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Marks for the US

Certification marks for the U.S.

For the U.S.: A CSA mark with the indicator "US" or "NRTL" means that the product is certified for the U.S. market to the applicable U.S. standards. If a product has features from more than one area, (e.g.. electrical equipment with fuel burning features), the mark indicates compliance to all applicable Standards.

For the U.S. and Canada: A CSA mark with the indicators "C" and "US" or "NRTL/C" means that the product is certified for both the U.S. and Canadian markets, to the applicable U.S. and Canadian standards. If a product has features from more than one area, (e.g.. electrical equipment with fuel burning features), the mark indicates compliance to all applicable Standards.

For gas products in the U.S.: The CSA Blue Star indicates the product is certified to applicable U.S. standards for appliances using gas or other petroleum fuel. For details, see the Gas Appliances Certification Program. If a gas product has electrical features, the Mark also indicates compliance to the applicable electrical Standard(s).

For the U.S.: A CSA mark with the indicator "SANITATION" means that the product is certified for the U.S. market to the requirements of the applicable NSF/ANSI food equipment standard. Manufacturers may also choose to display the applicable NSF/ANSI standard beneath the CSA Sanitation mark.

For limited-run products and site-specific installations, see the U.S. Field Evaluation label.

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Who Accepts CSA

Choose CSA International when selling your products in the U.S., Canada or International markets

Thousands of companies rely on CSA International for product testing for the U.S. and Canada-including American Water Heater, Apple, Bata, CFM Majestic, Delta Faucet, GE, Hewlett-Packard, Hubbell Lighting, Hobart, IBM, Intermatic, IPEX, Kaufman, Lennox Industries, Mitsubishi, Moen, North Safety, Sanyo, Whirlpool, and others.

Major retail chains carry a multitude of products bearing the CSA marks including Best-Buy, Canadian Tire, The Home Depot, JCPenney, Lowes, RadioShack, Sears, Spiegel, Wal-Mart, and many others.

CSA International is accredited in Canada by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and is recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).

CSA marks are accepted by Regulatory Authorities in the occupational health and safety, electrical, gas, building, plumbing and many other fields in the U.S. and Canada.

CSA marks are a sign of confidence for millions of people worldwide, every day. Here's why:

- CSA marks mean a product has been tested and meets applicable standards for safety and/or performance, including the applicable standards written or administered by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), NSF International (NSF), and others.
- CSA International is a North American leader in product testing and certification, with a respected history dating back to 1919.
- CSA works closely with the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI), the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), Health Canada, provincial regulators, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to promote standards for consumer safety in North America and around the world.
- · CSA testing is accepted by key conformity assessment organizations in the U.S. including IAPMO and ASSE
- CSA field representatives conduct more than 50,000 factory visits each year, worldwide, to ensure that CSA-certified products continue to meet the applicable standards.

Find out more:

- Certification Marks
- Contact us

Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTLs)

Quick Links

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Welcome to the Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) Program, which is a part of OSHA's Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management. The Program recognizes private sector organizations as NRTLs, and recognition signifies that an organization has met the necessary qualifications specified in the regulations for the Program. The NRTL determines that specific equipment and materials ("products") meet consensus-based standards of safety to provide the assurance, required by OSHA, that these products are safe for use in the U.S. workplace.

For purposes of meeting the NRTL product-approval requirements in OSHA standards, e.g., those under Subpart S of 29 CFR Part 1910, OSHA only accepts equipment or products approved by one of the NRTLs listed below. See the OSHA web pages for information on each NRTL's scope of recognition, or contact OSHA or the NRTL for additional information.

In Focus

- Revocation of Wyle Laboratories, Inc. OSHA Federal Register Notice 76: 55709-55710, (2011, September 8).
- Additional Topics and Information (includes link to NRTL SHIB)
- The September 14th Federal Register Notice modified the scope of 11 NRTLs and updated the current list of test standards no longer recognized - 9/14/09
- Organizations No Longer Recognized - Supplemental Information including response letters now available - 8/21/09
- OSHA Satellite Notification and Acceptance Program's (SNAP) Letter of Interpretation and Other Guidance now available - 6/10/09
- OSHA Satellite Notification and Acceptance Program's (SNAP) Application Guidelines now available [46 KB PDF*, 11 pages] (To obtain in Word, contact the NRTL Program) - 6/1/09
- Updated Specific References to OSHA Standards Requiring NRTL Approval - 3/25/09
- OSHA Satellite Notification and Acceptance Program (SNAP) becomes effective May 11th - 1/9/09
- Reinstatement of UL 1563 Standard for Canadian Standards Association (CSA) - 10/16/08

Organizations Currently Recognized by OSHA as NRTLs

- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
  (also known as CSA International)
- Communication Certification Laboratory, Inc. (CCL)
- Curtis-Straus LLC (CSL)
- FM Approvals LLC (FM)
  (formerly Factory Mutual Research Corporation)
- Intertek Testing Services NA, Inc. (ITSNA)
  (formerly ETL)
- MET Laboratories, Inc. (MET)
- NSF International (NSF)
- National Technical Systems, Inc. (NTS)
- QPS Evaluation Services Inc. (QPS)
- SGS U.S. Testing Company, Inc. (SGSUS)
  (formerly UST-CA)
- Southwest Research Institute (SWRI)
- TUV Rheinland PTL, LLC (TUVPTL)
- TÜV SÜD America, Inc. (TUVAM)
- TÜV SÜD Product Services GmbH (TUVPSG)
- TUV Rheinland of North America, Inc. (TUV)
- Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL)

Click on the NRTL name shown above to view its scope of recognition (the list of standards, sites, and programs that OSHA has recognized for the NRTL). See March 9, 1995, Federal Register notice for more detailed information about the programs that a NRTL may use. Also see the FAQs.

Options

- Satellite Notification and Acceptance Program (SNAP)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Information on Submitting an Application
- Program Fees [137 KB PDF, 13 pages]. Federal Register Notice Revising Current Fees.
- Program Regulations (29 CFR 1910.7, including Appendix A)
- NRTL Program Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines (NRTL Directive - CPL 01-00-003 - CPL 1-0.3) [Also available as a 150 KB PDF, 70 pages].
- Additional Topics and Information
- Typical Registered Certification Marks of NRTLs
- Current List of NRTLs and Addresses
- Current List of Sites Recognized Under the NRTL Program

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- **Publication Date:** 03/09/1995
- **Publication Type:** Notice
- **Fed Register #:** 60:12980-12985
- **Title:** Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories; Clarification of the Types of Programs and Procedures

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

[Docket No. NRTL-1-95]

Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories; Clarification of the Types of Programs and Procedures

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of interpretation.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) clarification of the types of programs and procedures that Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) may engage in under the OSHA/NRTL recognition program, 29 CFR 1910.7. This notice addresses in particular those programs under which the NRTL controls and audits, but does not itself generate, the data relied upon for product certification. OSHA invites currently recognized NRTLs as well as new applicants to request approval for any of these acceptable procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 9, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Variance Determination, NRTL Recognition Program, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N3653, Washington, DC 20210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 6, 1984, (49 FR 8326), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration proposed a comprehensive overhaul of its regulatory procedures related to OSHA's requirements for safety testing or certification of certain workplace equipment and materials. The goals of the proposal were:

(1) To assure that products required to be tested and certified would be reliably tested and certified;

(2) To implement testing and certification requirements and procedures which would be administratively workable; and

(3) To take advantage of developments by others in organizing and evaluating product certification systems and in accrediting laboratories for testing.

In the proposal, OSHA stated that it was attempting to build upon the self regulatory efforts of the private sector, particularly in the fields of electrical and fire safety. OSHA intended to take full advantage of the mechanisms which existed in the private sector or in government, and to keep its long-term involvement in these activities to a minimum (see 53 FR 12103 second column, first paragraph). A three day informal public hearing was held on September 25, 26, and October 1, 1984. Based on the comments received and a review of the testimony in the record, the Agency modified its original proposal and, on April 12, 1988, (53 FR 12102), promulgated a new section, 1910.7--Definition and requirements for a nationally recognized testing laboratory, and a new Appendix A to section 1910.7--OSHA Recognition Process for Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories.

The cornerstone of this regulation is the definition of the regulatory term "NRTL", with respect to specific elements. There are four elements that are identified as NRTL requirements: capability to test and evaluate equipment; control of certified products; independence; and procedures to produce creditable findings. These

four elements that define an NRTL are incorporated into the criteria for the various types of procedures which OSHA approves and, when followed, provide OSHA with a reasonable degree of assurance that the products may be used safely in the workplace.

As noted above, capability to test and evaluate equipment, and independence are two of the elements required of an NRTL. These elements are discussed in the preamble to the final rule.

Capability to test does not mean that all testing will be done by the NRTL. OSHA stated in the preamble that while it expected generally that most applicants would do the testing in-house this was not a requirement of the standard. OSHA recognized that, in some cases, laboratories would subcontract out the testing of a certain product or aspect thereof due to unique or special testing needs. Anticipating this occurrence, OSHA stated that the laboratory actually doing the work must have the necessary capability to conduct the tests, and the laboratory applying for recognition would retain primary responsibility for fulfilling the requirements of the standard and complying with the procedures set out in Appendix A.

Independence also does not mean that an NRTL has to carry out all of its functions totally separate from other entities, including the manufacturer. Simply put, the independence requirement means that the analytical and decision making processes, which are the critical functions that must be performed, are accomplished by an organization which is financially independent of manufacturers, vendors, and users of certified products. As long as the NRTL retains these functions, the credibility of the testing and approval process will be maintained.

OSHA believes that this understanding of the concept of independence was implicit in the rule from the time of its adoption. Thus the OSHA rule was intended to build upon the system of testing and certification already in existence, not to supplant it. The existing system did not require a rigid barrier between NRTL and manufacturer, for example, which would completely prevent the NRTL from utilizing the manufacturer's testing or other information sources. As long as the NRTL, which was not economically affiliated with the manufacturer, had ultimate authority and responsibility for the approval of the product and use of the certification mark, the needs of independence would be satisfied. The current clarification is consistent with and fleshes out the past practice.

OSHA intended a pragmatic application of the elements of independence and capability to perform testing, as well as the other elements that go into defining an NRTL. This can be seen from the general discussion in the preamble to the final rule, and specifically from the decision to grandfather the operations of UL and FMRC for a five-year period.

Thus, in the final rule, OSHA grandfathered some of the procedures that were in existence at the time of the rule. "It seems reasonable that product testing systems already in place should be able to continue their operations without Agency rulemaking on the testing standards, methods and procedures they are using now and have successfully used in the past. The operation of already existing product testing systems, such as UL and FMRC, could be seriously disrupted if the Agency attempted to undertake rulemaking on the testing standards, methods and procedures they are using." (See 53 FR 12108, second column, last paragraph). The initial assessment for renewal of UL and FMRC in 1993 and 1994, identified mature and functioning procedures, some over thirty years old, which included the acceptance of test data from other sources and use of contract organizations for other services.

In addition, OSHA's intent in the 1988 rule was to allow a level of flexibility in meeting the mandatory requirements. OSHA recognized that procedures may operationally vary from laboratory to laboratory, and still be acceptable. For example, the preamble to the final rule stated that, ". . . while the record indicates that current safety testing standards and practices may vary slightly among the third party safety testing organizations, the testing laboratories themselves indicate that they have compensating mechanisms and controls built into their particular systems which are intended to assure that the ultimate result will fall within an acceptable range" (TR 534,550). "The laboratories claim that they use those testing standards, methods and procedures which adequately address all necessary safety concerns and thereby justify their decision to "pass" the item in question and to allow the use of the laboratory's listing or identifying mark" (Ex 38, p 3; TR 552, 553). (53 FR 12108, third column, first paragraph).

Thus, OSHA recognized that there were testing practices that might vary and differ among laboratories. OSHA also recognized that the compensating mechanisms and controls for each system and laboratory depends upon the confidence the laboratory has in the final result leading to use of the mark.

OSHA's review of the applications for renewal of recognition submitted by UL and FMRC have lead to the conclusion that it is appropriate to provide further clarification of acceptable NRTL procedures. In order for other NRTLs and future applicants to utilize these types of procedures, OSHA has provided specific criteria that will identify the critical elements of the various procedures. These criteria, as discussed earlier, were derived from the four elements that define an NRTL. By providing such criteria, an NRTL may tailor its methods and testing techniques to any procedure the NRTL would like to include.

The identification of criteria discussed in this document will provide guidance to applicants utilizing the various procedures, while still allowing the flexibility that was identified in the discussion of the regulation.

Clarification

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is clarifying the types of testing and certification procedures

which may meet the requirements for acceptance under section 1910.7.

The Agency has previously determined that an NRTL may, but is not obligated to, accept test data, component or product approvals, or other information or data from another NRTL, as long as it is satisfied with their appropriateness. The NRTL has the prerogative to retest or reapprove, as it deems necessary.

OSHA is aware that in addition to the procedures which were previously clearly understood to be acceptable, NRTLs also utilize procedures involving entities such as contractors, manufacturers, and other laboratories, for the performance of many of their functions. These other procedures are acceptable with certain controls in place. OSHA recognizes that to maintain credibility of these procedures, a higher level of expertise and controls by the NRTL will be required. Therefore, applicants for these will be assessed and audited by OSHA to more stringent guidelines. Generally, all acceptable procedures fall within one or more of the following.

1. The basic procedure where all product testing and evaluation is performed in-house by the NRTL that will certify the product

2. Acceptance of testing data from independent organizations, other than NRTLs

3. Acceptance of product evaluations from independent organizations, other than NRTLs

4. Acceptance of witnessed testing data

5. Acceptance of testing data from non-independent organizations

6. Acceptance of evaluation data from non-independent organizations (requiring NRTL review prior to marketing)

7. Acceptance of continued certification following minor product modifications by the client

8. Acceptance of product evaluations from organizations that function as part of the International Electrotechnical Commission Certification Body (IEC-CB) Scheme

9. Acceptance of services other than testing or evaluation performed by subcontractors or agents

Certain procedures are unacceptable. Included among these are manufacturer self-declaration, client self-certification, and other similar procedures that permit non-NRTLs to determine conformance with the product standard, i.e., certify the product.

A number of procedures encountered during on-site investigations by OSHA assessors have existed in one form or another prior to the existence of the NRTL program in 1988. Most of these procedures appear to have matured to a degree necessary to maintain product safety in the workplace and included controls necessary for conformity with NRTL program requirements.

This Notice discussed procedures and criteria to be utilized by OSHA assessors and auditors in evaluating each of them. OSHA will continue to closely monitor progress under these criteria and evaluate the effectiveness of the procedures.

The specific criteria utilized for evaluating the procedures of an applicant for recognition as a nationally recognized testing laboratory are based upon "national consensus standards and international guides".

Three basic principles, to assure that product certifications would provide necessary levels of safety, were derived from the rule.

These principles are as follows:

(1) The NRTL shall be capable of performing all aspects of a product certification scheme on its own.

* The NRTL shall be recognized to perform the tests, evaluations, and other services before it can accept such services from other organizations.

(2) Where the services of other organizations are used, the NRTL shall retain control of, and responsibility for, all aspects of the product certification scheme.

* The NRTL shall have procedures consistent with the appropriate national standards and international guides for granting, maintaining, and extending its qualification of an organization or service.

* The NRTL shall use assessors who met the competence requirements of the appropriate national standards and international guides to evaluate the organization.

* The NRTL shall ensure that all aspects of certification work performed by others--including participants, locations of testing, witnessing, and evaluations--are identified in the NRTL and client records and reports.

(3) The NRTL shall ensure that each organization providing data, product evaluations, or other services to the NRTL is capable of doing so, and that the relationship between the NRTL and the organization does not

compromise the NRTL's independence.

* The NRTL shall be able to demonstrate that each organization it employs is capable of providing data, product evaluations, or other services that meet, or exceed, the quality of those provided by the NRTL.

* The NRTL shall maintain reports of its assessments of such organizations; these assessments shall conform to appropriate national standards and international guides.

* The NRTL shall have a documented surveillance program to ensure continued compliance with the NRTL's qualification procedures; this surveillance program shall be consistent with the appropriate national standards and international guides.

* The NRTL shall not be economically affiliated with any of these outside organization.

Procedures and specific criteria for each, were then developed from the basic principles. These principles, wherever they are applicable, shall be an integral requirement of the following procedures.

1. The Basic Procuredure--All Product Testing and Evaluation is Performed In-House by NRTL That Will Certify the Product

This is the basic procedure utilized by an NRTL under conditions where it is feasible. The first and second basic principles are applicable to this procedure.

2. Acceptance of Testing Data From Independent Organizations, Other Than NRTLS

As was noted previously in reference to the preamble to the final rule, OSHA anticipated that most testing by an NRTL would be done in-house, but did not make this a requirement of the standard. Subcontracting out of some of the tests was anticipated by OSHA, when it noted that the laboratory actually doing the work must have the necessary capability to conduct the tests, and the laboratory applying for recognition would retain primary responsibility for fulfilling the requirements of the standard and complying with the procedures set out in Appendix A.

An NRTL may accept testing conducted by an independent organization provided the following criteria are complied with:

The NRTL shall retain control of, and responsibility for, all aspects of the product certification scheme.

* The NRTL shall review each test package and complete the product evaluations required by the test standards.

* The NRTL shall ensure that all data in the test data package originated with an organization that the NRTL qualified.

The NRTL shall ensure that each organization providing testing data is capable of conducting the test and that the relationship between the NRTL and the organization does not compromise the NRTL's independence.

* The NRTL shall have a written program for assessing the qualification of the organization to perform testing for each product type it may be required to test.

* This qualification program shall include procedures for evaluating the organization's independence, facilities, utilities, environmental controls, personnel, testing and calibration equipment, written testing procedures, calibration procedures, quality assurance program, and other elements as outlined in the appropriate national concensus standards and international guides.

3. Acceptance of Product Evaluations From Independent Organizations, Other Than NRTLS

Although no clear distinction between testing and evaluation is made in the final rule (29 CFR 1910.7), such distinction exists.

Many NRTLs utilize outside organizations for specific or unique tests. In these instances, the NRTL stipulates the tests and defines the testing procedures to be utilized and, finally, evaluates the test results to determine conformance of the product to the product standard and certifies the product where it does conform.

In this type procedure, the outside organization both tests and evaluates the results of the tests to determine conformance of a product to a standard, and them issues a test and evaluation report to the NRTL. The NRTL, in return, weighs the report for validity and conformance of the product to the product standard in order to decide whether the product is certifiable.

Authorization for an NRTL to accept product evaluations significantly expands the scope of the services which may be provided to the NRTL from an outside source. Acceptance of product evaluations will require the NRTL to establish a more formalized, long-term relationship with the independent organization to acquire confidence in its evaluation procedures.

An NRTL may accept product evaluations prepared by an independent organization provided the following criteria, in addition to the requirements in Procedure 1, are complied with:

The NRTL shall retain control of, and responsibility for, all aspects of the product certification scheme.

* The NRTL shall review each evaluation package, and complete the product evaluations required by the test standards before the product certification is issued.

* The NRTL shall ensure that evaluations are obtained from an organization which it has qualified.

* The NRTL shall ensure that data relied upon have been developed under the program established by the NRTL.

* The NRTL shall require the organization to establish and maintain a system to document technical correspondence and test standard interpretations.

* The NRTL shall assure that the organization, in preparing the evaluation package, follows the written procedures established by the NRTL.

* The NRTL shall ensure that each organization providing product evaluations is capable of conducting the tests and performing the evaluations, and that the relationship between the NRTL and the organization does not compromise the NRTL's independence.

* The NRTL's qualification program shall be used to assess the organization's procedures and personnel to determine its qualifications relative to each product type it may be asked to evaluate.

* The qualification program shall establish a minimum period and level of mutual effort between the NRTL and the organization for confidence-building. During this period the NRTL will witness evaluations, verify the evaluations through inter-organizational comparisons, and validate the competence of personnel to perform product evaluations.

4. Acceptance of Witnessed Testing Data

This procedure involves technical personnel from the NRTL witnessing product testing generally carried out at a location other than that of the NRTL. The organization carrying out the tests may or may not be independent.

The majority of testing witnessed by representatives of the NRTL is consistent with the statement in the preamble to the final rule that * * * in some cases, laboratories may wish to subcontract out the testing of a certain product or aspect thereof due to unique or special testing needs.

Representatives of an NRTL may witness testing provided the following criteria are complied with:

The NRTL shall retain control of, and responsibility for, all aspects of the product certification scheme.

* The NRTL shall train its own personnel to take an active role in witnessing each phase of the tests.

* This training shall include specific testing procedures for each product type the trainees may witness.

The NRTL shall assure that the organization providing the testing data is capable of conducting the tests and that the relationship between the NRTL and the organization does not compromise the NRTL's independence.

* The NRTL shall have a written program for assessing the qualification of the organization to perform testing for each product type it may be required to test.

* This qualification program shall include procedures for evaluating the outside organization's facilities, utilities, personnel, testing and calibration equipment, written testing procedures, calibration procedures, environmental controls, and other elements as outlined in the appropriate national consensus standards and international guides.

* The NRTL shall qualify the outside organization using the NRTL's own staff.

5. Acceptance of Testing Data From Non-Independent Organizations

This program involves test data generated by an organization that has a vested interest in the outcome of the test results.

Data submitted under this program shall not include products intended for use in hazardous (classified) locations (see 29 CFR 1910.307). A substantial number of tests of products intended for use in hazardous locations involves subjective analysis and have levels of complexity well beyond that required for tests of products meant for use only in ordinary locations.

An NRTL may accept testing conducted by a non-independent organization provided the following criteria are complied with, in addition to the requirements in Procedure 1, with the exception for the need to document the independence of the organization:

The NRTL shall establish procedures and maintain records which will demonstrate that the test data are unbiased.

The NRTL shall ensure that the organization providing the data is capable of conducting the tests and that the relationship between the NRTL and the organization does not compromise the NRTL's independence.

* The NRTL's qualification procedures shall establish a minimum time period for confidence-building. During this period the NRTL will witness tests and verify them by duplicate testing at the NRTL's facility.

* The NRTL's surveillance program shall include annual site evaluations, review of test packages, random samples and retests by the NRTL, and other controls outlined in the appropriate national standards and international guides.

6. Acceptance of Evaluation Data From Non-Independent Organizations (Requiring NRTL Review Prior To Marketing)

This type of procedure enables an organization to evaluate a product in which it has a vested interest. However, the product shall not be released to the market until the NRTL has reviewed and concurred with the evaluation.

An NRTL may accept product evaluations prepared by a nonindependent organization provided the following criteria are complied with:

Except for the requirement for independence, the specific program criteria in Procedures 1, 2, and 4 shall apply to product evaluations by non-independent organizations. The following additional program criteria shall also be required:

The NRTL shall retain control of, and responsibility for, all aspects of the product certification scheme.

* The NRTL shall establish and maintain records of procedure and product deficiencies identified, and the corrective actions taken by it and the organization.

* The NRTL shall establish and maintain a program to monitor and confirm the organization's evaluations.

* The NRTL shall assure that no product is released to the market until it has verified the organization's testing data and concurred with its evaluation of the product.

The NRTL shall assure that each organization providing data and evaluations is capable of performing these functions and that the relationship between the NRTL and the organization does not compromise the NRTL's independence.

* The NRTL shall establish and maintain records that demonstrate that the organization continues to be proficient in testing and evaluation.

* The NRTL shall demonstrate that the organization's laboratory has sustained the quality of its performance in testing before being considered for this program.

7. Acceptance of Continued Certification After Minor Product Modifications by the Manufacturer

This type of procedure would allow a manufacturer to make minor changes to a certified product, test and evaluate the change or changes, and continue to use the certification mark on the modified product.

With all the controls in place and a clear understanding of what a "minor" product modification encompasses, there should be no reason to consider this procedure as not falling within the scope of the NRTL program. A minor product modification is one which involves the use of an interchangeable component in a previously accepted product. Examples are the substitution of an equivalent switch from a different manufacturer, or the replacement of a motor with a comparable one of different horsepower.

An NRTL may accept minor product modifications from a manufacturer without requiring recertification provided the following criteria, as well as the criteria in Procedures 1, 2, 4, and 5 (except for the requirements for independence), are complied with:

The NRTL shall retain control of, and responsibility for, all aspects of the product certification scheme.

* The NRTL shall clearly define what is meant by "minor" modifications.

* The NRTL shall review each test and evaluation report for each product modification.

The NRTL shall assure that each manufacturer providing the test data and evaluation is capable of conducting the tests and making the product evaluations, and that the relationship between the NRTL and the organization does not compromise the NRTL's independence.

* The NRTL shall demonstrate that the client has sustained the quality of its performance in both testing and

product evaluation before being considered for this program.

8. Acceptance of Product Evaluations From Organizations That Function As Part of the International Electrotechnical Commission Certification Body (IEC-CB) Scheme

The IEC-CB scheme authorizes organizations accredited as certified bodies to exchange product test data and evaluation reports with each other.

An NRTL may accept product evaluations from organizations that are part of the IEC-CB scheme provided the following criteria are complied with:

The NRTL shall retain control of, and responsibility for, all aspects of the product certification scheme.

* The NRTL shall physically evaluate each product.

* The NRTL shall review each test and evaluation report and certificate of certification to determine that the correct nationally recognized standards has been used to test the product and, where applicable, that the US deviations have been properly applied.

* The NRTL shall have written procedures for the evaluation of products, and for the interpretation of any results.

* The NRTL shall establish records that demonstrate that the organizations furnishing test and evaluation reports continue to be competent. These records will include documentation to demonstrate that the organization understands the US deviations and has correctly applied them.

* The NRTL shall determine that the components used in the product are tested to a standard comparable to the appropriate nationally recognized standard.

* The NRTL shall determine that components used in the product have been certified through an appropriate regulatory authority's scheme, and that the scheme includes routine evaluation of the manufacturer's process.

9. Acceptance of Services (Other Than Testing or Evaluation) Performed by Subcontractors or Agents

Services under this heading include follow-up activities, calibration activities, and equipment maintenance accomplished by subcontractors or agents.

Athough there do not appear to be any references in 29 CFR 1910.7 or in the preamble to the final rule that specifically address this issue, testing laboratories, including the larger organizations, have historically contracted for certain activities. Most common are activities such as repair and calibration of test and measurement instrumentation, security services, and quality system accreditation. Assuming proper controls for such activities by the NRTL, they should not affect the ability of the NTRL to produce credible findings. It was never OSHA's intent to discourage or limit activities such as the use of national or international standards for quality assurance qualification and registration of a manufacturer by organizations other than the NRTL. Such accreditation and services can be useful tools for an NRTL as long as the NRTL retains ultimate control and responsibility.

The NRTL shall retain control of, and responsibility for, all aspects of the product certification scheme.

* The NRTL shall assure that subcontractors or agents performing service which may affect the certification of a product have been assessed and qualified by the NRTL.

* The NRTL shall assure that subcontractors agents use the follow-up procedures established by the NRTL.

* The NRTL shall maintain records of the results of the follow-up visits.

The NRTL shall assure that each agent or subcontractor providing a service is capable of performing that service and that the relationship between the agent or subcontractor does not compromise the NRTL's independence.

* The NRTL shall be able to demonstrate that all subcontractors and agents are capable of providing services equivalent to that provided by the NRTL.

* The NRTL shall have written procedures to qualify subcontractors or agents, to monitor their performance, to communicate effectively with them, and to maintain manufacturer confidentiality.

* The NRTL's qualification rpocedures shall include: qualification requirements; the subcontractor's or agent's quality assurance and self-auditing programs; the NRTL's monitoring program; and the documentation requirements for both the NRTL and the subcontractor or agent.

* The NRTL's records shall include documentation to demonstrate that the subcontractor or agent complies with the NRTL's program.

* The NRTL shall use its own staff to qualify the subcontractor or agent.

* The NRTL shall have the means to ensure that only follow- up inspectors who are qualified for the task are utilized.

* The NRTL's surveillance program shall include routine audits of the facilities, staff, and procedures involved in its follow- up program.

* The follow-up procedures in foreign countries shall be as stringent as those required in the US.

* The follow-up program shall include an initial assessment of the manufacturers' procedures, the quality control system, maintenance procedures, recordkeeping and other elements from the appropriate national standards and international guides.

* The follow-up program shall have the capability to identify variations in the manufacturers' ability to control the quality of production.

* The NRTL shall periodically inspect samples of products for compliance.

The Use of An "NRTL" Certification Mark for Products Tested and Certified In Accordance With OSHA's Requirements

OSHA has received requests from several NRTL participants to initiate action that would implement a requirement for the use of a unique mark for the NRTL certified products. As a result of these requests, OSHA will publish a separate document in the **Federal Register** explaining how such a program may be implemented, as well as describing the requirements which are considered to be part of such a program.

In this separate document, OSHA will request comments on the advantages and disadvantages of implementing such a program and invite suggestions as to the proper approach OSHA should take. The document will include the concerns of the Agency and will seek public information that will enable it to determine the appropriate action.

Authority

Section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, (84 Stat. 1593, 29 U.S.C. 655), Secretary of Labor's Order No. 1-90 (55 FR 9033).

Signed at Washington, DC, this 3rd day of March 1995.

Joseph A. Dear,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-5780 Filed 3-8-95; 8:45 am]

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Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

Status:	Recognized
Docket Number:	NRTL-2-92
Main Address & Phone:	Canadian Standards Association 178 Rexdale Boulevard Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 1R3 Canada 416-747-4000
Site 1 Name & Address:	CSA International, Etobicoke (Toronto) 178 Rexdale Boulevard Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 1R3 Canada
Effective Date 1:	December 24, 1992
Site 2 Name & Address:	CSA International, Pointe-Claire (Montreal) 865 Ellingham Street Pointe-Claire, Quebec H9R 5E8 Canada
Effective Date 2:	August 9, 1994
Site 3 Name & Address:	CSA International, Richmond (Vancouver) 13799 Commerce Parkway Richmond, British Columbia V6V 2N9 Canada
Effective Date 3:	August 9, 1994
Site 4 Name & Address:	CSA International, Edmonton 1707-94th Street Edmonton, Alberta T6N 1E6 Canada
Effective Date 4:	August 9, 1994
Site 5 Name & Address:	CSA International, Cleveland 8501 East Pleasant Valley Road Cleveland, Ohio 44131 (formerly part of the American Gas Association)
Effective Date 5:	July 20, 1999 (orginally 6/20/90 for AGA)
Site 6 Name & Address:	CSA International, Irvine 2805 Barranca Parkway Irvine, California 92606 (formerly part of the American Gas Association)
Effective Date 6:	July 20, 1999 (orginally 6/20/90 for AGA)
Last Federal Register:	74:47026-47029, September 14, 2009

Programs:
2. Acceptance of testing data from independent organizations, other than NRTLs.
3. Acceptance of product evaluations from independent organizations, other than NRTLs.
4. Acceptance of witnessed testing data.
5. Acceptance of testing data from non-independent organizations.
6. Acceptance of evaluation data from non-independent organizations (requiring NRTL review prior to marketing).

7. Acceptance of continued certification following minor modifications by the client.	
8. Acceptance of product evaluations from organizations that function as part of the International Electrotechnical Commission Certification Body (IEC-CB) Scheme.	
9. Acceptance of services other than testing or evaluation performed by subcontractors or agents.	
10. Satellite Notification and Acceptance Program (SNAP)	
Product Standards:	
ANSI A17.5	Elevators and Escalator Electrical Equipment
ANSI C37.09(1)	Standard Test Procedure for AC High-Voltage Circuit Breakers Rated on a Symmetrical Current Basis
ANSI C37.013(1)	AC High-Voltage Generator Circuit Breakers Rated on a Symmetrical
ANSI C37.13(1)	Low-Voltage AC Power Circuit Breakers Used In Enclosures
ANSI C37.14(1)	Low-Voltage DC Power Circuit Breakers Used in Enclosures
ANSI C37.17(1)	Trip Devices for AC and General Purpose DC Low-Voltage Power Circuit Breakers
ANSI C37.18(1)	Enclosed Field Discharge Circuit Breakers for Rotating Electric Machinery
ANSI C37.20.1(1)	Metal-Enclosed Low-Voltage Power Circuit-Breaker Switchgear
ANSI C37.20.2(1)	Metal-Clad and Station-Type Cubicle Switchgear
ANSI C37.20.3(1)	Metal-Enclosed Interrupter Switchgear
ANSI C37.21(1)	Control Switchboards
ANSI C37.23(1)	Metal Enclosed Bus and Calculating Losses in Isolated-Place Bus
ANSI C37.29(1)	Low-Voltage AC Power Circuit Protectors Used in Enclosures
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ANSI C37.45(1)	Distribution Enclosed Single-Pole Air Switches
ANSI C37.46(1)	Specifications for Power Fuses and Fuse Disconnecting Switches
ANSI C37.47(1)	Specifications for Distribution Fuse Disconnecting Switches, Fuse Supports, and Current-Limiting Fuses
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ANSI C37.54(1)	Indoor Alternating-Current High Voltage Circuit Breakers Applied as Removable Elements in Metal-Enclosed Switchgear, Assemblies--Conformance Test Procedures
ANSI C37.55(1)	Metal-Clad Switchgear Assemblies--Conformance Test Procedures
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ANSI C37.58(1)	Indoor AC Medium-Voltage Switches for Use in Metal-Enclosed Switchgear--Conformance Testing Procedures
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ANSI C37.121(1)	Unit Substations--Requirements
ANSI C57.13(1)	Requirements for Instrument Transformers
ANSI C62.11(1)	Metal Oxide Surge Arresters for AC Power Circuits
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ANSI Z21.10.3	Gas Water Heaters, Volume III Storage, With Input Ratings Above 75,000 Btu Per Hour, Circulating and Instantaneous Water Heaters
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UL 1563	Electric Spas, Equipment Assemblies, and Associated Equipment
UL 1564	Industrial Battery Chargers
UL 1565	Wire Positioning Devices
UL 1567	Receptacles and Switches Intended for Use With Aluminum Wire
UL 1569	Metal-Clad Cables
UL 1573	Stage and Studio Lighting Units
UL 1574	Track Lighting Systems

UL 1577	Optical Isolators
UL 1581	Reference Standard for Electrical Wires, Cables, and Flexible Cords
UL 1594	Sewing and Cutting Machines
UL 1598	Luminaires
UL 1604	Electrical Equipment for Use in Class I and II, Division 2 and Class III Hazardous (Classified) Locations
UL 1610	Central-Station Burglar-Alarm Units
UL 1635	Digital Burglar Alarm Communicator System Units
UL 1637	Home Health Care Signaling Equipment
UL 1638	Visual Signaling Appliances
UL 1640	Portable Power Distribution Units
UL 1647	Motor-Operated Massage and Exercise Machines
UL 1651	Optical Fiber Cable
UL 1653	Electrical Nonmetallic Tubing
UL 1660	Liquid-Tight Flexible Nonmetallic Conduit
UL 1662	Electric Chain Saws
UL 1664	Immersion-Detection Circuit-Interrupters
UL 1666	Standard Test for Flame Propagation Height of Electrical and Optical-Fiber Cables Installed Vertically in Shafts
UL 1673	Electric Space Heating Cables
UL 1676	Discharge Path Resistors
UL 1681	Wiring Device Configurations
UL 1682	Plugs, Receptacles, and Cable Connectors, of the Pin and Sleeve Type
UL 1684	Reinforced Thermosetting Resin Conduit
UL 1690	Data-Processing Cable
UL 1699	Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupters
UL 1703	Flat Plate Photo Voltaic Modules and Panels
UL 1711	Amplifiers for Fire Protective Signaling Systems
UL 1727	Commercial Electric Personal Grooming Appliances
UL 1740	Industrial Robots and Robotic Equipment
UL 1741	Static Inverters and Charge Controllers for use in Photovoltaic Power Systems
UL 1773	Termination Boxes
UL 1776	High-Pressure Cleaning Machines
UL 1778	Uninterruptible Power Supply Equipment
UL 1786	Nightlights
UL 1795	Hydromassage Bathtubs
UL 1812	Ducted Heat Recovery Ventilators
UL 1815	Nonducted Heat Recovery Ventilators
UL 1838	Low Voltage Landscape Lighting Systems
UL 1863	Communication Circuit Accessories
UL 1876	Isolating Signal and Feedback Transformers for Use in Electronic Equipment
UL 1889	Commercial Filters for Cooking Oil
UL 1917	Solid-State Fan Speed Controls
UL 1951	Electric Plumbing Accessories
UL 1963	Refrigerant Recovery/Recycling Equipment
UL 1977	Component Connectors for Use in Data, Signal, Control and Power Applications
UL 1993	Self-Ballasted Lamps and Lamp Adapters
UL 1994	Low-Level Path Marking and Lighting Systems
UL 1995	Heating and Cooling Equipment

UL 1996	Duct Heaters
UL 2017	General Purposes Signaling Devices and Systems
UL 2021	Fixed and Location-Dedicated Electric Room Heaters
UL 2024	Optical Fiber Cable Raceway
UL 2034	Single and Multiple Station Carbon Monoxide Detectors
UL 2044	Commercial Closed Circuit Television Equipment
UL 2089(2)	Vehicle Battery Adapters
UL 2097	Reference Standard for Double Insulation Systems for Use in Electronic Equipment
UL 2111	Overheating Protection for Motors
UL 2157	Electric Clothes Washing Machines and Extractors
UL 2158	Electric Clothes Dryers
UL 2161	Neon Transformers and Power Supplies
UL 2200	Stationary Engine Generator Assemblies
UL 2202	Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging System Equipment
UL 2250	Instrumentation Tray Cable
FM 3600	Electrical Equipment for Use in Hazardous (Classified) Locations, General Requirements
FM 3610	Intrinsically Safe Apparatus and Associated Apparatus for Use in Class I, II and III, Division 1 Hazardous (Classified) Locations
FM 3611	Electrical Equipment for Use in Class I, Division 2; Class II, Division 2; and Class III, Division 1 and 2 Hazardous Locations
FM 3615	Explosion proof Electrical Equipment, General Requirements
FM 3620	Purged and Pressurized Electrical Equipment for Hazardous (Classified) Locations
FM 3810	Electrical and Electronic Test, Measuring, and Process Control Equipment.
UL 5085-1	Low Voltage Transformers--Part 1: General Requirements
UL 5085-3	Low Voltage Transformers--Part 3: Class 2 and Class 3 Transformers
FM 6310	Combustible Gas Detectors
UL 6500	Audio/Visual and Musical Instrument Apparatus for Household, Commercial, and Similar General Use
UL 60065*	Audio, Video and Similar Electronic Apparatus.
UL 60335-1	Safety of Household and Similar Electrical Appliances, Part 1; General Requirements
UL 60335-2-34	Household and Similar Electrical Appliances, Part 2; Particular Requirements for Motor-Compressors
UL 60601-1	Medical Electrical Equipment, Part 1: General Requirements for Safety
UL 60691	Thermal-Links--Requirements and Application Guide
UL 60730-1A	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 1: General Requirements
UL 60730-2-3	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Thermal Protectors for Ballasts for Tubular Fluorescent Lamps
UL 60730-2-4	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use, Part 2: Particular Requirements for Thermal Motor Protectors for Motor-Compressors of Hermetic and Semi-Hermetic Type
UL 60730-2-6	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Automatic Electrical Pressure Sensing Controls Including Mechanical Requirements
UL 60730-2-7	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Timers and Time Switches
UL 60730-2-9	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Temperature Sensing Controls
UL 60730-2-10A	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Motor Starting Relays
UL 60730-2-11A	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Energy Regulators
UL 60730-2-12A	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Electrically Operated Door Locks
UL 60730-2-13A	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Humidity Sensing Controls
UL 60730-2-14	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Electric Actuators
UL 60730-2-16A	Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Automatic Electrical Water Level Controls

UL 60745-1	Hand-Held Motor-Operated Electric Tools--Safety--Part 1: General Requirements
UL 60947-1	Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear--Part 1: General Rules
UL 60947-7-1	Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear--Part 7-1: Ancillary Equipment--Terminal Blocks for Copper Conductors
UL 60947-7-2	Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear--Part 7-2: Ancillary Equipment--Protective Conductor Terminal Blocks for Copper Conductors
UL 60947-7-3	Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear--Part 7-3: Ancillary Equipment--Safety Requirements for Fuse Terminal Blocks
UL 60950	Information Technology Equipment
UL 61010A-1	Electrical Equipment for Laboratory Use; Part 1: General Requirements
UL 61010A-2-010	Electrical Equipment for Laboratory Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Laboratory Equipment for the Heating of Materials.
UL 61010A-2-020	Electrical Equipment for Laboratory Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Laboratory Centrifuges
UL 61010A-2-041	Electrical Equipment for Laboratory Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Autoclaves Using Steam for the Treatment of Medical Materials and for Laboratory Processes.
UL 61010A-2-042	Electrical Equipment for Laboratory Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Autoclaves and Sterilizers Using Toxic Gas for the Treatment of Medical Materials, and for Laboratory Processes.
UL 61010A-2-051	Electrical Equipment for Laboratory Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Laboratory Equipment for Mixing and Stirring.
UL 61010A-2-061	Electrical Equipment for Laboratory Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Laboratory Atomic Spectrometers with Thermal Atomization and Ionization.
UL 61010B-1	Electrical Measuring and Test Equipment; Part 1: General Requirements
UL 61010B-2-031	Electrical Equipment for Measurement, Control, and Laboratory Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Hand-Held Probe Assemblies for Electrical Measurement and Test.
UL 61010C-1	Process Control Equipment
UL 61058-1	Switch for Appliances
Restrictions/Limitations on Recognition Granted:	
(1) These standards are approved for equipment or materials intended for use in commercial and industrial power system applications. These standards are not approved for equipment or materials intended for use in installations that are excluded from the provisions of Subpart S in 29 CFR 1910 by Section 1910.302(a)(2).	
(2) This standard is approved for testing and certification of vehicle battery adaptors for use within recreational vehicles and mobile homes.	
Notes:	
1. Testing and certification of gas operated equipment is limited to equipment for use with "liquefied petroleum gas" ("LPG" or "LP-Gas").	
2. Test standards with the designation "FM" had the designation "FM " when originally recognized for a particular NRTL.	
* This standard was added through the "**Note" on page 72471 of a December 5, 2005, FR notice. This notice, published for another NRTL, added UL 60065 to the scope of recognition of a number of NRTLs.	

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What requirements does OSHA have regarding NRTLs?

OSHA Safety Standards, which are US law, contain requirements for "approval" (i.e., testing and certification) of certain products by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). These Safety Standards are found in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR), and the provisions for NRTL certification are generally in Part 1910 (29 CFR Part 1910). See Specific References to OSHA Standards for the provisions in Part 1910. The requirements help protect workers by ensuring products are designed for safe use in the workplace. An NRTL generally certifies products for a manufacturer.

OSHA Safety Standards contain general requirements for workplace safety. Many of these requirements pertain to equipment for which OSHA does not require an NRTL certification. The only products covered under the NRTL Program are those for which OSHA regulations require certification by an NRTL. Whether or not OSHA requires NRTL certification, an employer subject to OSHA's requirements must assure it complies with the provisions of the Safety Standards applicable to its operations.

FAQs

What types of products must an NRTL approve (i.e., test and certify)?

See Type of Products Requiring NRTL Approval for a general listing of types of products that an NRTL must certify. Electric products covered in subpart S - Electrical, of 29 CFR Part 1910, are examples of equipment requiring certification for safety. The requirement for NRTL approval is just one, and not the only, requirement in subpart S.

FAQs

What is an NRTL, and what is the significance of OSHA recognition?

An NRTL is an organization that OSHA has "recognized" as meeting the legal requirements in 29 CFR 1910.7. In brief, these requirements are the capability, control programs, complete independence, and reporting and complaint handling procedures to test and certify specific types of products for workplace safety. This means, in part, that an organization must have the necessary capability both as a product safety testing laboratory and as a product certification body to receive OSHA recognition as an NRTL.

OSHA's recognition is not a government license or position, or a delegation or grant of government authority. Instead, the recognition is an acknowledgment that an organization has necessary qualifications to perform safety testing and certification of the specific products covered within its scope of recognition . As a result, OSHA can accept products "properly certified" by the NRTL. "Properly certified" generally means: 1) the product is labeled or marked with the registered certification mark of the NRTL, 2) the NRTL issues the certification for a product covered within the scope of a test standard for which OSHA has recognized it, and 3) the NRTL issues the certification from one of its sites (i.e., locations) that OSHA has recognized.

(Note: In terms of OSHA's usage, "NRTL" is not treated as an acronym but just as a group of initials. As such, the indefinite article "an" precedes these initials in singular usage.)

FAQs

What process does OSHA follow in recognizing an NRTL?

In general, OSHA follows the "Procedures for Initial OSHA Recognition" found in Appendix A to 29 CFR 1910.7. In summary, when an organization submits its

application materials, OSHA staff thoroughly reviews those materials for completeness and adequacy. For applications from foreign-based organizations, OSHA must consider the "reciprocity" of the foreign government (see I.A of Appendix A). When the NRTL Program staff determines that the application is complete and adequate, the staff performs an in-depth on-site review of the applicant's organization, programs, and facilities. The staff then prepares a report and recommendation on the review.

Based mainly on the on-site review report and the application review, OSHA makes a "preliminary finding" on the application. The Agency publishes a notice of this finding in the Federal Register to allow for public comment. Following a 30(formerly 60)-day comment period, OSHA publishes a second notice of its final decision and response to any comments received, making the recognition official for successful applicants (or denying the recognition for unsuccessful applicants). After publication of the decision, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), the head of OSHA, sends a formal notification to the applicant. This notification sets forth the specific scope and other terms of the recognition. The recognition remains in effect for a five-year period. At the end of the initial period, the NRTL must apply for renewal of recognition.

FAQs

Does OSHA charge any fees to applicants or to NRTLs already recognized?

Yes. The fees first went into effect on October 1, 2000. See Federal Register 7/31/00 for rule establishing the fees. See Program Fees to obtain the current fee schedule and instructions for submitting fees.

FAQs

What is an NRTL's scope of recognition?

The specific safety test standards for which an NRTL applies for recognition, and that OSHA approves, define one area of its scope of recognition. The other areas are the specific testing locations (sites) and the supplemental programs that OSHA has recognized for the NRTL. OSHA does not specify which test standards an NRTL must use. Instead, when an organization applies for recognition, it submits a list of test standards for which it seeks recognition, and OSHA determines which of these standards are "appropriate" as defined in 29 CFR 1910.7. After the initial recognition, an NRTL may seek to expand its scope of recognition, such as by requesting recognition for additional test standards. An NRTL may only certify products to the specific product safety test standards included in its scope of recognition.

FAQs

What does it mean when OSHA "accepts" a product certified by an NRTL?

OSHA's acceptance of a product certified by an NRTL generally occurs during the workplace inspections performed by OSHA compliance officers. However, this acceptance does not mean the product is "OSHA-approved." It means the NRTL has tested and certified the product to designate conformance to a specific product safety test standard(s). It also means the employer has complied with one requirement in OSHA Safety Standards.

FAQs

What product safety test standards can an NRTL use in certifying products?

An NRTL must use "appropriate" product safety test standards in certifying products for workplace safety (see Test Standard Approval Criteria in the NRTL Program Directive). These test standards contain technical requirements that products must meet for workplace safety. OSHA does not develop these test standards but defined the specific requirements of an appropriate test standard in its regulation. Organizations such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) publish many of these standards (see Current List of Standards Approved Under the NRTL Program). The product safety test standards recognized for an NRTL must be consistent with, but are different from, OSHA Safety Standards, which are US law.

FAQs

Are NRTLs that OSHA has recognized for the same test standards equal in ability?

Given that each NRTL has met the same requirements for recognition, OSHA considers NRTLs recognized for the same product safety test standard to be equivalent in their **capability** to certify to that standard. For example, any NRTL recognized for ANSI Z21.16, a test standard for gas unit heaters, can certify such units for a manufacturer. However, even if recognized for the same test standards, each organization has different **abilities** depending on its experience, personnel, facilities and equipment, testing methods, and other aspects of its operations for testing and certifying products. OSHA only recognizes organizations as NRTLs and, under its regulations, cannot dictate how an NRTL must operate. An organization decides the detailed aspects of its own NRTL operations, although OSHA has some general policies with which NRTLs must comply.

FAQs

How do I know whether an NRTL has certified a product?

Each NRTL uses its own unique, registered certification mark(s) to designate product conformance to the required product safety test standards. Each NRTL must register its certification mark(s). In the US, this is done with the US Patent and Trademark Office. See sample of the certification mark(s) used by each NRTL. The manufacturer physically places these marks on those products that the NRTL has certified as meeting the requirements of the test standard. In accordance with OSHA policy, an NRTL must ensure that its registered certification mark is applied to each unit, or if not feasible, to the smallest package of the product the NRTL certifies. For purpose of meeting this policy, an NRTL's generic listing of a product does not signify that the NRTL has certified a unit of that product.

Currently, OSHA does not have, and does not mandate the use of, an "NRTL" mark. Some NRTLs have voluntarily included the acronym "NRTL" with their regular certification marks, a practice that OSHA does not currently require. However, with or without the use of "NRTL," the product marking of NRTLs recognized for the same product safety standard is equivalent in designating product conformance to that standard.

FAQs

Does OSHA accept the "CE" mark or accept equipment certified by foreign testing organizations?

The CE mark is unrelated to the requirements for product safety in the US. It is a generic mark used in the European Union (EU) to indicate that a manufacturer has declared that the product meets requirements in the EU for product safety. In the US, under OSHA's NRTL requirements, the product must have the specific mark of one of the NRTLs recognized to test and certify these types of products.

FAQs

Does OSHA participate in mutual recognition or similar agreements?

At this time, OSHA does not participate in any such agreements but previously participated in the 1998 Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between the United States (US) and the European Union (EU) through the now suspended Electrical Safety Annex. Under the terms of this MRA, European laboratories were allowed to submit applications to OSHA for recognition as an NRTL, which OSHA would have processed under its normal procedures. The US/EU MRA did not change OSHA's NRTL application process but only provided a mechanism to address a provision in our regulations that requires OSHA to consider policies on "reciprocity," in determining the eligibility of foreign-based organizations for recognition. You can find the provision in paragraph I.A.1.b of Appendix A to 29 CFR 1910.7.

FAQs

Does OSHA subsidize or indemnify NRTLs?

NRTLs are private organizations or companies that operate businesses. They are **not** financially or otherwise supported, subsidized, or indemnified by the Government in their capacity as an NRTL. These organizations maintain the risks and liabilities for their actions when testing and certifying products in this capacity.

FAQs

Can an NRTL use others to do part of the work necessary in testing and certifying products? (pertains to March 9, 1995 Federal Register notice)

OSHA permits an NRTL to use outside parties to perform certain activities involved in testing and certifying products, provided the NRTL has met certain criteria. OSHA has broadly grouped these activities into nine "programs" and included the description and criteria for each program in a Federal Register notice published on March 9, 1995 (60 FR 12980).

The first or basic program stipulates that the NRTL that will certify the product must perform all product testing and evaluation itself. An NRTL's initial recognition will always include this first program. The other eight, called "supplemental programs," involve the NRTL's acceptance of testing and evaluation data or services, or certain contract services, from outside parties. An NRTL must apply for recognition to use any of the supplemental programs. OSHA will grant the request if the NRTL has met the criteria for the specific program.

One issue that often surfaces is whether an NRTL must accept the product testing, certifications, or approvals of another NRTL. OSHA has no authority to require such acceptance. An NRTL may accept the work output of another NRTL. However, this is solely a business decision of each NRTL.

FAQs

Who is affected by the NRTL Program?

29 CFR Part 1910 generally contain the requirements for "NRTL approval" products. However, some Safety Standards in Parts 1915, 1918, and 1926 also require "approval" by an NRTL. These standards apply to workplaces under OSHA's jurisdiction that other standards do not cover. In general, they apply to the great majority of private employers in the U.S. and its territories. They also apply to most Federal workplaces, and to state and municipal workplaces in states that administer an occupational safety and health program approved by OSHA. The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act of 1970 provides the legal authority to impose these standards and imposes an employer's legal obligation to comply with these standards.

FAQs

How does OSHA enforce the requirements for NRTL approval?

OSHA primarily enforces the requirements for NRTL approval by: 1) recognizing NRTLs to assure itself that qualified organizations test and certify the safety of products used in the workplace, 2) auditing each NRTL annually to verify that it sustains the quality of its operation and continues to meet requirements for recognition, and 3) performing workplace inspections during which OSHA compliance officers (CSHOs) review specific products to check whether they contain the certification mark of an NRTL. OSHA may cite an employer and impose penalties if the officer finds improperly certified products for which OSHA requires certification.

FAQs

Does OSHA have alternatives to NRTL "approval" of products?

OSHA Safety Standards for electrical equipment (subpart S of 29 CFR Part 1910) define the word "approved" as **acceptable** to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. In addition, equipment is **acceptable** under this subpart if it is: 1) certified by an NRTL; 2) of a kind that no NRTL will certify and it is inspected or tested by another Federal agency, or by a state, municipal, or other local authority responsible for enforcing and assuring compliance with occupational safety provisions of the National Electrical Code; or 3) custom-made equipment, i.e., equipment designed, fabricated for, and intended for use by a particular customer, and determined to be safe by the manufacturer for its intended use.

OSHA considers the two alternatives to be minor exceptions to the requirements for NRTL approval of specific types of equipment. An NRTL can and must certify the vast majority of products requiring "approval."

FAQs

Do OSHA requirements supersede any code or other requirements imposed by local code authorities?

Employers must comply with OSHA requirements applicable to their operations. These requirements are US law. To the extent these requirements may conflict with local (including state) requirements, US law prevails. However, many OSHA requirements and local code requirements are based on the same national consensus standards, which mitigates potential conflicts. In addition, requirements that local code authorities may impose on products are primarily installation or "field labeling" requirements, whereas OSHA's requirement for NRTL approval primarily affect the manufacturing of products. While an NRTL certifies products for a manufacturer, this certification may also meet requirements of local code authorities. These authorities determine the nature and extent of their acceptance of an NRTL's certification of products.

FAQs

Do state OSH programs have to accept products certified by an NRTL?

Many states have received OSHA's approval to operate an occupational safety and health (OSH) program in their state. This transfers the responsibility for enforcing OSHA's requirements from the Federal Government to the individual state. Such states (called State-Plan States by OSHA) must adopt standards that are at least as effective as the Federal standards. While many do adopt Federal standards verbatim, a number have what they consider to be more effective standards. However, OSHA reviews such additional requirements to determine that there is a compelling local interest for them and that they do not pose a burden on interstate commerce.

For workplaces under its jurisdiction, a state OSH program must accept products properly certified by an NRTL where the state standards are the same as Federal standards. If a state were to adopt its own NRTL program, the recognition it grants to its NRTLs would only apply within that state.

OSHA's approval of a state OSH program imposes no direct obligation on the code enforcement requirements and efforts of local authorities in the state. Local authorities, whether or not in a State-Plan State, determine the nature and extent of their acceptance of NRTL certifications for their code enforcement efforts.

FAQs

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