



McKee Door Sales

Architect Academy

Issue #8

November 20, 2013

Loading Dock Systems: Important Design Detail Often Missed



Declining driveway approaches are very common at the loading dock area in which incoming vehicles are backed into position at an angle determined by the percentage of the decline.

This detail is often overlooked during the preparation of construction documents causing the Owner/End User to be faced with a damaged building and having to add aftermarket bumper extensions and longer hinged lip assemblies to fix this condition.

The most effective method to address this situation is to project the dock leveler pit forward; also known as cantilevering, in which the amount of projection is determined by the percentage of the exterior driveway decline.

At loading docks equipped with dock seals or shelters they should be tapered (more projection at the bottom than the top) to suit the percentage of decline. This will ensure an efficient top to bottom seal to the trailer which also eliminates putting additional stress on the building walls.

Giving consideration to this detail and projecting the dock leveler pit at the beginning of the project eliminates potential damage caused by vehicle impact to the building.



Contact Matt Girard today at matt.girard@mckeedoor.com or 614.833.1416 for design assistance on your next project, additional information, or to obtain your AIA Continuing Education Credits.

www.mckeedoor.com

★ **This is a Test Email only.**

This message was sent for the sole purpose of testing a draft message.