



Why Code Authorities Look for the UL Mark

Each year almost 100,000 product evaluations are conducted by UL during the year resulting in over 20 billion UL Marks appearing on 20,000 different types of products. So when code authorities (AHJs) and other municipal officials are asked why certification of electrical equipment, building materials, and other construction products are necessary and why UL is the preferred safety certification organization, the answer is clear.

Our Mission is Safety

The U.S. system of safety includes standards developing and certification organizations (such as UL), enforcement by code authorities, installation code developers such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), building and fire code developers such as the International Code Council (ICC), federal agencies such as Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); and National Associations representing manufacturers and installers. Each of these groups plays an important role, and safety is important to each of them. When we all work together, the result is safer products and installations and this has been the central mission for UL for the last 122 years, and is reflected in everything we do.

Trusted Certifications

A UL Listing (Certification) is a valuable and trusted tool to facilitate acceptance of equipment. The authorization to apply a UL Listing Mark must be earned through rigorous examination, testing and surveillance that demonstrate compliance with nationally recognized safety standards. UL's expert technical staff is committed to ensuring that these evaluations are done the right way, so code authorities can trust the UL Mark. Model codes including electrical, building, fire, mechanical codes often require that listed or labeled equipment be installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling, in addition to the manufacturer's installation instructions provided with the equipment.

UL Supports Code Authorities

UL offers resources to professionals that are unmatched in the industry. Dedicated technical staff members from UL's Codes and Advisory Services (CAAS) Department, many of whom were previously AHJ's, attend hundreds of events each year, providing on-the-ground technical assistance and training classes on code and certification issues reaching about 25,000 code authorities and other industry professionals. We know that in code enforcement, you depend on properly *Listed and Labeled* products in deciding whether or not to permit their installation and use. It is critical that the product certifier you rely on has established expertise and knowledge in testing and certification. UL works closely with the many national and international groups such as Fire Marshal Associations and Building Official Associations as well as many industry related organizations and various code authorities in many jurisdictions across the country to educate and to address and help resolve mutual safety concerns.

Online Resources Available

The UL.com Code Authorities home page is the gateway to important information related to the built environment, and this is where you can find contact information for our Codes and Advisory Services experts. It can be found at www.ul.com/codeauthorities.

UL online search tools and resources can be used to locate important information related to UL product certification information. One such search tool is the Online Certifications Directory (OCD), available at www.ul.com/database. This tool allows

you to perform a variety of search of our certifications by manufacturer, keyword, geographic location, and UL file number in order to verify product certifications.

Another powerful search tool that supplements the OCD and is very useful for locating online UL product certification information is the UL Product Spec. UL Product Spec provides several search functions that allow you to explore UL Certifications in a variety of ways, (1) locating UL certifications that correspond to installation code sections, (2) searching the product type by keyword, (3) locating fire-resistant rated assemblies and firestop systems using their design parameters or system numbers and (4) by CSI master format number. For more information visit www.ul.com/productspec.

UL Publications

UL also publishes comprehensive product marking guides and four complimentary newsletters: *The Code Authority*, *The Fire & Security Authority*, and *The Code Authority—Electrical Connections* and *The EPH Regulator*. These publications address code issues and questions in multiple disciplines, providing ready access to a wide variety of valuable information. Free subscriptions to the UL complementary newsletters and email notification services help disseminate information to the code authorities in the community. To sign up, for free, visit www.ul.com/tca.

UL's Field Evaluations

UL Field Evaluations bridge the gap between uncertified equipment and a code-compliant installation acceptable to the code authority. This is where solutions are found that allow businesses to safely operate their newly installed equipment and assist jurisdictions to enforce their adopted regulations, addressing all the questions and concerns of the local AHJ with technical competence, open communications and complete integrity.

The UL Mark – Built on a Strong Foundation

• Active Support of Code Development

UL Regulatory Services staff is highly active in model code development, including serving on many code making bodies like NFPA, ICC, and others. UL's central role and technical expertise allow for balanced input to the process and active maintenance of the code requirements while adding extra value to the UL manufacturer relationship by advocating for the UL standards to be recognized in the body of the codes.

• Reliable, Active Development of Safety Standards

UL is the standards developer for over 1400 safety standards that help form the infrastructure of the U.S. safety system. Each of UL's Standards for Safety are carefully developed for compatibility with the model codes, and provide a uniform and consistent means to evaluate products for safety.

• Continuously Moving the Science of Safety Forward

UL has always been in the forefront of the science of safety, and that tradition continues to result in significant safety research. One example of that is the UL Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI). By executing cutting-edge firefighter research and making the results widely available to the global fire community FSRI is dedicated to increasing firefighter knowledge to reduce injuries and deaths in the fire service overall. To learn more about this groundbreaking research visit www.ulfirefightersafety.com.

Protection of the UL Mark

UL works closely with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the FBI, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, INTERPOL and other law enforcement agencies around the world to provide them with the information necessary to distinguish between authentic and counterfeit UL Marks. This proactive stance helps ensure the integrity of the UL Mark and remove forgeries from the market and before they make it out into our communities.

The Bottom Line

Product certification is a critical element of the U.S. Safety System, an independent verification of safe products for safe installations. Look for the UL Listing Mark, and you know that it is backed by a company of technical experts, dedicated to public

safety. For more information visit www.UL.com or contact UL Codes and Advisory Services staff and for personal expert assistance with questions, issues, technical information, and any other specialized need.