

Questions and Answers About the UL Mark for Canada

In Canada, the United States and around the world, the mission of Underwriters Laboratories® (UL) is public safety. We test products because we're concerned about your safety. Using common sense, following product instructions and selecting products that bear the UL Mark for Canada can help keep you safe.

What does the UL Mark for Canada mean?

You've seen the familiar Mark of Underwriters Laboratories on dozens of appliances and other products in your home. A UL Mark for Canada on a product means that samples of the product have been evaluated to Canadian standards and codes by UL.

In 2007 ...

- 21 billion UL Marks appeared on products
- UL conducted 98,454 evaluations of more than 19,450 different types of products
- 62 facilities worldwide constitute the UL family of companies

What if products have been evaluated to the safety standards of both Canada and the United States?

The UL Mark for Canada may appear next to the traditional UL Mark, which represents evaluations to nationally recognized safety standards of the United States. When both Marks appear on the product, samples of the product were determined to meet the national safety requirements of both countries and the product is intended for sale in both countries.

UL also has a single Mark that indicates compliance with both Canadian and U.S. requirements. The Canada/U.S. UL Mark is optional, so manufacturers of products currently certified by UL for both countries may continue to use separate Marks for Canada and the United States.

What organization is behind the UL Mark for Canada?

The UL Mark for Canada represents Underwriters Laboratories, an independent, not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization that was formed in 1894 to help reduce injury, loss of life and property damage. To do that, UL scientifically investigates and tests thousands of types of products, materials, constructions and systems to evaluate their electrical, fire and injury risks; their burglary or fire resistance; or their ability to detect, control or limit fires. Behind the UL Mark is a global team of more than 6,600 engineers, scientists, chemists, technicians, field representatives and support staff—a team dedicated to public safety.

UL is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), the Canadian national organization responsible for accrediting product testing and certification organizations for Canada. The UL Mark for Canada is officially accepted by authorities in all provinces and territories of Canada. UL is an integral part of the Canadian safety system.

More than 21 billion products manufactured all over the globe carry the Mark of Underwriters Laboratories.

Why is the UL Mark so important?

Third-party product safety certification is important. An independent, technically expert organization that doesn't have a financial interest in the product's ultimate profitability is needed to determine whether reasonably foreseeable risks associated with the product's use have been eliminated or minimized. UL's not-for-profit, independent status



allows it to be unbiased in determining whether or not a product meets recognized safety standards. All UL Marks—whether for Canada, the United States or any other country—are backed by the unquestionable integrity of UL.

What happens after a product gets the UL Mark for Canada? Is that the end of UL's involvement?

Once the product earns the UL Mark for Canada, UL doesn't forget about it. UL field representatives located worldwide make periodic visits to each manufacturer's production facility to determine that products continue to meet Canadian safety requirements. A product must continue to meet Canadian safety requirements to bear the UL Mark for Canada. If a UL field representative determines that a product no longer complies, the manufacturer is required to remove the UL Mark for Canada from the product. This process helps protect the integrity of the UL Mark for Canada. In fact, this rigorous program is part of what makes UL unique.

Who uses UL's services?

Many Canadian product standards are mandated by law, either federal or provincial. But use of UL or any other particular certification organization is not required by law. Manufacturers all over the world choose to submit products to UL for testing and safety certification. These manufacturers are concerned with the safety of their products, and they know safety-conscious and concerned consumers look for a UL Mark on the products they buy. Manufacturers come to UL from all over the world because no other testing organization provides so many unique services, offers such thorough evaluations, and is so widely sought after and accepted.

Is the UL Mark all there is to product safety?

You must do your part, too. UL helps reduce the potential risks of accidents by investigating products for safety and making factory follow-up visits before these products reach you. But any product can be unsafe if it's abused or used contrary to a manufacturer's instructions. Many product-related injuries are caused by carelessness or improper usage. So be sure to thoroughly read the care and maintenance instructions and warnings and follow them carefully. Be alert when using any product. Use common sense to help keep your family safe.

What does the UL Mark for Canada look like? Where will it be seen?

Look for the UL Mark for Canada on the product itself, not just the packaging. The UL Mark for Canada must be on the product to be UL certified for Canada. Be sure to check for it before purchasing new products.

