



Smart Choice Series, Volume 1

**Choosing the Correct Automatic  
Hopper Door Opener:** *Moving Beyond Price  
to a Value-add Operational Investment*



## Overview

In today's competitive hauling environment, equipment decisions are often reduced to price comparisons or are in response to an unplanned issue. When it comes to hopper door automation, the price tag should be a reflection of a system's true value; that which is found in safety, efficiency, reliability, and long-term return on investment.

This paper equips fleet managers, operators, and decision-makers with key questions to ask before purchasing hopper door systems. By shifting the conversation from 'What does it cost?' to 'What does it deliver?', demonstrates how Shurco™ ProTrap™ and AutoTrap™ set the standard for safety, performance, and peace of mind.

## The Industry Challenge

Hopper door operation is central to efficient hauling, yet too often, decision-making prioritizes short-term price over long-term performance. Ineffective systems can result in:

- Safety risks for drivers working outside the cab
- Product loss through spillage or over-delivery
- Higher downtime due to electrical or mechanical failures
- Reduced equipment life

## Five Critical Questions to Ask Before You Buy

### ✓ Does the system provide real-time position feedback?

- Keeps drivers safe by eliminating the need to leave the cab
- Reduces risk of rejected loads at grain elevators
- Adds confidence in high-traffic or low-visibility conditions

### ✓ Can the system stop automatically mid-cycle?

- Enables precise unloading
- Prevents product loss or waste
- Extends system life by reducing wear

### ✓ Are the wire connectors pre-terminated and sealed?

- Protects against moisture and corrosion
- Minimized downtime from electrical failures
- Delivers reliability in extreme weather
- Reduces install time

### ✓ How do I manually override the system?

- Maintains operation during power failures or system failures
- Prevents downtime mid-load
- Builds operator confidence and control

### ✓ What functionality is included in the mobile app?

- Real-time diagnostics
- Remote door operation for added convenience
- Lock-out features for safety and security
- Fault logging to help troubleshooting

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## Why These Questions Matter

The correct hopper door system is not just a convenience — it is a strategic investment. By asking the right questions, decision-makers ensure they choose a system that:

- Protects drivers and reduces liability
- Improves efficiency and throughput
- Extends equipment life cycle
- Reduces unexpected downtime and repair costs

Choosing a hopper door system is about more than cost. Prioritizing safety, efficiency, and reliability, ensures that every load is delivered securely, on time, and with confidence.

## Conclusion

Choosing a hopper door system is about more than cost. Prioritizing safety, efficiency, and reliability, ensures that every load is delivered securely, on time, and with confidence.



**Save an average of over 40 hours a year simply by upgrading to electric traps.** For a hauler running 500 loads annually, eliminating just five minutes of manual effort per unload adds up fast. That's time saved, reduced fatigue, and fewer hours spent breathing dust and grime, benefits that pay off both in productivity and personal well-being.

## The Shurco Advantage

With ProTrap and AutoTrap, operators gain:

- Advanced feedback and monitoring for total confidence
- Sealed connectors engineered for rugged conditions
- Mobile app integration for control in the palm of your hand

For generations Shurco has been a trusted partner in agriculture, committed to ensuring smarter and safer and more efficient operation for all/any who employ our solutions.

## Infuse More Value in Your Operation

Learn how ProTrap and AutoTrap are improving operations nationwide. Your Shurco representative or local distributor are standing by to discuss a just-right, value-add solution for you.



Our mission is manufacturing industry-defining solutions that are the preferred choice to solve real-world problems and fuel our customers' success.

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