

PRESS RELEASE

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<u>Austin Hardware & Supply, Inc. Launches Safe Assist</u> <u>Concealed, Cable-less Ramp Door Assist</u>

SAFE ASSIST is a new product designed by engineers at Austin Hardware and Supply, Inc. that renders heavy trailer ramp doors virtually weightless and eliminates the need for potentially dangerous cables and torsion springs, unlike traditional ramp assists.

When ramp door cables fail, injuries are possible. Safe Assist eliminates the danger and liability of a snapping cable and the weight of the ramp door at the moment of failure. It also reduces the vehicle's downtime while the ramp door is being repaired.

Safe Assist has a standard operating range from just under 300 foot-pounds to 900 foot-pounds of torque, which is equivalent to a 6-foot tall ramp weighing 300 pounds. A maximum of only approximately 30 force pounds is required to lift and lower the ramp at that size. Unlike torsion springs, which make opening and closing ramp doors extremely difficult due to the initial force needed, Safe Assist allows for uniform weight distribution throughout the range of motion. The feel provided by Safe Assist can be compared to the action of opening and closing a laptop computer, which can be stopped at any position throughout the opening/closing range.

Additional hazards eliminated by Safe Assist include the inherent tripping risk created by cables, damage to cargo that may contact the cables, and injuries to animals, such as horses, caused by scraping against the cables. Horse, automobile, and heavy equipment trailers are just a few of many ramp door applications on which Safe Assist can be used.

Trailer manufacturers and dealers are made safer by no longer having to adjust and wind dangerous cables during assembly.

If the ramp door starts to feel too heavy at any point during the product's life, Safe Assist can be easily adjusted. Safe Assist is 100% concealed within a lightweight yet heavy-duty extruded aluminum casing providing corrosion prevention and great aesthetics.

For more information, please visit https://info.austinhardware.com/safeassist#- key benefits or contact your nearest Austin Hardware location.

ABOUT AUSTIN HARDWARE & SUPPLY, INC.

Austin Hardware & Supply, Inc. is a wholesale distributor of specialty industrial and vehicular hardware. The company has nine locations throughout the U.S. Serving industry since 1960, Austin Hardware provides innovative hardware solutions with an extensive inventory of top-quality parts, shipped quickly, accurately, and at competitive prices, supported by experienced, professional customer service dedicated to each customer's success.

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