Importance of Conformity and Certification in Life Safety

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Romnish Kapoor



Course Description

Introduction to life safety for building materials and systems. The presentation will focus on understanding the stake holders in the built-environment, importance of conformity, certification, learning lessons on life safety.

Presenter

Romnish Kapoor

Sales Manager – Building & Life Safety Technologies, Underwriters Laboratories Middle East

My career started as a engineer in the fire industry and then gradually moved towards the Management role. Currently holding the position of Sales Manager for the Middle East region for UL's Building and Life Safety Technologies Division. Have been involved in fire products certification programs and closely work with various stakeholders to ensure safer products enter the market.

Learning Objectives

- 1. Stake Holders in the Built Environment
- 2. Standards and Codes
- **3. Importance of Certification**
- 4. Learning Lessons
- 5. How UL can help?

Modern vs Legacy Room Furnishings





STAKEHOLDERS IN THE BUILT-ENVIRONMENT

Phases of the Built Environment



Stakeholders in Built Environment



Typical Components - Built Environment



ACTIVE FIRE SYSTEMS



Typical components - Built Environment



PASSIVE FIRE SYSTEMS



CODES AND STANDARDS

Product Requirements

Codes

- Minimum construction requirements
- Indicates where and when to install product

Standards (Certification)

- How to evaluate/test product
- Indicates non-compliance





International Codes - Development Organizations

International Code Council (ICC)

International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)







Standards

- Contain requirements for safety and performance
- Reflect the input of interested parties
 - officials, manufacturers, end users
- Accreditation (ANSI)
 - Accredits standards developers
 - Ensures accurate standards
- Code References





Standards' Writers

- American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)
- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- National Sanitation Foundation (NSF)
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- American Water Works Association (AWWA)

International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL)













IMPORTANCE OF CERTIFICATION

Understanding Certification

Certification is the practice in which product(s) undergo performance/quality testing to meet or exceed safety qualifications as specified by regulations, government and building codes officials, standard committees etc.





Listing

- Listing is required by the regulating bodies
- Provides Testing and Certification
- Allows use of trademark to indicate product compliance
- Requires factory visits and ongoing QA/QC program
- Label and trademarks used by building regulators to determine code compliance



Certification Scheme – Product Safety

Product Evaluation

Product Testing (fire, electrical, performance etc.)

Reporting and Certification

Marking/Identifier

Follow-Up/Inspection (QA/QC)



Certification Marking







Importance of Certification





Educating Stakeholders





Certification- in Built Environment

SIMPLIFIED UL INVESTIGATION AND SURVEILLENCE PROCESS



Company Designs Component Product and Submits for UL Certification

Client and UL Agree on Quote, Plan of Investigation, and Future Collaboration When Component Product Design or Construction Changes **UL Initiates Investigation**

Upon Meeting All of the Applicable Requirements, UL Authorizes the Use of the UL Mark

UL Publishes Report and Product Description & Manufacturing Process Surveillance Documents (Copy to Applicant, Copy in UL Files) UL Confirms Construction Details and Creates Test Report, Component Product Description & Manufacturing Process Surveillance Documentation



UL Program Surveillance Audits Are Conducted Using UL Published Product Description & Manufacturing Process Surveillance Documents



Component Product is Evaluated to the Applicable Requirements



End-Users then Design, Manufacturer and Sell Their Products Relying On Safety Compliant Components. The UL Mark on the Component Provides Assurance that the Component was Manufactured under UL's Process in Agreement with the Component Product Manufacturer

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Test Reports - Development



A UL Engineer develops the report which includes all tests and compliance evaluation documentation with appropriate technical requirements from applicable product Standard.

This report is reviewed by an experienced and qualified technical reviewer. If all requirements are met, they make the certification decision which results in the product being eligible to bear the Mark.





Test Reports & Inspection Document



Two documents result from the conclusion of a product investigation

- 1. Report- a report of the investigation of the product. It contains a Cover Page, Description, Test Record and Conclusion
- 2. Inspection Document When a product is judged to be acceptable to bear the Mark, the required FUS Procedure shall be prepared for the following purposes -
- A. Provide descriptive material and/or test specifications necessary to supervise the product to the degree contemplated by UL's requirements.
- B. Serve as a specification that can be used by the manufacturer for checking the product and by the Field Representative in counterchecking the manufacturer's control





Surveillance: Follow-Up Services

Throughout the lifetime of the certification, products undergo regular inspections at the manufacturing facility based on specifications detailed in the Inspection Document to verify continued compliance with requirements



Follow-Up Services program is fundamental to the integrity of UL's certification Marks.





LEARNING LESSONS

Protecting the built environment

• Focus on the structural integrity and safety of built structures with architects, specifiers, contractors, authorities and fire service

Services:

Safety Research

Fire Service Training

Qualified Contractor Programs

Multi-Attribute Sustainable Product Certification

Safety Certification

Fire Behavior Consulting

Flammability Testing

FASTER THAN HOMES BUILT 50 YEARS AGO DUE IN PART TO NEW MATERIALS IN BUILDING PRODUCTS AND FURNISHINGS.

MODERN HOMES REACH FLASHOVER



Anti-Counterfeiting Operations



"To protect the safety of consumers around the world from the potential hazards associated with goods bearing counterfeit UL Marks"

Label Counterfeiting





Preventing Counterfeiting



- Identify key marking identifiers (serial number, file number, company name)
- Manufacturer to provide test report
- Manufacturer to provide Certification Certificates
- Research product online
- Report counterfeiting to 3rd Party Certification
 Organizations

Market Surveillance



The Market Surveillance Mission Statement:

To investigate product incident reports and perform market sampling of products to protect the integrity of UL's Certification Marks.



Fire Safety





Product Segments

Fire Resistance & Fire Suppression Containment

Joint Systems

Fire Resistance

Assemblies

Fire Doors

Fire Windows

Extinguishing System Units

- Clean Agent
- Carbon Dioxide
- Dry Chemical
- Low Expansion Foam and Equipment
- High Expansion Foam and Equipment
- Wet Chemical Solution

Fire Extinguishers

Fire Main Equipment

Fire Pumps & Engines







Fire Safety





Product Segments

Reaction to Fire

Roofing Materials

- Fire Resistance Characteristics
- Wind Resistance
- Wind uplift

Building Products

Material / Product
 Physical Performance
 Properties

Marine Products

Air Ducts, Air Connector & Closure Systems

Building Materials

- Surface Burning Characteristics
- Room/Building Corner Tests
- Intermediate-Scale
 Multistory Test

Wire and Cable

- Limited Combustible Rated Cables
- Plenum Rated
 Cables
- Riser Rated Cables
- Vertical Rated Cables

Telecommunications equipment

Switchgear

Mattresses and Futons

Upholstered furniture

Fabrics

Semi-conductor clean room materials





Fire Resistive Assemblies

(Horizontal Assembly Before Test)





Fire Resistive Assemblies (Horizontal Assembly Failure)





Fire Resistive Assemblies (Vertical Assembly Failure)





Fire Resistive Assemblies

(Typical Test Plan)

Fire Door & Frame

- Fire Test as per UL 10 B and/or UL 10C
- Hose Stream Test











Romnish Kapoor | Sales Manager | UL T:+971 52 9101155 | romnish.kapoor@ul.com

<u>gar y.knef@ul.com</u>

Or visit www.ul.com



THANK YOU!