

Product liability of door and window hardware (eg door handle sets and window handles)

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As a result of a new product liability law, the manufacturer is to define products as to their performance (duty to instruct and inform).

HOPPE is thereby providing the following information.

1. Product information and application according to instruction

HOPPE hardware fittings are manually-operated appliances by means of which doors, French doors and windows in domestic and non-domestic buildings can be opened or closed and/or locked.

They are normally used in conjunction with supplementary hardware such as locks, cylinders or tilt/turn hardware.

Special provisions of law have to be observed in the case of fire doors and the direction of escape for example, in cases where a fixed fitting (knob, handle) is used.

It is imperative that only the parts supplied for fixing are used and also that fixing instructions are strictly adhered to.

This applies to all means of fixing

- a) supplied by HOPPE
- b) supplied by other manufacturers as integral parts of their hardware (eg. screws supplied by the manufacturer of tilt/turn hardware for windows).

Products which are installed in aggressive, corrosion-inducing areas are special fittings. They should only be used (applied) following consultation with HOPPE.

2. Misuse (inappropriate use or use contrary to instruction)

Misuse of fittings for doors and windows, ie using the product contrary to instruction, may occur in particular when

- tools, such as pliers or tubular adaptors are used,
- additional loads (blocking loads or support loads) have an impact, for example when an object is placed under the handle to block the door,
- when force over and above normal manual use is applied to the handle, for example when attempting to force a tilt/turn fitting beyond its normal rest position or when children, for example, use door handles as something to hold on to.
- foreign objects or objects contrary to instruction, such as spindles manufactured by other companies are used or when such products are used alongside HOPPE products,
- tampering has occurred which interferes with the function of the product, for example in attempting to break in or out with tools in the case of loc-

- kable window handles,
- sharp objects are used to damage the surface,
 - foreign objects and/or objects contrary to instruction are introduced into the hardware or strike-plate so as to prevent normal use,
 - tampering with the hardware or strike-plate has occurred resulting in damage to the construction or adversely affecting function or effectiveness.

3. Product performance

The DIN 18255, DIN 18257 and DIN 18273 standards for door hardware and the RAL-RG 607/9 standard for window hardware are definitive (in a pioneering sense).

The content of these standards applies in the same way to other fittings too.

In the case of window handles, the regulations of appropriate institutes, such as the Institute for Window Technology in Rosenheim apply in addition to those of RAL.

No other conditions may be added without prior approval by HOPPE.

The durability of a product is especially dependent on the frequency of

- use
- type of use
- location and care.

Replacement of the fitting shall occur only when, despite proper maintenance and care, it no longer functions or when the surface may cause injury.

4. Product care

It is essential that the fitting and fixing-means are fitted correctly!

All movable parts are to be correctly maintained at least once a year.

This is particularly so in the case of door handle - spindle connections as well as in locking cylinders for lockable window handles. It is essential that no resinous lubricants (graphite is appropriate) are used in the locking cylinders.

Dependent on the amount of use, fittings should be treated by agents recommended by HOPPE.

Basically no strong acids or alkalis should be used. Contact with mortar and similar substances should also be avoided. Only cleaning agents which do not contain corrosion-inducing substances should be used.

5. Duty to inform and instruct

The following information material is available to the trade, planners/architects, advisory institutions, installers, builders and users:

- catalogues and brochures,
- offer documentation
- DIN standards: 18255, 18257, 18273 as well as related standards (published by Beuth GmbH, 10785 Berlin) along with instructions for fixing, use and care.

Where necessary HOPPE is also able to advise.

When choosing HOPPE fittings as well as for their fixing, use and care,
- architects, planners and advising institutions are expected to request all

- the necessary product information from HOPPE and to adhere to it,
- architectural hardware distributors are expected to observe the product information in the documentation and in particular request all the necessary mounting instructions and pass them on to the installers,
 - installers are expected to observe all product information, especially HOPPE's instructions relating to use and care and to pass them on to the contractors and users.

6. Application of related hardware

All possible variations within the individual fittings, as well as accessories, are expected to be used appropriately with regard to their particular qualities according to the requirements of product liability as listed above.