manufactured bolts with retaining nuts. This system largely relies on squeezing the end stiles and intermediate stiles, between the top and bottom rails for rigidity. Since the roller hinges attach to the end stiles, as the door travels upward through the radius and overhead onto the horizontal tracks, the door weight and dynamic forces transfer to the end stiles. The stiles will want to move away from the rails. The independent pieces making up the sections will not uniformly share the loads and eventual loosening of the components will occur. On cases where sections became very loose, the glazing has broken. Additionally, if a roller should come out the tracks in the overhead horizontal position, when the section twists it will be far more likely for the glass to break and fall out.*

3. The vinyl retainers and continuous channel beads are easy to remove and reinstall for glazing or panel replacement. They can be reused many, many times.



➤ *Others use cumbersome multi-part bead strips installed into each retainer. The strips shrink with age leaving gaps, they do not encompass the glazing edges but leave them exposed and the glazing can slide within the section. Some use glazing tape that can be sticky, attract dirt and only used once, some use aluminum retainers that are finicky and difficult to remove and reinstall and are easily damaged or misshapen requiring replacement.*

In my opinion, with the possible exception of door tracks, I consider most all door components to be “wear” items, regardless of brand. Although aluminum sectional doors can appear very similar, the real value is in the life expectancy of the door section. I have visited quite a few locations where we installed *ARL* doors over twenty years ago and the sections were as solid as the day of install. I challenge any other brand to make the same claim.

Over the years, I have found *ARL* to be more than willing to engineer doors for special applications including various finishes or special coatings. We have been involved with some unique projects and *ARL* has met or exceeded each requirement. Due to the intimate nature of their business, *ARL* is able to move quickly and efficiently on custom projects that other manufacturers would not even consider. *ARL* is definitely the “go to” door company for any custom project.

The bottom line, *ARM-R-LITE* is the only aluminum sectional door we recommend and sell to service stations, general auto repair facilities, auto-dealers and anyone requiring custom aluminum sectional doors.

Respectfully,

Gary L. Miller
President
MTD Services, Inc.