Vol. 6, No. 3 March 2024

Board of Directors

Upcoming Education Opportunities

Planned for June- Risk Management in Construction

This June, we will be welcoming Cathy Wells, a Principal Consultant of Albert Risk Management, to speak at our office on the topic of Risk Management in Construction. Cathy has 35 years of experience in insurance and risk management including commercial insurance underwriting, insurance brokerage, workers' compensation claims administration, public entity risk management, and risk management consulting with a specialty in risk financing issues. She has extensive risk management experience for both operational and construction programs for cities, states, and local governments, authorities, and others. Cathy will be discussing the most important risks in today's construction environment and how contractors can best navigate these risks.

Please keep an eye out for more information in the near future about this class!

Planned for August- Understanding and Negotiating Subcontracts

This August, we will be welcoming Karalynn Cromeens, Managing Partner and Owner of The Crowmeens Law Firm, to speak at our office on the topic of Subcontracting. Karalynn holds more than 17 years of experience practicing construction, real estate, and business law. With her extensive experience within the construction and real estate industries, Karalynn provides her clients with innovative legal strategies and services necessary to protect their rights. Karalynn will be here to educate and inform subcontractors on the importance of understanding what they are signing, negotiating a fair subcontract, and understanding their lien and collections rights.

Please keep an eye out for more information in the near future about this class!

Miller Showcase at MEP Innovation

This year's MEP Innovation took place in Orlando, FL from January 29–31 as innovators and industry pioneers from all three associations expanded their comprehension, relationships and skills across all building trades.

At the 2024 MEP Innovation conference, attendees had the opportunity to embark on a cutting-edge journey to the Miller Electric Company facility. Participants were able to witness Miller's dedication to excellence through innovative employee recruitment and training programs, experience their streamlined operations with optimized Virtual Design and Construction processes, and explore seamless project coordination among satellite teams spanning various locations.

The North Florida Chapter NECA would like to extend a huge congratulations to Adam Davis, Senior Manager of Fabrication and Modular Solutions at Miller Electric Company here in Jacksonville, FL. Davis is an industry pioneer who champions innovation across his NECA member company and the entire NECA community, always eager to embrace new techniques and technologies.

Lastly, Miller Electric's Tim Hinson, an Apprenticeship Committee Member, spoke at the MEP conference during the *Innovation in Recruitment* session. In this session, attendees discovered innovative recruitment methods to tackle the growing workforce shortage in construction. Attendees were able to learn from industry experts about diverse roles, non-college career paths, and technology's role in engaging potential recruits. Participants had the opportunity to share their own journeys and their strategies for youth outreach, internships, and spreading the word on careers in construction.

Imported PVC Conduit

Our friends at Atkore shared this very important information with us regarding imported PVC conduit. Unknowingly installing imported PVC conduit which does not carry a 90d celsius rating could cause rework, failing inspections, and degradation of electrical systems. Click the link above to access the full Q&A report.

PVC Electrical Conduit and 90°C Certification

Questions and Answers

Q: WHAT DOES 90°C MEAN?

A: This refers to the insulating rating of a conductor. Modern wires and conductors are most commonly rated to 90°C.

Q: WHY DOES IT MATTER, IN REGARD TO THE PVC CONDUIT THAT HOUSES THE WIRES?

A: It matters because specifying engineers, architects and utilities often specify that the conduit meet the 90°C standard to match the 90°C rating on the conductors. Conduit installed in 90°C specified systems that does not have the rating is non-compliant and should be rejected by inspectors.

Q: DO ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DESIGN FIRMS SPECIFY THE 90°C REQUIREMENT FOR WIRING AND PVC CONDUIT?

A: Yes, design firms regularly specify the PVC conduit as 90°C, otherwise the conductors must be derated to meet the conduit.

Q: WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET PVC CONDUIT CERTIFIED TO THE 90°C REQUIREMENT?

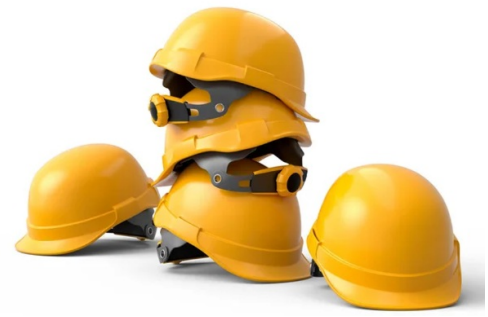
A: UL 651 – Section 6.15 outlines the test procedure, which is a strenuous standard taking up to 360 days to determine conformance.

Q: WHO PERFORMS THIS TEST? IT'S NOT THE MANUFACTURER, IS IT?

A: Third-party certification agencies such as ETL, UL, CSA or NSF perform this testing in their nationally recognized test labs and provide an official listing or certification to the manufacturer.

Learn more at atkore.com

OSHA Issues New Guidelines on Safety Helmets



The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is switching from the customary hard hat to a modern safety helmet for its safety inspectors.

In its Nov. 22, 2023, Safety and Health Information Bulletin, OSHA explains the differences between the types of head protection gear, while listing some advances in design and materials that offer better protection. Safety helmets sometimes feature optional face shields or goggles for added defense against dust, chemical splashes and projectiles. They may also offer built-in hearing protection or communication systems for optimizing safe, clear communication on noisy work sites.

OSHA has long recommended safety helmets for workers in the construction and oil and gas industries, and those performing electrical work, working in high-temperature environments or working from heights.

This move is another step in the evolution of protective head gear, and it is a signal to industries such as electrical construction about the value of using helmets for head protection.

Read the full issue from Electrical Contractor Magazine!

Codes and Standards Report

WHAT IS UL CERTIFICATION?
The Difference Between UL Recognized and UL Listed

Introduction

Have you ever felt that vague sense of reassurance when seeing a logo or seal of approval on a product? Have you ever stopped to think about what kind of information these seals represent? Not sure if your brand needs these certifications?

If you're not sure if the product you're manufacturing needs this seal and why, you're not alone. When it comes to UL certification, it's worth it to stop and understand what those seals mean and how they can benefit you.

Certifying products within your business can get expensive, fast. However, one thing that's never worth skimping on is safety. Your customers' and workforce's safety is the most important thing to ensure brand loyalty. Safety and reliability can be the difference between long-term success and catastrophic failure.

UL markers are most commonly seen on industrial equipment and home appliances. These include furnaces, fuses, electrical panels, circuit breakers, smoke and CO2 alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinklers, glass, and thousands of other products.

Not all products and components on the market have to be listed, but there's certainly an incentive to do so. Here, we'll learn some of the reasons UL certification is important for both consumers and businesses. We'll also learn the difference between UL Listed and UL Recognized. With this, you can determine which one is right for you.

What is UL Certification and Why is it Important?

UL stands for Underwriter Laboratories, a third-party certification company that's been around for over a century. UL was founded in 1894 in Chicago. They certify products with the aim to make the world a safer place for both workers and consumers. Besides testing, they set industry standards to follow when innovating new products. Last year alone, about 14 billion products with the UL seal entered the global marketplace.

In a nutshell, UL is a safety organization that sets industry-wide standards on new products. They continually check these products to ensure they're up to these standards. UL testing makes sure that wire sizes are correct or devices can handle the amount of current they claim to be able to. They also ensure that products are constructed correctly for the highest safety.

A common misconception is that UL tests every product themselves. This isn't always the case. Instead, UL authorizes a manufacturer to test the product themselves using the UL stamp. They then follow up on a regular basis to make sure that they are testing their products and following proper guidelines. This is one of many reasons that UL certification is attractive to businesses.

However familiar you might be with the recognizable UL stamp on machinery, it's not as simple as it may appear. There's no such thing as a general UL approval. Instead, it's broken down into several tiers. These three tiers are UL listed, UL recognized, and UL classified.

While all three are relatively similar to one another, there are some important distinctions. In order to figure out what's best for your business, or to be more informed as a consumer of UL products, it's good to know the basic differences.

Here we'll go over the two most basic distinctions you need to know about: UL recognized vs UL listed.

What Does It Mean to Be UL Recognized?

The biggest difference between UL recognition and UL certified or classified is that it does not apply a seal of approval to end products.

UL Recognition service is less consumer-facing and focuses more on machinery and parts that make other products. In other words, it certifies that a component within a larger mechanism meets UL Standards.

UL Recognition is most often seen in factories, in the form of power supplies or circuit boards that are used to power other machinery. UL Recognition ensures the safety and efficiency of machinery used by workers. It also empowers companies to strive for more sustainable practices.

Because UL Recognized focuses on components, UL ensures that the equipment is properly housed. This may require additional installation precautions to protect the product from chemicals or liquids in the manufacturing process.

UL Recognized stamps are generally easier to attain than UL Listed. This is because manufacturers can pick and choose which components are certified within a larger system. UL recognition is also not as rigid in its industry standards and is, therefore, easier for a business to attain as a result.

UL Recognized certification can be applied to any component part, or even to barrier materials. If you want to get the UL logo on your stand-alone products, you must get a UL Listed seal of approval.
What Does It Mean to Be UL Listed?

You've probably heard the term UL Listed many times before. Even if you haven't, you are very likely to recognize the seal. Even if you weren't sure what it meant before now, the UL Listed symbol is featured on a wide swath of consumer goods today.

So what does UL Listed mean and how does it differ from UL Recognized? How does it benefit your business? The main difference isn't in the certification itself. Rather, in what kind of product is being certified and what impression that has on the consumer.

	Mark for U.S.	Mark for Canada	Mark for U.S. / Canada
Listing mark			
Recognition mark			

As we learned above, UL recognition is for components and UL Listed is for stand-alone products. While they both ensure a set of industry standards, they are used for different products and in different capacities. This is why UL Listed is so much more recognizable to most people because it ensures the safety of consumer-ready products that then go to market.

Far more testing is involved in UL Listed certification. The UL Listed seal means that the product has been tested by UL to nationally recognized safety and sustainability standards. Additionally, it has been found to be free from a reasonably foreseeable risk of fire, electric shock in a Division 2 environment. Division 2 environment refers to an area where ignitable concentrations are used.

In other words, a UL Listed approval ensures the safety and longevity of many household items under normal wear and tear with everyday use. This benefits both the consumer and the business that manufactures the product. This is because of UL's safety reputation and the inherent accountability of your brand when using the UL Listed logo.

How Does CE Differ from UL Certifications?

Even if you aren't familiar with UL, you might have seen other similar logo seals in other countries. For

example, CE is a similar organization in the EU that sets standards for common electronics. CE stands for Comformité Européenne which is French for “European Conformity”. CE is similar to UL, the main difference being the country in which it is manufactured and sold.

Much like UL, CE gives companies an advantage by being able to sell anywhere within the EU, while also being able to market the CE logo in much the same way. For these reasons, many companies opt to get CE certified to expand their marketing capacities.

Why Get UL Certified or Buy UL Products?

Why is UL certification and recognition attractive for businesses? UL has spent over a century building up a reputation and instilling a sense of trust. When a consumer sees the UL stamp of approval on a product, they will likely feel better about purchasing it.

For example, if someone is shopping for a new circuit breaker or contactor, UL certification might sway their decision.

If two identical products or services are side-by-side and one is UL certified and one isn’t, which one would you likely choose? It’s been shown that the UL mark can be a powerful marketing tool for businesses, and so many of them strive to get their products approved. The UL logo gives the consumer peace of mind, and the business a public seal of approval.

UL Certification for Peace of Mind

Another important caveat of UL certification is for insurance purposes and customer security. In fact, UL was founded by William Henry Merrill, Jr. while he was working at the 1890 Chicago World’s Fair to assess fire risks. While he was there, he presented his idea to insurance underwriters to form an electrical testing laboratory. The Western Insurance Union and the Chicago Underwriters Association decided to fund his idea, and formed what would become Underwriters Laboratory. Why is this important? If, say, an inspector determines a fire was caused by a circuit breaker that was not UL certified, an insurance company can choose to deny the claim. For this reason alone, many consumers opt for certified products, not just for large appliances but for small ones as well as laptop and cell phone chargers. UL certification adds a layer of protection and accountability for accidents, as well.

Lastly, because UL is a third-party service, consumers of your products can be confident that the UL seal is not a superficial sales ploy. Instead, it’s a true indication of an item’s safety and longevity. It protects your brand’s reputation by having an established certification company standing behind what you sell.

Final Thoughts

UL certification is something that affects us in our everyday lives, often to a great degree, without most of us really knowing it. UL has been around for 125 years ensuring the safety and accountability of electrical products in everyday American life.

Just because a product is not UL recognized and tested doesn’t mean it’s going to spontaneously combust. It simply means that its performance and safety haven’t been tested independently and verified to meet those safety standards.

So, don’t immediately assume your products aren’t safe just because they don't have a UL certification. It’s never a bad idea, however, to seek out UL certification when designing new electronics and appliances.

Even if it might cost a bit more for your business or take extra testing time, UL gives a consumer the peace of mind and a brand a big marketing boost. In the long run, third-party certifications from a trusted source will only help your business. UL Certifications have the ability to add accountability and enhance your brand’s reputation over time.

When manufacturers or electrical components are UL certified it shows continued commitment to safety and quality.

Article taken from C3 Controls website White Paper “What is UL Certification? The Difference Between UL Recognized and UL Listed”

JATC Apprenticeship Reports

Jacksonville JATC

To the members of the North Florida Chapter of N.E.C.A. -

February had us completing a Fiber Optic journeyman class in which 10 wiremen sat for their certification exam. Another Fiber Optic class began on March 4th and we currently have seven journeymen beginning that class. This class will conclude on April 6th.

Please check our website for future Fiber Optic classes that will be offered later in the year if significant interest is provided.

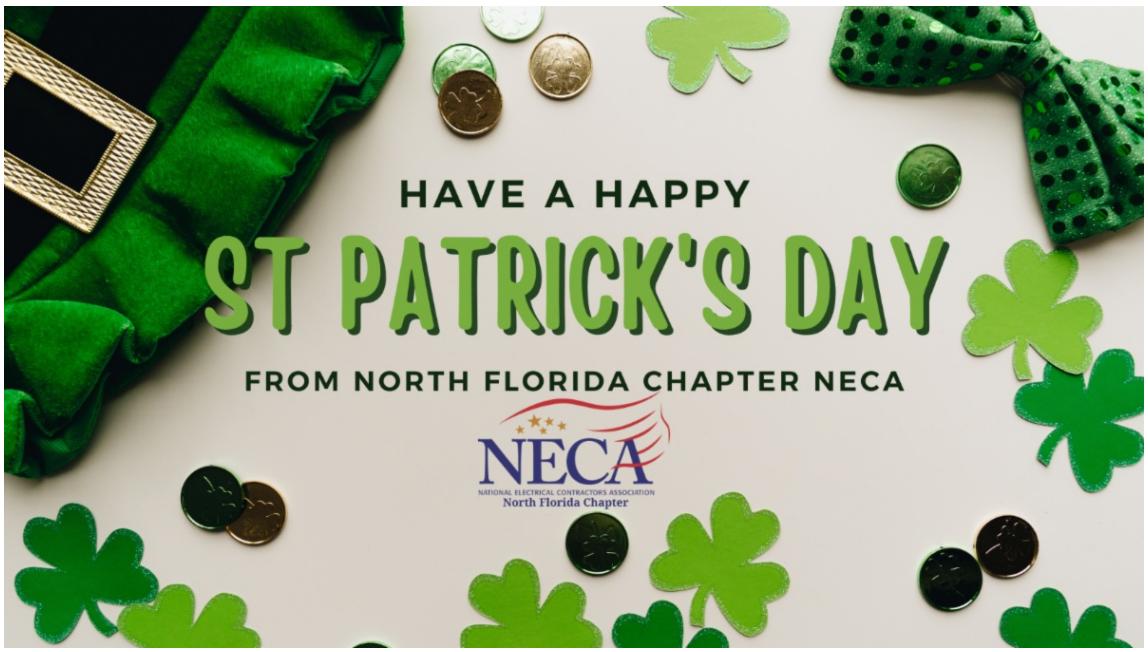
We have two new Adult Pre-Apprenticeship classes scheduled to begin on March 11th. There has been an increase in interest recently in pre-apprenticeship classes. These two classes have a current enrollment of 42 total students. These two classes will be completed in October. ETA of Jacksonville is continuing to offer OSHA 10, CPR and First Aid courses for our students throughout the months of March and April.

As a reminder, we take applications year round and if you know anyone who may be interested in beginning a career in the electrical trade, please have them visit our website at www.etajax.org to begin the application process.

As always, I am here to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to contact me if I can help with anything. On behalf of the Trustees of the Apprenticeship Committee, thank you for your continuing support.

Daniel Van Sickle
Apprenticeship and Training Director

Daniel McEachern
Assistant Training Director



Looking Forward

- **April 8th-10th, 2024:** ***ELECTRI International Connection Summit in Roatan, Honduras***
- **April 15th-17th, 2024:** ***NECA EMERGE Conference in Las Vegas, NV***
- **May 1st-2nd, 2024:** ***Large Contractors Spring Meeting in Santa Fe, NM***
- **May 6th-8th, 2024:** ***National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC***
- **May 20th-22nd, 2024:** ***Safety Professionals Conference in Denver, CO***
- **June 21st-24th, 2024:** ***Southern Regional Conference in Banff, Alberta Canada***
- **July 15th-17th, 2024:** ***ELECTRI Council July Meeting in Boston, MA***
- **July 17th-19th, 2024:** ***Labor Relations Conference in Boston, MA***

- **September 28th-October 1st, 2024:** ***NECA Convention and Trade Show in San Diego, CA***

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