

Product Safety Testing and Certification



Intertek's Product Safety Testing Services

When it comes time to testing products to North American product safety standards, you may be led to believe that the choices are limited to certain marks, such as the UL Listed Mark. In reality, there are others equally recognized and accepted. In fact, Intertek's ETL Listed Mark is North America's fastest-growing safety certification mark with more than 50,000 listed product types and millions of products sold across North America each year.

The ETL Listed Mark shows that a product has been independently tested by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). That it has met the minimum requirements of widely accepted product safety standards. And that the manufacturer has agreed to periodic follow-up inspections to verify continued compliance. What's more, the ETL Listed Mark is recognized and readily accepted by manufacturers, retailers, distributors and authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs).



What It Means To Be An NRTL

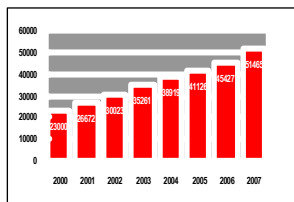
The NRTL program is part of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's directive to ensure products are safe for use in the U.S. workplace. It recognizes the capabilities of private-sector organizations to determine whether a specific product meets safety standards developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and others. As an OSHA-recognized NRTL, Intertek has the authority to provide independent evaluation, product safety testing and certification for electrically operated or gas- or oil-fired products, and to include those that successfully complete testing in our *Directory of Listed Products*, which is available online at www.intertek-etlsemko.com.



Not Just A Testing Lab, But A Testing Partner

If any OSHA-recognized NRTL can provide product safety testing and certification, what's the real difference between the ETL Listed Mark and other safety certification marks? The difference is Intertek's speed, responsiveness, and flexibility in creating a test program that meets manufacturers' deadlines, not the laboratories' schedule.

True to our roots, which can be traced back to the laboratory founded by Thomas Edison in 1896, Intertek becomes your testing partner. We provide experienced, industry-specific testing experts who understand your products, markets and objectives, and who bring insight and greater efficiency to the testing process. We actively participate in many industry organizations and committees — including the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI)—to stay abreast of ever-changing testing standards and practices. And we share this insight and knowledge with you. Just as important, we answer to your needs and your schedules through a global network of more than 60 state-of-the-art laboratories that offers fast, flexible testing no matter where you're located. So you can bring your products to market more quickly, more smoothly and more cost effectively than ever before.



Growth of the ETL Mark

ETL Listed Mark Frequently Asked Questions



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

Both 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 difference between the Marks is in the service, and services, of the testing laboratory behind them.

What is an NRTL?

A Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) is an independent laboratory recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to test products to the specifications of applicable product safety standards – such as those from Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and other standards-writing bodies. An NRTL's function is to provide an independent evaluation, testing, and certification of any electrically operated or gas- and oil-fired product.

What are the specifics of the NRTL program?

The NRTL program is part of OSHA's Directorate of Technical Support. As part of OSHA's directive to ensure that products are safe for use in the U.S. workplace, the NRTL program recognizes the capabilities of private sector organizations to determine if specific products meet consensus safety standards. OSHA safety standards are U.S. law and can be found in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). More specifically, the provisions for NRTL certification can be found within Part 1910 of the CFR (29 CFR Part 1910).



Are manufacturers required to use UL for their compliance testing?

No. In fact, this misconception has misled many to believe that they don't have a choice in third-party testing partners. The only major requirement is that the laboratory performing the testing is an OSHA-recognized NRTL. Consequently, our ETL Listed Mark serves as an indicator of compliance with applicable product safety standards.

What products bear the ETL Listed Mark?

Intertek provides product safety testing and certification for a wide range of industries. Today, more than 50,000 products from HVAC to medical to life safety/security to industrial machinery and more bear the ETL Listed Mark. Global Fortune 100 companies including General Electric, HP, Hitachi, IBM, LG, Panasonic, Samsung, Siemens, and Sony rely on Intertek and the ETL Listed Mark to get products tested, certified, and delivered to market faster.



Do retailers accept products bearing the ETL Listed Mark?

The ETL Listed Mark is accepted at all major North American retailers, including The Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Target, JCPenney, Sears, Costco and many others. Retail buyers today recognize ETL and accept products that bear the Mark.

Do local inspectors know the ETL Listed Mark?

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.