



The Definitive Q&A Guide for North American Product Certification



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Introduction

So you want to sell your products into North America?

You've designed your product in line with the relevant Standards that govern your product. Now you have a responsibility (in many cases mandatory) to get your product tested and certified (Listed) by an independent body recognized for their competency in electrical or mechanical safety. This allows you to sell your products in the markets you wish to enter, and lets retailers feel comfortable about stocking them on their shelves.

This guide contains the most frequently asked questions manufacturers have about North American product testing and certification (Listing) - and provides some useful hints on how to optimize the process - speeding your time to market.

Helping you get products to market faster. Intertek has been helping manufacturers meet national and international Standards requirements for over 100 years - with design review, product testing, approval and listing – so our expertise in this area is unsurpassed. We'll help you cut through the incidentals and tell you what you really need to know. Empowering you to make the choices about your testing, approval and listing process that will help you drive your product to market.

About OSHA & the NRTL Program

U.S. Department of Labor: Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)

OSHA Safety Regulations, which are US law, contain requirements for "approval" (i.e., testing and certification) of certain products by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).

These safety requirements are found in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR), and the provisions for NRTL certification are generally in Part 1910 (29 CFR Part 1910). The requirements help protect workers by ensuring products are designed for safe use in the workplace. An NRTL generally certifies products for a manufacturer.

Q: What is an NRTL, why were they created and what is the significance of OSHA recognition?

A: A Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory or NRTL (as they are also known) is authorized to provide an independent evaluation, testing, and certification of electrically operated or gas- and oil-fired product based on product safety standards developed by U.S.-consensus standards organizations such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

The first NRTL was identified in the early 1970s but additional laboratories were not recognized until 1988, when a legal case bought by a US testing house ensured a set of criteria was created whereby laboratories could demonstrate their suitability to be an NRTL.

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.

Intertek is recognized as an NRTL in the United States and, in a similar capacity, as a Testing Organization (TO) and Certifying Body (CB) in Canada, and as a Notified Body in Europe.

Q: What requirements does OSHA have regarding NRTLs?

A: OSHA Safety Regulations contain general requirements for workplace safety. Many of these requirements pertain to equipment for which OSHA does not require an NRTL certification. The only products covered under the NRTL Program are those for which OSHA regulations require certification by an NRTL. Whether or not OSHA requires NRTL certification, an employer subject to OSHA's requirements must assure it complies with the provisions of the Safety Standards applicable to its operations.

Q: What types of products must an NRTL approve (i.e., test and certify)?

A: Electric products covered in subpart S - Electrical, of 29 CFR Part 1910, are examples of equipment requiring certification for safety. The requirement for NRTL approval is just one, and not the only, requirement in subpart S.

Q: What process does OSHA follow in recognizing an NRTL?

A: In general, OSHA follows the "Procedures for Initial OSHA Recognition" found in Appendix A to 29 CFR 1910.7. In summary, when an organization submits its application materials, OSHA staff thoroughly reviews those materials for completeness and adequacy. For applications from foreign-based organizations, The Department of Commerce must consider the "reciprocity" of the foreign government. When the NRTL Program staff determines that the application is complete and adequate, the staff performs an in-depth on-site review of the applicant's organization, programs, and facilities. The staff then prepares a report and recommendation on the review.

Based mainly on the on-site review report and the application review, OSHA makes a "preliminary finding" on the application. The Agency publishes a notice of this finding in the Federal Register to allow for public comment. Following a 30-day comment period, OSHA publishes a second notice of its final decision and response to any comments received, making the recognition official for successful applicants (or denying the recognition for unsuccessful applicants). After publication of the decision, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), the head of OSHA, sends a formal notification to the applicant. This notification sets forth the specific scope and other terms of the recognition. The recognition remains in effect for a five-year period. At the end of the initial period, the NRTL must apply for renewal of recognition.

Q: What is an NRTL's scope of recognition?

A: The specific safety test standards for which an NRTL applies for recognition, and that OSHA approves, define one area of its scope of recognition. The other areas are the specific testing locations (sites) and the supplemental programs that OSHA has recognized for the NRTL. OSHA does specify which test standards are in the NRTL program. After the initial recognition, an NRTL may seek to expand its scope of

recognition, such as by requesting recognition for additional test standards. An NRTL is only recognized by OSHA Safety Regulations on specific products within its scope of recognition.

Q: What does it mean when OSHA "accepts" a product certified by an NRTL?

A: OSHA's acceptance of a product certified by an NRTL generally occurs during the workplace inspections performed by OSHA compliance officers. However, this acceptance does not mean the product is "OSHA-approved." It means the NRTL has tested and certified the product to designate conformance to a specific product safety test standard(s). It also means the employer has complied with one requirement in OSHA Safety Regulations.

Q: What product safety test standards can an NRTL use in certifying products?

A: An NRTL must use "appropriate" product safety test standards in certifying products for workplace safety (see Test Standard Approval Criteria in the NRTL Program Directive). These test standards contain technical requirements that products must meet for workplace safety. OSHA does not develop these test standards but defined the specific requirements of an appropriate test standard in its regulation.

Organizations such as the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), IEEE, and ASTM International publish many of these standards. The product safety test standards recognized for an NRTL must be consistent with, but are different from, OSHA Safety Regulations, which are US law.

Q: Are NRTLs that OSHA has recognized for the same test standards equal in ability?

A: Given that each NRTL has met the same requirements for recognition, OSHA considers NRTLs recognized for the same product safety test standard to be equivalent in their capability to certify to that standard. For example, any NRTL recognized for ANSI Z21.17, a test standard for gas unit heaters, can certify such units for a manufacturer. However, even if recognized for the same test standards, each organization has different abilities depending on its experience, personnel, facilities and equipment, testing methods, and other aspects of its operations for testing and certifying products. OSHA only recognizes organizations as NRTLs and, under its regulations, cannot dictate how an NRTL must operate. An organization decides the detailed aspects of its own NRTL operations, although OSHA has some general policies with which NRTLs must comply.

Q: How do I know whether an NRTL has certified a product?

A: Each NRTL uses its own unique, registered certification mark(s) to designate product conformance to the required product safety test standards. Each NRTL must register its certification mark(s). In the US, this is done with the US Patent and Trademark Office. Samples of these are Intertek's ETL Listed Mark, or Underwriters Laboratories UL Mark:

The ETL Listed Mark

A product bearing the ETL Listed Mark with the "US" identifier at the 4 o'clock position has been tested and deemed compliant to U.S. product safety standards only. An ETL Listed Mark with a "C" identifier at the 8 o'clock position means the product bearing it complies with Canadian product safety standards only. And an ETL Listed Mark with both "US" and "C" identifiers, at the 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock positions respectively, signifies that the product bearing the mark complies with both U.S. and Canadian product safety standards.



The manufacturer physically places these marks on those products that the NRTL has certified as meeting the requirements of the test standard. In accordance with OSHA policy, an NRTL must ensure that its registered certification mark is applied to each unit, or if not feasible, to the smallest package of the product the NRTL certifies.

Q: Does OSHA accept the "CE" mark or accept equipment certified by foreign testing organizations?

A: The CE mark is unrelated to the requirements for product safety in the US. It is a generic mark used in the European Union (EU) to indicate that a manufacturer has declared that the product meets requirements in the EU for product safety. In the US, under OSHA's NRTL requirements, the product must have the specific mark of one of the NRTLs recognized to test and certify these types of products.

Q: Can an NRTL use others to do part of the work necessary in testing and certifying products? (Pertains to March 9, 1995 Federal Register notice)

A: OSHA permits an NRTL to use outside parties to perform certain activities involved in testing and evaluating products, provided the NRTL has met certain criteria. OSHA has broadly grouped these activities into nine "programs" and included the description and criteria for each program in a Federal Register notice published on March 9, 1995 (60 FR 12980).

The first or basic program stipulates that the NRTL that will certify the product must perform all product testing and evaluation itself. An NRTL's initial recognition will always include this first program. The other eight, called "supplemental programs,"

involve the NRTL's acceptance of testing and evaluation data or services, or certain contract services, from outside parties. An NRTL must apply for recognition to use any of the supplemental programs. OSHA will grant the request if the NRTL has met the criteria for the specific program.

One issue that often surfaces is whether an NRTL must accept the product testing, certifications, or approvals of another NRTL. OSHA has no authority to require such acceptance. An NRTL may accept the work output of another NRTL. However, this is solely a business decision of each NRTL.

Q: Does OSHA subsidize or indemnify NRTLs?

A: NRTLs are private organizations or companies that operate businesses. They are not financially or otherwise supported, subsidized, or indemnified by the Government in their capacity as an NRTL. These organizations maintain the risks and liabilities for their actions when testing and certifying products in this capacity.

Q: How does OSHA enforce the requirements for NRTL approval?

A: OSHA primarily enforces the requirements for NRTL approval by: 1) recognizing NRTLs to assure itself that qualified organizations test and certify the safety of products used in the workplace, 2) typically auditing each NRTL annually to verify that it sustains the quality of its operation and continues to meet requirements for recognition, and 3) performing workplace inspections during which OSHA compliance officers (CSHOs) review specific products to check whether they contain the certification mark of an NRTL.

Q: Does OSHA have alternatives to NRTL "approval" of products?

A: OSHA Safety Regulations for electrical equipment (subpart S of 29 CFR Part 1910) define the word "approved" as acceptable to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. In addition, equipment is acceptable under this subpart if it is: 1) certified by an NRTL; 2) of a kind that no NRTL will certify and it is inspected or tested by another Federal agency, or by a state, municipal, or other local authority responsible for enforcing and assuring compliance with occupational safety provisions of the National Electrical Code; or 3) custom-made equipment, i.e., equipment designed, fabricated for, and intended for use by a particular customer, and determined to be safe by the manufacturer for its intended use.

Q: Do OSHA requirements supersede any code or other requirements imposed by local code authorities?

A: Employers must comply with OSHA requirements applicable to their operations. These requirements are US law. To the extent these requirements may conflict with local (including state) requirements, US law prevails. However, many OSHA

requirements and local code requirements are based on the same national consensus standards, which mitigate potential conflicts. In addition, requirements that local code authorities may impose on products are primarily installation or "field labeling" requirements, whereas OSHA's requirement for NRTL approval primarily affect the manufacturing of products. While an NRTL certifies products for a manufacturer, this certification may also meet requirements of local code authorities. These authorities determine the nature and extent of their acceptance of an NRTL's certification of products.

Q: Do state OSH programs have to accept products certified by an NRTL?

A: Many states have received OSHA's approval to operate an occupational safety and health (OSH) program in their state. This transfers the responsibility for enforcing OSHA's requirements from the Federal Government to the individual state. Such states (called State-Plan States by OSHA) must adopt standards that are at least as effective as the Federal standards. While many do adopt Federal standards verbatim, a number have what they consider to be more effective standards. However, OSHA reviews such additional requirements to determine that there is a compelling local interest for them and that they do not pose a burden on interstate commerce.

For workplaces under its jurisdiction, a state OSH program must accept products properly certified by an NRTL where the state standards are the same as Federal standards. If a state were to adopt its own NRTL program, the recognition it grants to its NRTLs would only apply within that state.

OSHA's approval of a state OSH program imposes no direct obligation on the code enforcement requirements and efforts of local authorities in the state. Local authorities, whether or not in a State-Plan State, determine the nature and extent of their acceptance of NRTL certifications for their code enforcement efforts.

Choosing an NRTL

Q: Where can I view the current list of NRTLs?

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/index.html>

Q: How do I choose which NRTL to use?

A: When choosing a testing and certification partner, make a list of your key purchasing drivers and use this as your guide. Compare what you are looking for with the services that each NRTL provides.

While keeping production costs down is vital, the companies offering the cheapest rates aren't necessarily the best value. Many manufacturers have found it useful to consider the following:

- Product portfolio (e.g. range of certification/approval marks available)
- Service portfolio (and specifically particular areas of industry or product expertise)
- Geographic "Access" Features (available certifications/approvals and marks that give you maximum market access – or that cover the most geographical areas)
- Reputation (which brand names already choose to work with them and what endorsements have they made?)
- Local service offerings – can they assist in both the country of sale and at the manufacturing location?
- Responsiveness – can they give fast, quality service that improves your time to market?
- Do they provide good value/cost effectiveness?

Product Marking

Q: What does a safety mark tell me?

A: Safety marks such as ETL, UL, and CSA signify that the product has been tested to, and found to comply with, national safety standards by a qualified, independent testing laboratory.

The presence of a safety mark also means the product is 'listed' in the directory of the laboratory that verified the product's compliance and is part of an on-going follow-up program that ensures the products continued compliance during manufacturing.

Q: What's the difference between the UL, CSA, and ETL Listed Marks?

A: All of these marks demonstrate that the product that bears it has met the minimum requirements of widely accepted product safety standards as determined through the independent testing of a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). And, as part of that testing regimen, the product manufacturer has agreed to periodic follow-up inspections to verify continued compliance. The only real differences between the Marks are in the service, and services, of the testing laboratory behind them.

Q: Aren't manufacturers required to use UL for their compliance testing? Isn't this mandated by the standards themselves?

A: The simple answer to both questions is "no." In fact, this misconception has misled many manufacturers to believe that they don't have a choice in their third-party testing partner. To satisfy the prerequisite of having your products tested by an independent organization, the true legal requirement is that the laboratory which performs the testing be a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) recognized by OSHA.

Intertek is an NRTL and is recognized worldwide as a competent testing, inspection, and certification organization, and our ETL Listed Mark serves as proof of product compliance with U.S. standards.

Q: Who looks for safety marks?

A: In addition to product vendors (whose stocking policy usually requires products to be tested and certified before they can be sold in their stores) and safety-minded facilities managers and purchasing agents who specify safety certified products, a variety of people and/or organizations expect to see safety certification marks on products. This includes city code officials, OSHA officials, and electrical inspectors who adhere to the National Electric Code (NEC). Given that jurisdictional authority expectations and requirements vary from city to city and region to region, a nationally

recognized safety mark is beneficial to device manufacturers and healthcare facilities throughout North America.

Q: What does the ETL Listed Mark mean when displayed on my product?

A: In short, the ETL Listed Mark indicates that your product has been tested by Intertek, found in compliance with accepted national standards, and meets the minimal requirements required for sale or distribution. To your distributors, retailers, and customers, the ETL Mark is assurance that the product is compliant with safety standards, having been tested and certified by a third-party organization.

Q: Will retailers accept my product if it bears the ETL Listed Mark?

A: Yes. Since the ETL Listed Mark is an accepted and recognized demonstration of product compliance, and Intertek is recognized as an NRTL, there is no reason why retailers should not accept products bearing the ETL Listed Mark. Any indication otherwise by an individual retailer or distributor likely stems from misinformation in the marketplace—the same misinformation that has led some manufacturers to believe they don't have a choice in their third-party testing organization. Intertek has taken a leadership role in educating the industry on the legal requirements behind regulatory compliance, and we continue to make great strides in helping those manufacturers and retailers who remain confused to better understand their true responsibilities to the marketplace and the competitive advantages we offer.

Q: What should I tell my clients, distributors or contractors who aren't familiar with the ETL Listed Mark?

A: There is no standard formula for better acquainting clients and customers with the ETL Listed Mark. Depending on the background, circumstances, and other details of a given situation, the correct approach will be unique from one instance to another. Some clients' concerns can be relieved by simply showing them a list of the other respected products bearing the ETL Listed Mark (available in our [Directory of Listed Products](#)).

Others may erroneously believe that the UL Mark is the only acceptable demonstration of product compliance and require a more thorough explanation of the true legal requirements behind third party product safety testing. It is important to listen closely to your client's issues and provide them with real answers to their concerns. Inform them about the NRTL program. Explain to them how our Product Safety Certification Program includes the same testing, listing, labeling, and follow-up inspection services as UL, and that we're accredited by the same organizations, agencies, and regulatory bodies. But perhaps most importantly, stress to them the ways in which Intertek is making conformity assessment a more flexible and accommodating process – so that they no longer see product safety testing as strictly

an obligation, but as a process that can add value to their product development cycle(s) and help to speed them to market.

Q: What products bear the ETL Listed Mark?

A: Intertek provides a broad range of electrical, electronic gas and oil-fired product safety testing and certification services for companies spanning multiple industries, markets, and applications. As such, the products bearing our ETL Listed Mark run the gamut from HVAC equipment to medical devices; automotive products; industrial machinery; life safety products; telecom; IT; wireless devices, and more. For a comprehensive look at which products bear our mark (over 50,000 listed products), we invite you to look at our [Directory of Listed Products](#), which provides details on every product tested and certified by Intertek.



Q: Do local inspectors know the ETL Listed Mark?

A: Yes. The ETL Listed Mark is recognized by local inspectors and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) throughout North America and also in some areas of South America. As Intertek is an NRTL recognized by OSHA, the ETL Listed Mark is an accepted alternative to UL and, as such, inspectors and AHJs recognize, acknowledge, and accept the mark as proof of product compliance.

Q: What should I do if an AHJ rejects my ETL Listed product?

A: As much as we've accomplished the past 20 years in working with electrical inspectors, fire inspectors, building code officials and other AHJs across North America, there are still questions from time-to-time regarding the acceptance of the ETL Listed Mark.

Three key things to remember if an AHJ questions your product are:

1. Intertek is an OSHA-recognized NRTL and therefore entitled by the Federal Government to test and certify products within its scope of accreditation.
2. ETL Listed products fulfill the requirements of the National Electrical Code (NEC).
3. State and local governments cannot set criteria that contradict Federal criteria in areas subject to Federal regulation, such as workplace safety.

Intertek will vigorously defend acceptance of ETL Listed products in every jurisdiction across North America. If you need immediate assistance, please contact our Inspector Hotline at 1-888-DIRLIST (347-5478) or 1-607-758-6528.

Q: How do I maintain my Certification?

A: The issuing certification body will conduct random checks on your products to ensure your continued compliance and typically ask to inspect the manufacturing site on an annual, semi-annual, or quarterly basis to monitor the process – depending on the product involved.

Occasionally, the Standards which govern full product certification/approval change or expire, and therefore must be reviewed to ensure compliance with the revised or new Standard. This may be as simple as updating paperwork where the technical file is reviewed, but sometimes additional testing is required.

Another variable to continued certification/approval is critical (sometimes called “listed”) material or component substitution. If these are provided to the certification body, the substitutions can be checked to ensure that the safety of the product has not been compromised. If the certification body is not notified of such changes the certification/approval can potentially become invalid and the product “delisted”.

Q: Does my product certification help defend my company against product liability concerns?

A: Yes. Should the worst happen and your product unexpectedly malfunction – and accusations of product liability become levied against you – product certification provides compelling evidence that you took due care to produce a reliable product as prescribed by applicable standards. You’ll have validation by a recognized expert in the product evaluation field, your independent and accredited testing and certification provider.

Q: I want to minimize the chances of my product being recalled – can certification help with that?

A: Yes. The certification process for a product is a stringent one. It can help to identify potential issues with a product before it goes on sale as every aspect of the product is assessed - from its design, to its likely function, and even the clarity and accuracy of the user instructions. Intertek also offers a wide range of performance testing services that can help you determine potential failure points early on, as well as its proprietary Quality & Performance Mark which helps manufacturers prove a product’s quality, rather than simply promise it.

Q: The testing and certification process seems very involved? How can I make it shorter and less painful?

A: Your testing and certification partner will work with you to make the process as efficient as possible – but every product is different and some certifications simply

take longer than others. However there are some common-sense tips to optimize testing and certification:

- Involve your testing and certification partner in the product design phase to help point out potential non-conformities early. A design review can help save significant time and money in potential re-testing and re-design later on.
- Where possible, “design for compliance” using the latest version of the appropriate product Standard as a guide.
- Submit families of products together to reduce test costs and potential test time.
- Consider scheduling EMC and Safety testing at the same time. Your testing and certification partner can help you plan this to reduce time and costs.
- Check what paperwork the laboratory needs to process your project and compile it as soon as possible. This too can greatly shorten your overall project turnaround and help get products to market faster.
- Work with your testing and certification partner to identify which tests can be done for the greatest number of markets. Learning which test can be combined or how close your product is to meeting requirements for additional markets can also save significant time and money and greatly increase your revenue potential.

Additional Notes Regarding Medical Products

Q: How does product safety testing benefit those responsible for healthcare purchasing?

A: While product safety certification cannot guarantee that certified products are “safe” in all instances, it does provide a tangible measure of assurance for healthcare facilities and their patients that products meet applicable safety standards. Similarly, the safety certification system provides healthcare facilities with a gauge that can verify safety claims of suppliers.

Product safety certification also helps to protect both manufacturers and healthcare facilities from liability. Through product safety testing and certification, purchasing agents and their suppliers build necessary product safety documentation.

Q: Which products require a safety mark?

A: Product safety standards have been developed for, and are applicable to, virtually all electromedical devices that pose a fire, shock, or mechanical hazard. That’s why you’ll find safety marks on everything from patient monitoring devices and hospital lighting to diagnostic imaging and life support equipment.

Q: Is product safety testing mandatory?

A: Within North America, product safety testing is mandatory before market entry. However, the selection of which testing partner to use and which certification mark to use is solely at the discretion of the manufacturer. Factors such as pricing, turnaround time, proximity of laboratory, and satisfaction with service can all play a role in the selection process.

Other Marks

Q: Are there other product certification marks available – for example for environmental conformity or energy efficiency or performance?

A: There are dozens of certification/approval marks available. Some of these are product specific – but almost all deal with a notable aspect of the product, such as its safety, energy efficiency or materials composition. Familiarity with some of the Marks available will help you to determine what you require for your product. Here are some examples of the Marks you are likely to see on various products:

Performance

Some manufacturers use voluntary Marks to additionally highlight aspects of product performance or quality. This helps further differentiate their products in the marketplace.

The tests required for such marks are usually conducted against a baseline of recognized criteria for a product.



Intertek

Materials

Most markets now have in place legislation to minimize the amount of hazardous substances that go into the making of a product. This is to reduce the amount of hazardous material that will end up in landfill at the end of product life which could contaminate land and potentially pose a hazard to people and animals.



Many certification bodies can measure the levels of hazardous substance in products and certify materials compliance with legislation. Some schemes offer product Marks, like the one shown and some offer documentation that can be used for port access and technical files.

Energy Efficiency

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.



In 1992 the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced ENERGY STAR as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Computers and monitors were the first labeled products. Qualified energy efficiency ratings are usually 10% better than enforced mandatory standard limits or certification program limits.

The ENERGY STAR label is now on over 50 product categories including major appliances, office equipment, lighting, and home electronics. EPA has also extended the label to cover new homes and commercial and industrial buildings.

International Testing & Certification

IECEE CB Scheme

Obtaining full product certification through the IECEE CB scheme will help to achieve acceptance and recognition by the authorities of up to 49 countries worldwide. While some authorities accept a CB Certificate as evidence of compliance without the need to apply for a specific national certification, others do not. In this case manufacturers can use their CB Certificate to apply for the nationally recognized certification of their target markets, without the need to conduct all of their testing again from scratch. Sometimes national deviations in Standards and regulations may require some additional assessment of a product, but supplemental tests are not always required as many countries use harmonized Standards. Essentially, one CB certificate can be used in applications for national certification to all 49 members – ensuring core testing does not need to be repeated. For more information, refer to: <http://www.iecee.org/>.

Fast Facts: The CB Scheme:

The CB Scheme is run by an international group of certification bodies known as the IECEE. It enables a mutual acceptance of test reports and certificates dealing with the safety of electrical products and components between member bodies. A manufacturer holding a CB Certificate from one member body can obtain the certification Marks of another.

The scheme is based on the use of harmonized IEC Standards and declared national differences.

The CB Scheme is recognized in 49 countries worldwide.

Certification for Canada

Q: How does Certification work in Canada?

Product and Systems Standards in Canada are governed by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). This body is responsible for accrediting test and certification bodies that can test to Canadian standards and they report directly to the Canadian Parliament.

The essential process of product testing and certification for Canada is the same as it is in the US. Products must undergo testing by an independent accredited body to relevant Standards - and on successful completion of those tests and a review of the product technical file, certification can be issued.

The SCC started accrediting certification bodies and test laboratories in the early 1980s and currently 28 organizations carry accreditation – including Intertek in the US and Intertek in Canada, both of whom offer the ETL mark to demonstrate compliance with Canadian Standards.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) of Ontario now requires all manufacturers of electrical products intended for sale in Ontario to be registered with the ESA in addition to having certified products.

Certification for Mexico: NOM

Q: What does the NOM Mark mean?

A: NOM stands for 'Norma Oficial Mexicana' and is the designation the national certification scheme of Mexico - which shows that a product has been found in compliance with accepted national standards, and meets the minimal requirements required for import, sale or distribution. To your distributors, retailers, and customers, the NOM is assurance that the product is compliant with safety standards, having been tested and certified by a third-party organization.



Over 2000 product categories are required by law to carry a NOM mark. Including household refrigerators, freezers, gas heaters, cloth washers, air conditioners; small induction motors and motor operated tools; vertical and submersible water pumps; compact fluorescent lamps and wiring devices; telecom products that are data transmitters (digital, analogical, LAN or WAN systems) and those intended to be connected to the Public Telecom Network (PTN) and designed to process, receive, transmit or convert signals.

All electrical products exported into Mexico must meet NOM requirements as well as mandatory energy efficiency requirements.

Certifications are valid for one year and need to be renewed annually.

Q: Who accredits Intertek to test against Mexican Standards?

A: Intertek has been accredited as a testing and certification body by the EMA and approved as a Certification Body by the General Direction of Standards (DGN) of the Secretaría de Economía in Mexico (Accreditation and Approval code: 61/08). As an accredited certification body, Intertek may test for product safety and issue the NOM Mark for Mexican market entry.

Our Mexico City laboratory is also accredited by Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación.

Q: Does any other company test to NOM standards?

A: Intertek offers local operations in Mexico providing independent testing to NOM Standards as well as final NOM Certification – which is mandatory for more than 2,000 product categories being sold in Mexico. Until recently, the NOM Certification program was solely managed by two Mexican Certification Bodies (ANCE and NYCE). Today the program allows additional Product Certification Organizations that meet strict requirements, such as Intertek, the ability to offer the NOM Certification.

Q: What standards can Intertek test and certify to?

A: Intertek is accredited to test and certify to a range of NOM standards, from small household appliances to commercial IT products, including:

- NOM-001-SCFI-1993 "Electronic Apparatus. Electronic household appliances input by different electric power sources. Safety requirements and testing methods for type approval", based on IEC-60065
- NOM-016-SCF1-1993 "Electronic apparatus for offices input by different electric power sources. Safety requirements and testing methods", based on IEC-60335-1
- NOM-019-SCF1-1998 "Safety of data processing equipment", based on IEC 60950
- NOM-003-SCFI-2000 is the mandatory NOM product safety specification for electrical products. As a specification, it does not include testing requirements, but it does call for the following standards:
 - NMX-J-521/1: Household electrical apparatus and electrical equipment, based on IEC 60335-1-1991-04
 - NMX-J-524/1: Handheld motor operated tools, based on IEC 60745-1-1998-02
 - NMX-J-508: Wiring devices, small interrupters, incandescent-type luminaries, based on IEC 60884-1 and IEC 60669-1
 - NMX-J-515: Industrial control, based on NEMA ICS
- NOM-064-SCFI-2000 (only testing) safety requirements for indoor and outdoor luminaires (HID and Halogen Types).

Q: Who can NOM Mark Certification be issued to?

A: NOM certificates will only be issued to Mexican manufacturers, importers and exporters, or to foreign manufacturers and exporters in countries with which Mexico has a free-trade agreement.

Q: What documentation do I need to apply for a NOM certification?

A:

- The successful test report, product design drawings and specifications including circuit diagrams.

- The user manual in Spanish
- The product rating label in Spanish
- Name and address of the importer or distributor in Mexico.

Q: Can I Get Both a NOM Mark and an ETL Mark on my product?

A: Yes. Intertek provides both Marks and we can test your product for access to multiple markets (Mexico, United States, Canada and others). There are many advantages in using a single testing laboratory for multiple market certifications, but primary among them are time-efficiency and cost-efficiency. Quite simply, combining your projects at Intertek will save your company time and money, and you'll likely be able to deliver your products to market faster – ahead of the competition.

Q: Can I transfer a NOM certification to my local distributor?

A: Unfortunately, no, however a manufacturer that is a NOM holder may extend usage rights of its NOM certification to Mexican distributors, who may then obtain their own NOM certification without additional testing.

Sources

- www.scc.ca
- http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpc/nrtl/faq_nrtl.html
- <http://www.intertek-etlsemko.com>

For more information on specific testing and certification information, please contact Intertek at 1-800-WORLTLAB, email icenter@intertek.com, or visit our website at www.intertek-etlsemko.com.

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