

Safeguarding Classified Information

Frequently Asked Questions regarding
ISOO Notice 2012-03



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Intertek has made crucial strides throughout the industry in securing your right to choose a certification partner. A recent announcement by the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) has lifted past regulations to now allow all OSHA Approved NRTLs to certify products or alarm systems used to safeguard classified Federal documents.

Intertek is breaking down industry barriers one by one to help clear a path for your next innovation.

What restrictive language did the ISOO Notice change?

ISOO Notice 2012-03 lifted the restrictive language in the NISPOM (National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual) that previously allowed only UL-Listed products or alarm service companies for use in the safeguarding of classified national security information (per 32 CFR 2001.43(b), requirements for physical protection).

Previously, any alarm installation operating under NISPOM was required to only use UL-Listed products or alarm service companies because of the way the document was worded. Now, with the restriction lifted, these same installations can utilize products and alarm service companies that are listed by other NRTLs (like Intertek), and not just UL.

Trusted Leaders in Life Safety and Security:

- AHJs and Alarm Companies utilize our innovative online portal *AlarmDIRECT* to speed the transfer of alarm certifications, improve communication and maximize transparency.
- Intertek operates in more than 100 countries with over 30,000 employees across 1,000 laboratories and offices.



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What implications does this have on the market?

The removal of this restrictive language has opened up the market to give those companies who have a role in protecting classified documents a choice in who they partner with for certification.

Now, manufacturers and alarm service companies are not forced into using UL like they were in the past. By granting companies greater choice in selecting a certification partner, competition between NRTLs will increase and ultimately benefit the market through customer service and innovation.

Do I still have to use UL listed products or alarm service companies for safeguarding national security information?

No, not any more. As of April 2012, ISOO Notice 2012-03 lifted the restrictive NISPOM language that previously required the use of only UL listed products or alarm service companies. Now, any qualified NRTL who services this market has the ability to list products or alarm service companies.

For clarification, the ISOO notice does not change any standards that either products or alarm service companies are tested to. It simply changes the number of NRTLs that can test to these standards.

How is Intertek partnering with the industry to breaking down barriers?

Although the lifting of the restrictive language was a relatively minor verbiage change, it has significant implications to the market. Customers now have a choice in their certification partner – something they did not previously have.

This newfound choice will increase competitive forces in the market, which ultimately benefits both the customer and the industry as a whole. As a proud partner to the industry and a leader in innovation, Intertek is excited to now be entering this market and delivering choice.

- Tom Connaughton, Global Director of Intertek's Life Safety & Security Services

What is an NRTL (Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory)?

A NRTL is an independent laboratory recognized by OSHA to test products to the specifications of applicable product safety standards, such as ANSI, UL, or NFPA standards. An NRTL's function is to provide independent evaluation, testing, and certification of any electrically operated or gas- and oil-fired product. Each OSHA approved NRTL has met the necessary qualifications specified for the program.

There are a wide variety of NRTLs recognized in North America, such as Intertek, CSA, TUV, FM Global, and UL.

To learn more about NRTLs, you can visit www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl

What are the differences between NRTLs?

The main difference between NRTLs is seen in the service that they offer their direct clients. This comes in many forms and can range from the turnaround time it takes to certify a product, to the level of customer service that is offered.

End users of certified products or services should feel confident when they see any number of given NRTLs marks – from the ETL (Intertek) mark, to the CSA mark, to the UL mark – knowing that the mark indicates that the product or service went through stringent testing standards before receiving certification.

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To find an office or laboratory in a particular country, please visit www.intertek.com/contact.