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News
For immediate release

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Trade Group Celebrates 80 Years of National Disability Employment Awareness

*Automatic door industry's own history dates to same period;
reflects longtime advocacy for accessibility*

October 2, 2025—This October marks the 80th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), an annual recognition of the positive impact that people with disabilities have on the American workforce. This yearly event began in 1945, first as a weeklong national observance. The [American Association of Automatic Door Manufacturers \(AAADM\)](#) is proud that its own industry's history dates back to the same decade, with the 1940s invention of the floor mat activator device.



The U.S. Department of Labor announced the theme for 2025's anniversary observance as "Celebrating Value and Talent." NDEAM honors the contributions of America's workers with disabilities and also showcases supportive workplace policies and practices that benefit employees and employers alike.

Through the decades, the automatic door industry has supported accessibility efforts that benefit people living with disabilities. Automatic doors can significantly improve accessibility and inclusiveness in workplaces for employees. They enhance ease of entry and exit by providing barrier-free access for employees who use wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, or have limited arm strength. This promotes independence and lets these workers focus on their jobs.

Because manual doors can be difficult or dangerous for people with mobility challenges, especially if they close quickly or are heavy, automatic doors create a safer environment with reduced risk of injury. The presence of accessible features like automatic doors also sends a message that an organization values all employees.

By reducing physical barriers, the workplace becomes more viable for a wider range of individuals with different needs. Automatic doors also benefit people with temporary injuries or conditions and employees carrying equipment or pushing carts.

Creating an inclusive environment benefits an entire organization. Employees with disabilities bring unique viewpoints and problem-solving approaches, enhancing innovation. A diverse and inclusive workplace fosters a culture of respect and equality, leading to higher morale and job satisfaction among all employees. The automatic door industry is proud of its long-term support for accessibility efforts and is pleased to help promote the 80th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

For more information about AAADM, visit <https://www.aaadm.com/>.

About AAADM

The American Association of Automatic Door Manufacturers (AAADM) is a trade association of manufacturers of automatic pedestrian door systems. AAADM was founded in 1994 with the following mission: to increase awareness of automatic doors and accessibility needs; to increase education, training and professionalism among installers and service providers; and to generally promote the safe use of automatic doors. Each year on March 19, AAADM celebrates National Automatic Door Day to raise awareness about the many benefits of automatic doors, including providing access to those with physical challenges and helping to prevent germs by eliminating the need to touch door handles.

www.aaadm.com.

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