

DOOR CLOSER

Expert Investigates Injury at Retailer

A woman was struck by a door while entering a national retail chain store. The entrance consisted of a pair of tall, heavy doors with pivot hinges and door closers. The door slammed into the woman before she had completely passed through the entrance and knocked her into a nearby merchandise display. She fell and sustained serious injuries, including broken bones. A Robson Forensic architect was retained to determine if improper maintenance of the entrance caused the door to operate outside of established industry standards and caused the victim's injuries.

Our expert performed a thorough inspection of the incident door and determined that it closed approximately one second faster than permitted by applicable building codes. Measurements based upon applicable ANSI standards, referenced by the building code, yielded similar results. The adjacent leaf of the double door closed significantly more slowly, well within the requirements of these standards.

Our expert opined that a cursory inspection of the door would have alerted store management and maintenance staff that the door closer was out of adjustment or had failed. By failing to maintain the door closer within the requirements of applicable codes and standards, store management created a dangerous condition, and caused the victim's injuries. Our expert also demonstrated that management could have blocked or locked the leaf of the double door until corrective actions were possible.

This matter resolved favorably for our client prior to trial.