Appliance Advisor™

2015 • ISSUE 1

FEATURED ARTICLE

New Sustainability Standard (UL 7004) for Household Cooking Appliances Joins Series of Appliance Sustainability Standards

By Dagmar Ebaugh / PR-Communications Manager

Appliances are found in every modern home, and can be a major factor in a home's sustainability calculation. The kitchen, considered the heart of a home, houses the appliance that is so essential to caring for our families – the cooking range. Not only should these appliances prove that they are safe to use and demonstrate exemplary performance, they should also clearly show their sustainability attributes. Thanks to the newly-published Sustainability Standard for Household Cooking Appliances (AHAM 7004-15 / CSA 7004-15 / UL 7004), they can do just that.

This newly-published standard focuses exclusively on the environmental performance of cooking home appliances such as built-in cooktops, built-in ovens, and ranges and evaluates those appliances and takes a lifecycle to addressing a product's environmental impacts in five key areas: materials, manufacturing and operations, energy consumption during use, innovation and end-of-life management.

In the days immediately after its publication, several leading global manufacturers (including Whirlpool, Samsung and LG) announced the certification of a number of their products to the new standard, a measure of the relevance of this standard to the appliance market.

Developed jointly by the Association of Home Appliance

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A Letter from Brian

Good-bye, horse! Hello, goat! Or is it sheep? Many UL staff have recently celebrated the Lunar New Year with family and friends in Asia and beyond. UL's Appliance and HVAC/R staff are celebrating tradeshow season as well. Our objective at these occasions is to understand your industry and products better while interacting with you. Answering technical questions and discussing the latest trends satisfies our appetites. Meeting you across the globe at one of these industry events helps us to better partner with you and meet your needs. We look forward to this opportunity to participate with you.

Kind Regards,

Brian Ferriol
Director, Global Appliances and HVAC/R

Education and Training

At UL Knowledge Services, our goal is to help you develop safe, useful products that meet and exceed your customers' needs. Here you'll find various training courses taught by qualified instructors that you can take advantage of.

Plastics: Specifying and Evaluating Materials for Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Applications
4/21/2015 Chicago, IL
6/16/2015 Raleigh, NC

Safety of Household and Similar Electrical Appliances; General Requirements, IEC 60335-1, 5th Edition
5/12/2015 Chicago, IL

In addition to these public workshops please click here for a complete list of our instructor led and online courses.

Expert Training for the Foodservice Equipment Industry

Gain an in-depth understanding of the safety requirements needed to comply with UL 197 with expert training from UL. Schedule a private two-day training workshop exploring the purpose of UL performance tests and construction, their impact on appliance construction and functionality and the connection between the National Electrical Code and the standard.

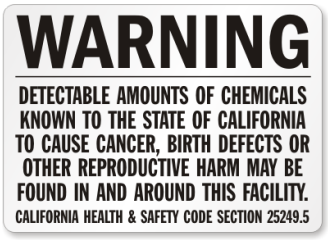
A copy of the UL 197 Standard is included with workshop materials.
($490 USD value)

For more information contact Andy Hurtig at 636.390.2099 or through email at Andy.J.Hurtig@ul.com.

Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) Added to California's Proposition 65

By Jonathan Brania / Principal Engineer & Scott Steady / Program Manager II

As of December 20, 2014, diisononyl phthalate, or DINP, has become a declarable chemical in accordance with California's Proposition 65. DINP, a type of plasticizer, has been categorized as a chemical that is "known to the state to cause cancer". For products that will be sold in California that are known to contain or may contain DINP, this designation creates another challenge for manufacturers, up to and including the labeling of such equipment to inform people that the product contains a chemical known to cause cancer.



BACKGROUND ON PROP 65

Proposition 65 (or Prop 65), originally enacted by California in 1986, requires the state to publish a list of chemicals which are known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Additionally, it requires businesses who sell products in the State of California to notify Californians about significant amounts of these listed chemicals that may exist in the products they purchase, in their homes or workplaces, or that are released into the environment. The list of approximately 800 chemicals is maintained by their Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and is updated yearly.

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New Sustainability Standard (UL 7004) for Household Cooking Appliances Joins Series of Appliance Sustainability Standards

Manufacturers (AHAM), CSA Group, and UL Environment, UL 7004 is the fourth member of a broader family of standards, and represents a first step first step in a broader product sustainability initiative intended to drive innovation and continual improvement in the sustainability performance of home appliances. The overall goal of the 7000 series of Standards is to provide meaningful product sustainability information to consumers and stakeholders.

Other members of the 7000 series currently include AHAM 7001-2014/CSA R7001-14/UL 7001, the Sustainability Standard for Household Refrigeration Appliances, which was recently recognized as a National Standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). , and standards for Household Portable and Floor Care Appliances (7002), and Household Clothes Washers (7003).

If you are a manufacturer who would like to learn more about the benefits of the UL 7000 series of sustainability standards certification, please contact Amy Thomas at 630-736-7500 or amy.j.thomas@ul.com.

By Joe Musso / Standards Program Manager

Standards Corner

Standards information link: http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/solutions/standards/

Register for "What's New" to receive e-mails twice a month indicating the new published UL Standards, Outlines, and Proposals. Sign up at http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/solutions/standards/accessstandards/whatsnew/register/

UL 1598 – Luminaires (Tri-national standard)

- Next revision cycle has started, which will be a 2-year cycle. Proposals received by the SaDOs were sent to CSA (Publication Coordinator). CSA sent proposals to the THC (Technical Harmonization Committee) Chair and the proposals were reviewed and discussed during February 2014 CANENA meeting. The Publication Coordinator is preparing the document which will be sent out for preliminary review in the future.

UL 82 – Gardening Appliances

- A new proposal including requirements for pole pruners will be posted for preliminary STP review in Q2 of 2015.

UL 130 – Electric Heating Pads

- Proposals to address ambient temperature compensation during testing and to revise temperature limits for switches were posted for ballot Q4 2014. The switch temperature limits proposal reached consensus, but the ambient temperature compensation proposal did not. Based on comments received during ballot, the switch proposal will be recirculated during Q2 2015.

UL 250 – Household Refrigerators and Freezers (Bi-national standard with Canada)

- A proposed new edition is being prepared for preliminary review. Among several other proposals that will be considered by the STP is a new nichrome wire test. Based on the transition to the IEC-based requirements in UL 60335-2-24, it is intended that this will be the last revision cycle for UL 250.

UL 283 – Air Fresheners and Deodorizers

- Proposed requirements to add testing to determine the suitability of the mechanism of a device on a direct plug-in appliance that rotates to accommodate receptacle orientation, was posted for STP ballot December 19, 2014, closing January 19, 2015. The proposal reached STP consensus, but with a negative vote and comment. A response to the comment will be recirculated to the STP Q2 2015.

UL 325 – Door, Drapery, Gate, Louver, and Window Operators

- 24 proposals resulting from the meeting of STP 325 held in 2014 were moved to ballot October 2014. All 24 topics reached consensus, but with negative votes and comments on five of them. The responses to comments, and revised proposals (where applicable), were recirculated for STP review February 20, 2015, with a closing date of March 23.

UL 471 – Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers

- A series of revisions were published in November 2014 in the 10th Edition, related to proposals to incorporate operating control requirements, protective control parameters & safety critical functions, revisions for motors & motor overload protection, miscellaneous revisions including updated references, thermal equilibrium, & removal of R-22 references, and revisions to Supplement SB.

UL 474 – Dehumidifiers

- A proposal to add a test condition to ensure that component temperature limits are not exceeded in the event of a refrigerant loss was recirculated December 19, 2014, closing January 19, 2015. The proposal maintained consensus, and will be published. A new proposed supplement for an alternate path for electronic controls was posted for ballot November 28, 2014, closing January 12, 2015. That proposal reached consensus with no comments, and will also move to publication.

UL 484 – Room Air Conditioners

- Proposals to add a new supplement for an alternate path for electronic controls, and revisions to Supplement SA resulting from work done by the Joint Task Group (JTG) on Flammable Refrigerants were posted for STP ballot November 28, 2014, closing January 12, 2015. The alternate path proposal reached consensus with no comments, but the JTG proposal reached consensus with a number of comments. Responses to comments and any changes made to the JTG proposal as a result of the ballot will be recirculated in April.

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By Joe Musso / Standards Program Manager

Standards Corner

UL 507 – Electric Fans

- A series of 12 proposal topics were posted for ballot December 5, 2014, with ballots and comments due January 19. All of the proposals reached consensus, but several comments were received. A recirculation of any revisions to the proposals based on the ballot comments will occur in Q3 2015. In addition, a successful meeting of STP 507 was held February 24, 2015, in Clearwater, Florida. A number of new proposal topics were discussed, and fully-developed proposals resulting from that meeting will be posted either for preliminary STP review or ballot, as appropriate, in Q2 or Q3 of 2015. The report of the STP 507 Meeting was issued March 20, 2015.

STP 745 – Electric Tools

- With the IEC transition to the new IEC 62841 series of standards for hand-held and transportable tools, and lawn and garden machinery, efforts are continuing to adopt and publish the associated UL 62841 Parts when appropriate, as the IEC editions are published.
- A proposal to revise the Standard for Stationary and Fixed Electric Tools to include requirements for an active injury mitigation system (AIMS) was posted for ballot February 13, 2015, closing March 30.
- Several for proposals for UL 60745-2-13 (electric chains saws) were posted for ballot February 13, closing March 30. The proposals include national differences covering battery operated top-handle chain saws and battery operated pruner saws.

UL 749 – Household Dishwashers (Bi-national standard with Canada)

- The technical harmonization committee (THC) met several times during 2014 to review and discuss a series of new proposals. The THC completed their work and the STP preliminary review was initiated January 28, closing for comments March 13. The THC is now considering the comments.

UL 858 – Electric Ranges

- Proposed new requirements to address range stability, changes on internal wiring for ranges, and a moisture/washing test, were posted for ballot Q4 2014. All three proposals reached consensus, but with comments. Comments are under review by the proposal authors. Responses to comments and any changes to the proposals as a result, will be recirculated Q2 2015.
- A new proposal to add a coil surface cooking oil ignition test was previously posted for preliminary STP review, with comments closing January 5, 2015. Comments were received, and the proposal was revised based on the comments. The proposal has now moved to ballot, opening February 27, closing March 30.
- Lastly, a new proposal for polymeric materials specifications, and a nichrome wire test was posted for preliminary review January 23, 2015, closing February 6. Comments were received and are being reviewed prior to the proposal moving to ballot.

UL 923 – Microwave Cooking Appliances

- A task group has developed a set of proposals covering polymeric materials and other related items. The proposals were posted for ballot January 30, 2015, closing March 16. Also included in the same ballot cycle are separate proposals addressing detachable power supply cords, and deletion of the maximum temperature rise for diodes.

UL 982 – Household Food Preparing Machines

- A set of 21 proposal topics was posted for ballot in Q2 2014. All of the topics reached consensus, but a number of comments were received. Responses to comments and revised proposals (where applicable) were recirculated January 2, 2015, closing February 16. All topics maintained consensus and will be published.
- In addition, three new proposals have been posted for preliminary review, which address non-metallic fasteners, input test for blenders, and cautionary markings. Comments were received, and the proposals will next move to ballot.

UL 1017 – Vacuum Cleaners, Blower Cleaners, and Household Floor Finishing Machines (Bi-national standard with Canada)

- The proposed 9th edition of UL 1017 was posted for STP ballot in Q2 of 2014. Consensus was achieved, with comments. The new edition has subsequently been recirculated to the STP with changes based on the ballot comments received. Consensus was maintained through recirculation, and the new edition is scheduled for publication in April of 2015. Work is being initiated on the next revision cycle.

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By Joe Musso / Standards Program Manager

Standards Corner

UL 1026 – Electric Household Cooking and Food Serving Appliances

- Proposal to add a new supplement for smart-enabled cooking appliances went to the STP for preliminary review in Q2/Q3 of 2014. A significant number of comments were received and are being considered by the proposal author to determine if the proposal needs to be revised prior to moving to ballot.

UL 1082 – Electric Coffee Makers and Brewing-Type Appliances

- Proposals to add a new supplement for smart-enabled household coffee makers, and clarifications for thermostats were posted for STP preliminary review Q2 2014. Comments related to the smart-enabled supplement are being considered, and that proposal will next move to ballot. The thermostats proposal reached consensus during its initial ballot, with several comments needing resolution/recirculation prior to publication. The recirculation opened February 6, 2015, with a closing date of March 9.

UL 1278 – Movable and Wall- or Ceiling-Hung Electric Room Heaters

- A proposal to add a new supplement for smart-enabled room heaters went to the STP for preliminary review Q2 2014. The comments are being considered by a task group formed for this purpose, to further develop the proposal prior to moving to ballot. STP 1042, which also has responsibility for UL 1278, met on February 23, 2015 to discuss a number of new proposals that will be moving to ballot in Q2 or Q3. The smart-enabled task group also met in conjunction with the STP Meeting. Based on the work still necessary, the ballot timeframe has not been determined.

UL 2157 – Electric Clothes Washing Machines and Extractors (Bi-national standard with Canada)

- The proposed 3th edition of UL 2157 was posted for ballot February 13, 2015, with a closing date of April 14.

UL 2158 – Electric Clothes Dryers (Bi-national standard with Canada)

- The 3rd edition of UL 2158 was published Q1 2014. In preparation for the next revision cycle, the technical harmonization committee (THC) has met several times in 2014 and 2015 to review the new set of proposals. The revision cycle schedule is being coordinated within the THC and with CSA. The THC completed their work and the STP preliminary review was initiated March 20, closing for comments April 3.

UL 60335-2-24 – Household Refrigerators, Ice-Cream Appliances and Ice-Makers (Tri-national standard with Canada and Mexico)

- The CANENA technical harmonization committee (THC) membership has initiated review of the draft update to UL 60335-2-24 in accordance with the latest IEC version of the standard. It is anticipated that the proposals will be available for the North American consensus bodies to initiate their respective standards development processes in Q2 of 2015.

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Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) Added to California's Proposition 65

If the exposure to any listed chemical(s) is so low as to create no significant risk of cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm, businesses are exempt from the warning requirement. The levels specified as "no significant risk" are posted on the OEHHA website. While a business may choose to provide a warning simply based on its knowledge, or assumption, about the presence of a listed chemical without attempting to evaluate the levels of exposure, third-party testing may be advantageous to a manufacturer by providing details of product emissions to assist in meeting labeling requirements.

DOES MY PRODUCT HAVE DINP?

Diisononyl phthalate is most commonly used to "soften" vinyl, but may be used in other materials where flexibility of the material is desirable. The chemical may also be used in the manufacture of sealants, paints, rubber, and lubricants. It is not uncommon for the material to be used in supply cords.

To determine if DINP is present in your product, identify materials where DINP may be present and work with your supply chain partners to identify affected materials. If you find a material in your product that uses diisononyl phthalate, you have options.

- Do not sell the product in California. For many this will be a non-starter, and fortunately there are other choices.
- Apply a label to the product that states: "WARNING: This product contains a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer." This meets Prop 65 as a "clear and reasonable" warning. For many, this option will be as undesirable as foregoing the California market. But based on the complexity of the product, this may be the most effective way to eliminate the risk of litigation.
- Work with your supply chain partners to eliminate DINP from the product, either by replacing materials or by modifying material formulations to use alternatives to DINP.
- The American Chemistry Council (ACC) has a workbook that walks manufacturers through a screening level exposure assessment for DINP, allowing someone to calculate potential exposure for many typical uses. Manufacturers that do not have detailed toxicology expertise can use the workbook as a low cost way to determine if their products may cause significant exposure to DINP, and thus require a warning label.
- UL Environment can provide emissions testing for manufacturers to help in meeting Proposition 65 labeling requirements. The process involves the review of the product's raw materials ingredient lists and development of an appropriate testing regimen to determine if a product may require a label. Manufacturers will be provided with test reports and an exposure risk assessment from a trusted third-party to help verify your claims.

For manufacturers, the path chosen will vary from product to product, but for those that are looking for guidance on how to meet California's Proposition 65, UL has the expertise to help. For more information, go to California's OEHHA website (www.oehha.org/prop65.html) or to www.ul.com and search for "Prop 65".

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Thomas at 630-736-7500 or amy.j.thomas@ul.com.

3DP Machine Manufacturers Share Challenges at Roundtable

By Matthew Pasha / Marketing Manager

On Tuesday, February 3, UL hosted the inaugural 3D Printing Equipment Compliance Roundtable. Bringing together a variety of 3D printing machine manufacturers from around the country, the Roundtable provided a structured forum to discuss the standards, compliance schemes and other related topics specific to the 3D printing and additive manufacturing equipment industry.

This industry-first event was facilitated by UL 3D printing and standards subject matter experts and was attended by of representatives from Stratasys, 3D Systems, MakerGear, Impossible Objects, New Matter, Aleph Objects, the Robert Bosch Tool Corporation, and Polar 3D. Topics ranged from materials & material testing, machine & material compatibility, environmental consideration, product performance, and of course, standards and regulatory requirements.

As the Roundtable came to a close, participants discussed the value of conducting similar events in the future. Additional Roundtables may focus on a single topic and the Roundtable format may be expanded to Europe and Asia, with the concept of an international Roundtable with representative from around the globe a distinct possibility.

Have a topic for a future Roundtable or interested in attending in the future? Please contact us at 3dprinting@ul.com.

Simin Zhou, VP of UL's Digital Manufacturing Technologies team (left center) bridges participants from 3D printing machine manufacturers and the UL team during February's Compliance Roundtable.

Though numerous industry topics were discussed, Roundtable highlights included:

- Material characterization and testing is an area of opportunity in the 3D printing space. Though the current concern in material testing is flammability, the influence of the printing process on print material has greater long-term implications. The existing material testing approach doesn't adequately address chemical and strength implications native to 3D printing.
- Environmental concerns are primarily focused on the emission of ultra-fine particulates during the print process. Emissions safety, unlike core safety, is currently not regulated nor required for certification. UL, however, is partnering with Georgia Tech on 3D printing emissions research. The machine manufacturers requested a session to review the research finding when available as well as the need to develop an emission specific guideline.
- Another opportunity exists in the area of designing for the 3D printing. Machine manufacturers will realize greater success if/when consumers are better educated on the design process. In parallel, designs are being sold directly to consumers via various online platforms. An in-depth conversation ensued regarding managing legal risk associated with designs as well as intellectual property (IP) protection. What lessons can the 3D printing industry learn from the music industry when facing IP management? Given the pace of the industry, the industry will be facing those challenges sooner rather than later.
- Finally, Roundtable participants enjoyed tours of UL's Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) and High-Tech labs. They were able to see first-hand the tests applicable to their machines. Discussing test processes directly with UL Lab technicians enabled the manufacturers to better understand how early collaboration with UL in the product development process enables a more direct path to certification.

Update to Follow-up Services for Power and Gardening Tool Categories

By Tom Walker

On March 5 we wrote to inform our power and gardening tools clients of recent changes to UL's follow-up services program specifically for the Power and Gardening Tool Categories. We hope to make it easy to List additional products with UL at a fair price, positively affecting your business and allowing you to be more successful.

Reduction of Number of Inspections
(for Manufactures that Produce Multiple Types of Power and Garden Products)

The first change is how UL determines the frequency in which we conduct the required follow-up services at each manufacturing facility. Currently four quarterly visits are added for each Power and Gardening Tool category established for an Applicant per manufacturing location. *For example:* If an Applicant has a manufacturing location in Northbrook, IL with three different Power and Gardening Tool categories there would be 12 unique follow-up inspection visits and invoices. Effective January 1, 2015, regardless of which or how many Power and Gardening Tool categories, each manufacturing location per Applicant will have no more than four unique follow-up inspection visits *at a fixed price*, if they are in normal standings.

File Conversion Program

Experience the benefits of working with the global leader in product certification for your entire Power and Garden Tool line of products. If you have products that are currently certified by another OSHA NRTL, ANSI or SCC accredited certifier, UL makes it easy to convert that certification. UL will assist you through each step of the process to make the transfer as seamless as possible. With our new Reduction of Number of Inspections for Power and Garden Tools there are no more additional Inspection Costs for adding Power and Garden Tools per manufacturing location.

For more information to convert your existing Power and Garden Tool categories contact us convertappliance@ul.com. The customer service and engineering representatives will be available to answer any of your questions.

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Update to Follow-up Services for Power and Gardening Tool Categories

Flexibility in Certifying Products

UL's Component Acceptance provides you with maximum supply chain flexibility in component selection. You carefully select the components that are right for your product. UL provides you even more flexibility by examining and evaluating the components in your Power and Garden Tools. Work with the same trusted and highly knowledgeable partner, while reducing your cost and time to market with UL's new, flexible process of evaluating components in the end-use application. UL ensures continuing compliance with an enhanced follow-up service process at your end product manufacturing location. One flexible process to meet all your supply chain and market needs.

Global Market Access

Working with UL allows you to take advantage of streamlined service paths through UL's participation in global certification schemes, such as the CB Scheme, and close cooperation with other organizations around the world. This often means you can gain the certifications or approvals for many countries without the need for retesting or working with multiple organizations. In the end, this translates to faster time-to-market with reduced costs. UL can provide authorization to apply various certification marks such as the D Mark (Europe), RCM Mark (Australia/New Zealand), NOM (Mexico), S Mark (Argentina), and a Certificate of Conformity for SASO (Saudi Arabia). UL can also provide test reports for CE Marking (Europe) and the PSE Mark (Japan).

UL Two-Inspection Program

All Power and Gardening Tool Clients are now able to streamline their follow-up visits to two per year. The two visits will combine factory product inspections with a CIG-style quality process audit.

The redesigned follow-up service model to coordinate these two types of visits takes a longer term view of safety while reducing the number of annual visits. More importantly, by working with you to review specific aspects of your quality system we can provide input that will be valuable in improving operations and helping you gauge the effectiveness of quality control processes.

Each year, one audit visit will evaluate a manufacturer's products, production processes, and quality management systems, emphasizing the suitability and effectiveness of process controls. Where appropriate, UL will help to identify possible improvements. The second visit will be primarily a routine product audit, with some limited attention to quality management as noted during the full process audit.

This new service is more aligned with global inspection programs such as CIG audits for CENELEC factories. Customers who are subject to such inspection programs will find the new approach familiar and easy to adopt. The program is especially valuable for customers seeking to leverage UL's Global Market Access services (www.ul.com/gma) by aligning inspections into a single, common system. UL Demko's recognition of CIG reports can waive some testing for European marks such as D, ENEC and GS marks.

If you want to find out more about the Two-Inspection program please contact your local UL representative.

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Update to Follow-up Services for Power and Gardening Tool Categories

Power and Garden Tool Categories

BBNZ (Title Only)	Lithium-ion battery systems for use in battery-powered appliances
BBOI	Lithium-ion battery packs
BBON	Battery-charger units
BBQA	Battery-operated ride-on lawn mowers
DMKK	High pressure cleaning machine – electric
EOUG	Die cutting device
FFPU2	Assemblies for use with internal-combustion engines – factory installed (aka electric motor starter kits)
IKIQ	Flashlights and lanterns, rechargeable and automatic
JHKT	Gardening appliances
JOKP (Title Only)	Gasoline-powered equipment
JOLJ	Blowers
JOOW	Chain saws
JOPQ	Combination gardening appliances
JOSR	Edgers and edger-trimmers
JOTL	Grass trimmers and brushcutters
JOTW	Walk-behind mowers and ride-on machines with mowers
JOUG	Gasoline-powered cut-off machines
KOBQ	De-icing and snow-melting equipment
QDFT (Title Only)	Painting equipment, air compressors and vacuum pumps
QDGS	Compressors, vacuum pumps and pneumatic paint sprayers
QDIQ	Painting equipment
QGVT	Insulated and insulating hand tools
QPMC	Portable pneumatic tools
TSZQ	Saw chain
UZNX	Snow movers
XJXX (Title Only)	Tools
XJYL	Electric tool accessories certified for use with specified equipment
XJYQ	Manual and semiautomatic metal-sawing machines
XJYW	Portable electric tools
XJZV	Chain saws, electric
XKFR	Tools, transportable and special purpose, portable, electric
XKJU	Tools, stationary
XKRZ	Tools, powder actuated

2015 Pricing

Per the first change noted in this letter we have grouped all the Power and Gardening Tool categories so that regardless of which or how many of these categories a manufacturing facility has UL will only visit a maximum of four times per year, if they are in normal standings. As such there were four different pricing points depending on the Power and Gardening Tool category and we now have one flat fee for all Power and Gardening Tool categories per region. This flat fee will be charged to all customers including current customers that use our on-call service.

Do you have questions about information in this letter? Please contact your local UL representative.

You Feel You Have a Lead Problem... UL Has a Solution

By Tom Bowman / Global Program Manager

Since the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) became law in 1974, the safety of the drinking water supply in the United States has been an ongoing priority for federal and state health officials. The most recent effort was the passage of the federal Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, signed into law in January of 2011 and became effective in January of 2014 which restricted permissible levels of lead in drinking water system components.

The Act redefined "lead-free" under the SDWA, restricting the lead content of wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and fixtures to a weighted average of not more than .25%, and imposing a lead limit of not more than 0.2% with respect to solder and flux.

As of March 2015, there is no mandatory federal requirement for lead free product testing or third-party certification under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), however, strict lead content regulations already exist in California, Vermont, Maryland and Louisiana.

With these new state regulations in place, many manufacturers of products that come in contact with potable water have already redesigned their products to comply with the lead content requirements now in force. Manufacturers of products not often thought of as plumbing products may be confused about the federal and state requirements regarding the maximum lead content allowed in their products.

Manufacturers that are looking to ensure continued legal access to the California Vermont, Maryland and Louisiana marketplaces, have the option of having their products tested and certified by an accredited third-party, consistent with that state's requirements. UL is offering testing and certification to ANSI/NSF 372 for those manufacturers interested in demonstrating product compliance with lead content requirements.

For more information please contact: WaterInfo@ul.com

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