

## Why Are We Doing All This Safety Stuff?

### Product safety regulations in the U.S. and Canada

- Local Ordinances - "Listing" by a Nationally Recognized Test Laboratory (NRTL) is required by local ordinances in many major cities, such as the attached from San Francisco, and the entire state of Oregon. Approximately 17 NRTLs are approved by OSHA to test and mark products. Without NRTLs, a manufacturer would have to submit to each independent local authority for approval to un-harmonized requirements. Canada has similar requirements at the provincial level.
- Federal Law - Required by OSHA in the workplace for the widely encompassing "utilization equipment" under 29 CFR 1910 Subchapter S.
- National Electrical Code (NEC) - Complying with a UL safety standard is a means to show compliance with the NEC, which primarily covers how the product interfaces with the building's AC mains. The Canadian Electrical Code is similar for Canada.
- Customer Requirements - Oftentimes, when a customer agrees to buy or resell a product, UL Listing is required per the contract. A "customer" may include a large OEM customer, that resells the product, a distributor/retailer such as a Home Depot or Sears, or the public at large.
- Product Liability – In the event of a product liability case, companies would like a competent, independent third party, such as UL, to assert that the construction met established industry standards for a minimal level of safety and was manufactured under a controlled process that includes factory inspection by an authorized agency inspector.
- Insurance – Sometimes insurance premiums can become prohibitive, if a company does not produce "Listed" units.

### Product Safety Regulations in the European Union

- CE Mark and Importing Requirements - With uniform European importing laws under the New Approach Directives, CE Marking and harmonized product safety standards, such as EN60950, the European Union has supra-national laws that create uniform national requirements across the EU to ensure products introduced to the market "do not cause harm to persons, property or domestic animals". This is different from the local level ordinances in the U.S.
- Customer Requirements and Liability Concerns – As described above.

### Helpful Links:

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/index.html#nrtls>: Shows the list of NRTLs that are accredited by OSHA.

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=STANDARDS&p\\_id=9878](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9878): Shows the OSHA guidelines for products in the workplace.

[www.SELdirect.com](http://www.SELdirect.com) For information about SEL's capabilities.

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**SAN FRANCISCO CITY ORDINANCE:**

**G. Regulation for Sale or Installation of Equipment Energized by Electricity.**

**90-71. Requirement that All Electrical Products be Approved.** No person, firm, corporation or entity shall sell, offer for sale, advertise or display for sale, dispose of by way of gift, loan, rental, lease, or premium, use or install for use any electrical product, appliance, equipment, material or device (hereinafter generally referred to as "electrical product") which is operated or energized in whole or in part by electricity, unless such electric product is approved by the Superintendent as having complied with applicable requirements set forth in the Electrical Code, and as being currently listed by an approved testing laboratory described herein.

*Exception: The following electrical products may be excluded from this section, provided that the specific purpose of the electrical product is not designed for use as a life safety device, and provided there is no evidence of potential hazard:*

**a. Any electrical product which does not utilize in excess of 30 volts.**

**b. Any electrical product which generates, transmits, transforms or utilizes less than 50 volt-amperes.**


**90-74. Minimum Safety Standards as Condition for Approval.**

**(a) Superintendent's Authority to Approve.** Approval shall be granted by the Superintendent provided that the electrical product complies with applicable requirements of this Code, and such product is currently listed and labelled by an approved testing laboratory as described herein.



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES:**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
CALIFORNIA



R. J. WILLIAMS  
GENERAL MANAGER AND  
SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDING

DEPARTMENT OF  
BUILDING AND SAFETY  
REPLY TO: ELECTRICAL TESTING LABORATORY  
3319 DORRIS PLACE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90031  
TELEPHONE 213-7121

March 31, 1970

M. YORTY  
MAYOR

The electrical equipment listed below has been found on display at the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.

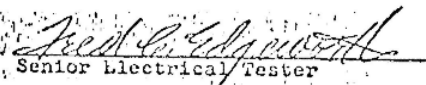
No evidence of listing by Underwriters' Laboratories or approval by the City of Los Angeles Electrical Testing Laboratory can be found for this equipment.

Los Angeles City Ordinance No. 106,100 requires that all electrical equipment be approved before it may be sold, or used in the City of Los Angeles.

Approval will be required if this equipment is offered for sale in the City of Los Angeles.

Copies of the Laboratory Rules and Application Blanks are enclosed for your convenience.

R. J. WILLIAMS  
Superintendent of Building

 P.S.  
Senior Electrical Tester

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