

A New, Easier Way to Find Certified Products



BY KAREN BISHOP

The Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association Certified Products Directory has the information you need in one comprehensive, searchable location.

The market for builders' hardware products continues to grow. This has created a need for industry professionals to have a simple way to ensure that the builders' hardware products being used in their projects meet industry standards for performance.

To meet this need, the Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association (BHMA) created the newest iteration of its Certified Products Directory (CPD), an easily navigable listing of the products currently certified to meet BHMA builders' hardware standards.

BHMA is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to develop and publish builders' hardware industry standards on product quality and performance as it relates to public use and safety. To date, there are more than 40 BHMA standards covering a variety of builders' hardware. To be certified, products must pass operation, cycling, strength, security and/or finish tests as specifically stated in the respective ANSI/BHMA standard.

The first CPD was a physical book published in 1998 as a response to

BHMA establishing the first third-party certification program for builders' hardware. As these standards expanded and the directory became more robust, enhanced navigation features were needed, so the CPD was made available online.

As new standards were developed and the number of participating companies and certified products increased, the digital PDF format was no longer sufficiently meeting the needs of its audiences. Recognizing this, BHMA dedicated significant time and effort over three years to develop a new version of the CPD that is more helpful to the public and better reflects the digital world we live in.

This culminated in a new, fully digitized and automated online database that allows users to search among the nearly 15,000 products certified to meet BHMA standards.

The opportunity to have a product certified to BHMA standards and listed in the CPD is open to all builders' hardware manufacturers, not just BHMA members. To ensure that every manufacturer has equal opportunity to display their certified products, results are randomized each time a search is conducted. This way, the first listing is never a particular brand based on alphabetical order, nor will it always be the biggest or smallest brands.



The BHMA Certified Products Directory can be accessed at www.buildershardware.com/CPD.

Designed for the User Experience

The new CPD offers an enhanced experience for end users looking for certified builders' hardware. This includes robust search and filtering capabilities, uniform listings, the option to print a Certificate of Compliance, and the peace of mind that all listings are always accurate and up to date.

These benefits are free for use by members of the public, including architects, facilities managers, specifiers and contractors, to easily find BHMA Certified products for their projects.

Once in the CPD, users will select a standard from a drop-down list. Once the listings populate, users can filter by brand, type, function number, ANSI number, brand model or brand series. Users also have the option to click on a brand's page to view the certified products listed under that brand.

As part of the migration from the PDF-based directory to the online

CPD, BHMA created uniform information fields for each standard, which allows for specific searches and allows for filtering of search returns. Users can expand their search query to search by brand, keyword or ANSI number.

The ability to shift and navigate through the CPD helps if users are looking for a specific product, want a broader scope of their options, or simply want more control of their search experience. Compared to a PDF, this new search allows for significantly more interaction for a personalized approach, and the uniform description fields promote universal information displays throughout the directory.

Since the CPD is connected to the BHMA certification portal, the listings are also automatically updated once a product is approved to be certified, or if any edits are made and/or if a product is removed. With this automation in place, users are assured that the correct information is displayed, and manufacturers are assured their products are listed

promptly once certified and that changes to product information are reflected in real time.

Another new feature in the CPD is the Certificate of Compliance, which is now available as dated and written evidence that a product is certified by BHMA to meet a specific standard. This certificate can be accessed on an individual brand's page in the CPD.

Navigating the Product Certification Process

To have a product listed in the BHMA CPD, a builders' hardware manufacturer fills out an application for product certification and reviews the operational manual for insights into the process. Once the application has been submitted, the manufacturer needs to arrange for product testing with a BHMA designated lab. The lab will then test the product as outlined in the ANSI/BHMA standard.

After testing, the manufacturer submits the testing data via the certification portal on the BHMA website. This portal is where

manufacturers can see their certification status, submit testing results, make edits to product listings and handle the renewal of their certifications.

Once the data is submitted and the results are affirmed to meet the product's ANSI/BHMA standard, BHMA approves the submission, and the testing lab approves the product certification. Then the product is officially "BHMA Certified" and is listed in the CPD, and the manufacturer can use the official certification mark on the product packaging and wherever the product is marketed.

Certification is an ongoing process. To maintain certification, BHMA-certified products are periodically tested

for compliance and can lose their certification status if the product fails its compliance test. To pass compliance testing, the manufacturer must sustain product quality.

Manufacturers should stay up to date regarding notable changes during ANSI/BHMA standards revisions that may impact future recertification. Each standard is reopened at least once every five years to make sure the specifications and requirements meet modern use and regulations.

Continuing Evolution of the CPD

From a book to a PDF to a database, BHMA continues to adapt its CPD to ensure that manufacturers in the builders' hardware industry can certify their products and industry

professionals can access certified product information as simply as possible.

For more information about the CPD or the BHMA certification process, visit www.buildershardware.com or contact BHMA staff. Access the CPD at www.buildershardware.com/CPD. +



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