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Editor - Roland Asp, CET

Issue # 446

August 25, 2020

NFSA Wants To Hear From YOU!

I'm happy to share again with readers of *Tech Notes* this week the member survey that will help us better meet your needs and serve you in ways that make a difference.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. We value your input and look forward to learning your latest thoughts on our service to you. It's exciting to think about the opportunities ahead for the NFSA and our members.

In service,
Shane Ray, President

[Click To Participate in Our Survey](#)

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What is in a Listing?

Is your product UL Listed or Certified? Is it FM Approved? Maybe it is UL Classified or has the ICC-ES® mark. There are a variety of different organizations and certification terminology used in the industry, but in the end it is up to the AHJ to pass judgement on the merit of each products listing as it applies to the requirements prescribed in NFPA 13. This issue of TechNotes has been written by Kevin Hall, P.E., Manager of Engineering Research.

When it comes to a listed product, a lot of people in the industry get hung up on the terminology used by the organization providing the listing. UL has recently changed their terminology regarding product listings.

Upcoming Technical Tuesdays

Coming Up in September

Seismic Protection for Dummies

Sizing Fire Pumps for Sprinkler Contractors

11 Steps of Hydraulic Calculation Review

NFSA is offering all three of the above Tech Tuesdays **free** to members next month! More details coming soon!

New EOD Process

Starting on July 15, 2020, the NFSA has a new EOD process where members can submit questions, track the progress, and view their EOD cases. The step by step process is detailed in [TechNotes #442](#).

Moving forward products may be identified as being "UL Certified" rather than "UL Listed," and Factory Mutual had historically designated the products that they test as "approved." How these entities decide to designate listed products is their prerogative - the only term that really matters is the definition of "listed" in the 2019 edition of NFPA 13 (and other NFPA standards):

3.2.3* Listed. *Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.*

The application of the definition of "listed" is often misinterpreted, but it can be broken down into six identifiable requirements:

1. Equipment, materials, or services must be included in a list.

This is the impetus for the term "listed." It refers to the actual list of products that are maintained by an organization.

2. List needs to be published by an organization concerned with evaluation of products or services

A common misconception with this provision is that the organization is required to be a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). This is not the case. NFPA publishes standards intended for international use. If a NRTL was required, the application of the standards would be limited to the United States and a few other nations that have this certification.

3. Listing states that the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards

The generally accepted product and service standards within the United States include those developed by UL LLC and FM Approvals, but those are not the only entities that develop product and service standards. The International Standards Organization (ISO) provides international standards on a variety of technologies and can be used by an organization to provide a listing. Other standards may be appropriate if developed by a reputable organization and they follow a national accrediting procedure. One example of an accrediting body is the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) who provides guidelines to developing consensus standards in the United States and the European



Committee for Standardization who oversees the development of standards for European members.

4. Listing states that the equipment, material, or service has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose

A prime example of products listed for a specific purpose is the UL Classified Mark. This designation specifies that a product has met certain requirements of a published standard - but not all and it is typically paired with an acceptable application or purpose as required by the statement above. Either this requirement or the third requirement listed above needs to be met.

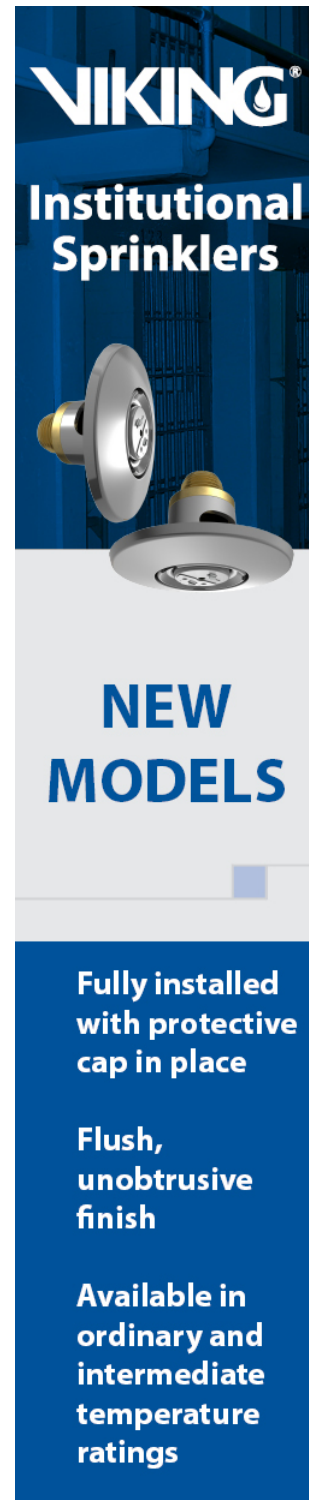
5. Maintain periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services

It is not the organization's only responsibility to initially determine that a product meets the applicable safety requirements. This provision requires periodic inspections of the production process to ensure that products are being manufactured in accordance with the published standards and that no corners are being cut in the process.

6. Published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction

While this requirement is one of the first discussed in the definition, it is the last one discussed in this article. This is because in the end, the AHJ has the final say on whether or not they deem an organization providing a listing to be acceptable. This should not be an arbitrary decision, and each element of the requirements for listing should be considered in making this determination.

When a product is required to be listed, it is not referring to a listing by a specific organization such UL, but it does have to be listed per the definition in NFPA 13 and other NFPA standards. Where something is required to be approved, it must be acceptable to the AHJ, not FM Global. In the end, there is more to a listing than being included on a list of products and as long as the requirements reviewed in this issue of TechNotes are followed, a product should be designated as "listed."



The advertisement features a blue background with a grid pattern. At the top, the VIKING logo is displayed in white with a registered trademark symbol. Below the logo, the text 'Institutional Sprinklers' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Two silver and gold sprinkler heads are shown: one is a side view of a ceiling-mounted head, and the other is a top-down view of a recessed head. Below the images, the words 'NEW MODELS' are written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom, three lines of text are presented in a white, sans-serif font against the blue background: 'Fully installed with protective cap in place', 'Flush, unobtrusive finish', and 'Available in ordinary and intermediate temperature ratings'.

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Available in ordinary and intermediate temperature ratings

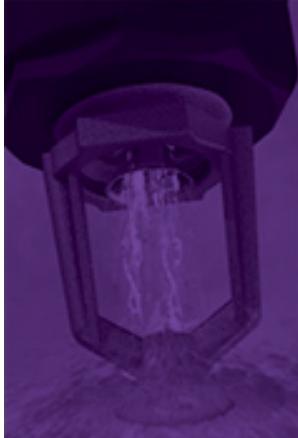
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breakthrough
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