1) What is a NRTL?
A Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) is an organization that Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) acknowledge as meeting requirements of construction and general industry OSHA electrical standards. This means, in part, that an organization must have the necessary capability both as a product safety testing laboratory and as a product certification body to receive OSHA recognition as an NRTL.

2) Is the ETL mark equivalent to the UL mark?
Intertek and UL are recognized NRTLs and are able to test and certify products under the NRTL program. Intertek’s ETL Mark and UL’s Mark signify that products have complied with requirements of product safety test standards and are recognized by the United States electrical inspectors and specifically the City of Chicago.

3) Do other markets outside of Chicago require this?
Yes, there are many markets outside of Chicago that require end product evaluation and labeling.

4) All of the components utilized in my sit/stand work station are labeled as well as listed/recognized. Does this meet the requirements outlined the Chicago memorandum?
No, you have not met the requirements by labeling and listing all of the components in your work station. The final assembly end product must be evaluated for compliance.

5) I only sell the base or work surface do I need to comply?
No, as the seller of the base or work surface, you do not need to comply with the Chicago memorandum. It is the final end product that must comply and be labeled. However, we would advise you to work with the supplier or suppliers of the additional components create a plan to have the end product labeled prior to shipment.
6) I have already shipped samples to the installation site but the final assembly was not labeled what can I do?

Intertek can conduct a field evaluation of the products once they are installed at the end location site. This will satisfy the requirement that the assembly of the product is labeled.

7) How long does the certification process take?

If all product information is submitted with the sample, the certification process averages around 3 weeks, barring any non-compliance.

8) How many samples do I need to submit?

At least 1 operational sample is required for testing and evaluation.

9) What is the difference between LISTED and RECOGNIZED?

A listed component/product fully complies with the standard to which it was evaluated against. A recognized component is not completely assessed for compliance. The areas that are not investigated are covered under Conditions of Acceptability COAs.

10) I buy my product from company XYZ and I want to get it listed, can I do that?

Any company can be the applicant on listing a product; however inspection of the manufacturing site will take place wherever the ETL label is applied. If you are purchasing a product from a third party and applying for certification, it is best to have an arrangement in place for the pending audit of your supplier’s location.

11) How long has the ETL Listed Mark existed?

ETL has a long history that began in 1896 when Thomas Alva Edison founded the Lamp Testing Bureau within his Edison Illuminating Companies. It was renamed Electrical Testing Laboratories (ETL) in 1904. Edison’s vision was to provide assurance to consumers through product performance and safety testing. When manufacturers apply Intertek’s ETL Listed Mark to their products, the letters “ETL” carry with them a long history of innovation, influence, and independence.

For more information please contact 1-800-WORLDLAB (967-5352), furniture@intertek.com or www.intertek.com/furniture.