



UL's Sign Certification Program

For more than 50 years, Underwriters Laboratories® (UL) has been the leader in certification of electric signs. From the simple signs of half a century ago to today's sophisticated products using the latest technology and designs, UL is your expert compliance and safety resource.

To help sign manufacturers continue to bring safer products to market, UL is enhancing its electric sign certification program to give our customers more flexible certification options. Developed in a highly collaborative fashion with our customers, code officials, sign industry associations and UL technical experts, our enhanced sign program gives customers the ability to select a certification path that best meets their business and safety needs. Plus, it gives code officials what they need to be confident that they're accepting safe, code-compliant products in their jurisdictions.

New certification program options

In the enhanced electric sign program, each manufacturer will be able to select from one of three paths to achieve UL certification. In this approach, choose from:

- **Option 1** — Customers submit product samples to a UL facility. A UL engineer conducts an evaluation and UL's field representatives make regular follow-up inspections, generally four times per year. Additionally, customers must designate at least one company employee as a manufacturer's technical representative who will complete required online training on UL 48 requirements.
- **Option 2** — This path offers the flexibility of the current general coverage program but adds requirements for:
 - A manufacturer's technical representative who will complete required online training on the UL 48 requirements. UL is currently offering an extended 12-month registration to the UL 48 training that can be used by an unlimited number of sign manufacturer employees.
 - A specific product compliance assessment using defined documentation to determine compliance of each unique sign construction.
 - Additional product documentation describing label usage, unique product identifiers, environmental/electrical ratings, descriptions, parts, markings, installation instructions, and results of product compliance assessments to assist in reviewing compliance by manufacturers and UL field representatives.

For option 2, frequency of program audits is based on production volume as currently used in the existing general coverage program.

- **Option 3** — This path is identical to option 2 with an additional requirement for implementation of a quality management system addressing defined quality elements. In option 3, program audits will involve product, process and system audits at the same frequency as used in the existing general coverage program. The sign manufacturer may be able to reduce the number of factory audits conducted by UL based on demonstrating compliance and control of certification.



For more information call 1.877.854.3577 or visit ul.com/signs

UL orientation for new customers has been implemented. For new customers to Standard UL 48, a field staff employee will spend time at the manufacturer's facility outlining safety processes and answering questions before the first audit occurs. The goal of this session is to lay a solid foundation of knowledge about the electric sign certification process. During the day, our expert field team will provide necessary information about UL 48, the UL Standard for Safety of Electric Signs; explain documentation critical for compliance success; outline the responsibilities and expectations for both UL and customers; and explain label control, variation notices and the variation notice process.

UL and California Energy Commission Title 24

UL and UL Environment, working with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and sign industry representatives, have developed a program to assist sign manufacturers demonstrate compliance with the energy conservation requirements within Title 24, of the California Energy Commission's Building Energy Efficiency Standards. UL will make this program available to all UL48 Electric Sign Listees starting January 3, 2011.

Training delivered at the participant's pace, on the participant's schedule

One of the marquee elements of UL's enhanced sign certification program is the training required under all options. Our new 13-module online training program covers general requirements for supply connections and wiring; enclosures, openings and spacings; grounding and bonding; installation locations, resistance to moisture and drain openings; markings; section signs; and sign components. This training program includes modules specifically addressing requirements for LED, neon, fluorescent, incandescent and HID signs. Because the training program is online, the participant can stop and start at their convenience.

Once the training participant has completed the online training program, they will be able to define the UL sign certification process; identify the key documents used in the UL sign certification program; apply basic safety requirements to sign manufacturing; and recognize specific requirements applying to different types of signs.

Curriculum course topics

- UL 48 Electric Signs Requirements Overview
- General Requirements for Supply Connections and Wiring
- General Requirements for Enclosures, Openings and Spacings
- General Requirements for Grounding and Bonding
- General Requirements for Specific Installation Locations, Resistance to Moisture and Drain Openings
- General Requirements for Marking
- General Requirements for Section Signs
- General Requirements for Sign Components
- LED Sign Requirements
- Neon Sign Requirements
- Fluorescent Sign Requirements
- Incandescent Sign Requirements
- HID Sign Requirements

Implementation date for the enhanced sign certification program

Although an effective date has not yet been established, we expect to begin the transition to our enhanced program during second quarter of 2010. UL anticipates full implementation within 18 months from the start of the transition.

Sign manufacturers can contact UL University at 1.888.503.5536 or visit www.uluniversity.com to learn more and register for the course.

Enter promo code SIGN48 in the discount code field during the registration process to receive a 50% discount.

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