



All Current Technology products are listed to the new requirements of UL 1449 2nd Edition 2005 Revision (effective 2/9/2007).

### **What is UL1449?**

UL 1449 is a safety standard developed by UL and adopted by OSHA as the standard for evaluating the safe operation of TVSS (transient voltage surge suppressors) or SPD (Surge Protection Devices). Compliance to UL standards is required by the NEC (National Electric Code) and must be certified by a NRTL (Nationally Recognized Test Lab).

### **What or Who is UL?**

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is an independent, not-for-profit product safety certification organization that has been writing Standards for Safety for over a century. Up until recently, UL was the only NRTL that could test products and verify compliance to the standards. This compliance has previously been referred to as having a product "UL Listed".


UL is not a government agency, they are a private organization responsible for the generation and publication of safety standards. A separate division of UL is also an OSHA approved NRTL (Nationally Recognized Test Lab), which means they are authorized by OSHA to test, evaluate, and list products to safety standards.

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

The U.S. Department of Labor; Occupation Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) is the legal authority for evaluating and approving NRTLs (Nationally Recognized Test Labs). The following definition of an NRTL can be found on OSHA's website. <http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/index.html>.

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.



There are a total of 17 labs that OSHA recognizes as approved NRTLs. Links are provided to each NRTL from OSHA's website allowing you to view the list of standards, sites, and programs that OSHA has recognized that NRTL to evaluate products too. The following 5 labs are qualified to test and list products to UL1449; CSA, ETL, MET, UL, and Wyle Lab. TVSS products do not have to bear UL's mark for OSHA to deem them safe for the workplace or for compliance with the NEC.

Current Technology products were tested and evaluated in our world class laboratory that is certified by UL and ETL as part of their client data test programs. All Current Technology products are listed by ETL to UL 1449 2nd Edition 2005 Revision (effective 2/9/2007). Since ETL was the NRTL selected, all Current Technology products bear the ETL mark.

Bottom Line.

A product no longer has to be listed by UL, the NRTL, to be deemed safe for use in the workplace, or to adhere to the NEC requirements. Attached you will find a document from ETL that more clearly states their position as an OSHA approved NRTL.

Best Regards,

Chris Martin  
TVSS Product Manager



## ETL vs. UL: THE DIFFERENCE IS SERVICE.



When it comes time to test your products to North American product safety standards, you may be led to believe that your choices are limited to certain marks, such as the UL Listed Mark. In reality, there are others equally recognized and accepted — prominent among them, the ETL Listed Mark issued by the ETL SEMKO division of Intertek.

Like the UL Mark, the ETL Listed Mark shows that your product has been independently tested by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). That it has met the minimum requirements of widely accepted product safety standards. And that you have agreed to periodic follow-up inspections to verify continued compliance. And like the UL Mark, the ETL Listed Mark is recognized and readily accepted by manufacturers, retailers, distributors and authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs).

### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN NRTL.

The NRTL program is part of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's directive to ensure products are safe for use in the U.S. workplace. It recognizes the capabilities of private-sector organizations to determine whether a specific product meets safety standards developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and others.

As an OSHA-recognized NRTL\*, Intertek has the authority to provide independent evaluation, product safety testing and certification for electrically operated or gas- or oil-fired products, and to include those that successfully complete testing in our *Directory of Listed Products*. This compilation of more than 40,000 products is published annually, and is also available online at [www.intertek-ettsemko.com](http://www.intertek-ettsemko.com).

### A TESTING PARTNER IS WHAT COUNTS.

If any OSHA-recognized NRTL can provide product safety testing and certification, what's the real difference between the ETL Listed and UL Marks? The difference is Intertek's responsive, customer-first service.

True to our roots, which can be traced back to the laboratory founded by Thomas Edison in 1896, Intertek becomes your testing partner. We provide experienced, industry-specific testing experts who understand your products, markets and objectives, and who bring insight and greater efficiency to the testing process. We actively participate in many industry organizations and committees — including the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) — to stay abreast of ever-changing testing standards and practices. And we share this insight and knowledge with you.

Just as important, we answer to your needs and your schedules through a global network of state-of-the-art laboratories that offers fast, flexible testing no matter where you're located. So you can bring your products to market more quickly, more smoothly and more cost-effectively than ever before. For additional information about product safety testing with Intertek, visit [www.intertek-ettsemko.com](http://www.intertek-ettsemko.com).

\* Intertek operates in the U.S.A. as Intertek Testing Services NA, Inc., and is recognized by OSHA as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory.



**Intertek** ETL SEMKO

Testing everywhere for markets anywhere.

# COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ETL LISTED MARK.

## What's the difference between the ETL Listed and UL Listed Marks?

Both marks indicate that a product meets the minimum requirements of widely accepted product safety standards, determined through independent testing by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). So the only real difference between the marks is in the service of the testing laboratories behind them. Intertek's custom-tailored testing, quick turnarounds and flexible work methods promote collaboration between testing lab and manufacturer, to bring products to market more quickly, smoothly and cost-effectively.

## Are manufacturers required to use UL for their compliance testing?

No. In fact, this misconception has misled many to believe that they don't have a choice in third-party testing partners. The only major requirement is that the laboratory performing the testing is an OSHA-recognized NRTL. Consequently, our ETL Listed Mark serves as an indicator of compliance with applicable product safety standards.



## What products bear the ETL Listed Mark?

Intertek provides product safety testing and certification for a wide range of industries. In our *Directory of Listed Products*, which is easily accessed at [www.intertek-etlsemko.com](http://www.intertek-etlsemko.com), you'll find over 40,000 products from telephones to x-ray machines, manufactured by companies like AT&T, Dell, Ericsson, General Electric, Panasonic and Philips.



## Do retailers accept products bearing the ETL Listed Mark?

Since we are an OSHA-recognized NRTL, and the ETL Listed Mark is a recognized and accepted indicator of product compliance, there is no reason why a retailer would not accept ETL Listed products. Major North American retailers — including JCPenney, Sears, Costco and Target — accept the ETL Listed Mark.

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