The Authority Having Jurisdiction’s (AHJ’s) Guide to North American Product Certification.

For more information about Intertek’s testing and certification capabilities, please contact Intertek at 1-800-WORLDLAB, email icenter@intertek.com, or visit our website at www.intertek.com.

For information about specific product certifications, call 1-800-DIR-LIST, or visit our online product directories at www.intertek.com/directories.
Introduction

Understanding the process of - and the players in - product certification

After a manufacturer has designed its electrical, electronic, or gas/oil-fired product in accordance with published standards and the product has been installed in the field, your job is to ensure it has been properly certified to keep people and property safe from harm. In communities across North America and countries worldwide, that role is as important (or even more so) as the product design itself.

This white paper provides a collection of frequently asked questions about North American product testing and certification that will help you better understand the process and the certifications. It will also hopefully enable AHJs of varying experience levels to be more efficient – and effective – in their jobs.

Intertek has worked with manufacturers for over a century in meeting national and international electrical requirements, dating back to one of our company founders – Thomas Edison. We’ve also partnered with AHJs for decades in assisting them with fast, accurate and reliable information on product certifications. Our goal is help ensure alignment between manufacturers and AHJs – to help them obtain the certifications you require when their products are installed in your jurisdictions.

OSHA and the NRTL Program

U.S. Department of Labor: Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) OSHA Safety Regulations' are enforced by U.S. law and contain requirements for "approval" (i.e., testing and certification) of certain products by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). These requirements help protect workers by ensuring products are designed for safe use in the workplace. An NRTL generally partners directly with the manufacturer to test and certify equipment and components.

Q: What is an NRTL? What is the significance of OSHA recognition? A: In North America, manufacturers must depend on an independent third-party organization to provide safety certification for their electrical components. A Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory is recognized by OSHA and functions to provide independent evaluation, testing, and certification of any electrically operated or gas- and oil-fired product based on product safety standards developed by U.S. consensus standards organizations such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

An NRTL has demonstrated compliance to the legal requirements in 29 CFR 1910.7. These requirements relate to the procedures in place for testing and certifying specific
types of products for workplace safety, including capability, control programs, complete independence, and reporting and complaint handling. This means that an organization must maintain the necessary capabilities – both as a product safety testing laboratory and as a product certification body – in order to receive OSHA recognition as an NRTL.

The first NRTL was identified in the early 1970s but additional laboratories were not recognized until 1988, when a legal case brought by a U.S. testing house ensured a set of criteria was created, whereby laboratories could demonstrate their suitability to be recognized as an NRTL. Today, manufacturers have a choice when it comes to selecting a third-party NRTL to best meet their needs.

**Q: What other requirements does OSHA regulate?**

A: OSHA Safety Regulations contain general requirements for workplace safety. Operations subject to OSHA’s requirements must demonstrate compliance to the provisions of applicable Safety Standards. Many of these requirements pertain to equipment for which OSHA does not require certification by an NRTL.

**Q: What process does OSHA follow in recognizing an NRTL?**

A: When an organization submits its application materials, OSHA staff conducts a thorough review to verify completeness and adequacy. For applications from foreign-based organizations, The Department of Commerce must consider the "reciprocity" of the foreign government. When the NRTL Program staff determines that the application is complete and adequate, they perform an in-depth on-site review of the applicant’s organization, programs, and facilities. The staff then prepares a report and recommendation on the review.

Based mainly on the application review and on-site review report, OSHA makes a "preliminary finding" on the application. The Agency publishes a notice of this finding in the Federal Register to allow for public comment. Following a 30-day comment period, OSHA publishes a second notice of its final decision and response to any comments received, making the recognition official for successful applicants (or denying the recognition for unsuccessful applicants). After publication of the decision, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health (the head of OSHA) sends a formal notification to the applicant. This notification sets forth the specific scope and other terms of the recognition, which remains in effect for a five-year period. At the end of the initial period, the NRTL must apply for renewal of recognition.

**Q: What is an NRTL’s scope of recognition?**

A: The specific safety test standards for which an NRTL applies for recognition, and that OSHA approves, define only one area of its scope of recognition. The other areas are the specific testing locations (sites) and the supplemental programs that OSHA has recognized for the NRTL.
After the initial recognition, an NRTL may seek to expand its scope of recognition by requesting recognition for additional test standards, for example. An NRTL is only recognized by OSHA Safety Regulations for specific products within its scope of recognition.

**Q: What does it mean when OSHA "accepts" a product certified by an NRTL?**

A: OSHA’s acceptance of a product certified by an NRTL generally occurs during the workplace inspection, performed by OSHA compliance officers. However, this acceptance does not mean the product is "OSHA-approved." It means that the NRTL has tested and certified the product to demonstrate conformance to specific product safety test standard(s). It also means the employer has complied with (at least) one requirement in OSHA Safety Regulations.

**Q: What product safety test standards can an NRTL use in certifying products?**

A: An NRTL must use "appropriate" product safety test standards in certifying products for workplace safety. These test standards contain technical requirements that products must meet for workplace safety. OSHA does not develop these test standards but has defined the specific requirements of an appropriate test standard within its regulated scope.

Many of these standards are published by organizations such as the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and ASTM International (American Society for Testing & Materials). The product safety test standards recognized for an NRTL are consistent with OSHA Safety Regulations, which are U.S. law.

**Q: Are all OSHA-approved NRTLs equal in ability?**

A: Given that each NRTL has met the same requirements for recognition, OSHA considers all NRTLs that have been recognized for the same product safety test standard to be equivalent in their capability to certify to that standard. For example, any NRTL recognized for ANSI Z21.17, a test standard for gas unit heaters, can certify such units for a manufacturer. However, even if recognized for the same test standards, each organization has different abilities depending on its experience, personnel, facilities and equipment, testing methods, and other aspects of its operations. OSHA only recognizes organizations as NRTLs and, under its regulations, cannot dictate how an NRTL operates.

**Q: How do I know whether an NRTL has certified a product?**

A: Each NRTL designates product conformance to the required product safety test standards using its own unique, registered certification mark(s). Each NRTL must register its certification mark(s). In the U.S., this is done with the US Patent and Trademark Office. Samples of these are Intertek’s ETL Listed Mark, or Underwriters Laboratories’ UL Mark.
The ETL Listed Mark. A product bearing the ETL Listed Mark with the “US” identifier at the 4 o’clock position has been tested and deemed compliant to U.S. product safety standards only. An ETL Listed Mark with a “C” identifier at the 8 o’clock position means the product bearing it complies with Canadian product safety standards only. And an ETL Listed Mark with both “US” and “C” identifiers, at the 4 o’clock and 8 o’clock positions respectively, signifies that the product bearing the mark complies with both U.S. and Canadian product safety standards.

The manufacturer physically places these marks on those products that the NRTL has certified as meeting the requirements of the test standard. In accordance with OSHA policy, an NRTL must ensure that its registered certification mark is applied to each unit, or if not feasible, to the smallest package of the product the NRTL certifies.

Q: Does OSHA accept the "CE" mark or accept equipment certified by foreign testing organizations?
A: The CE mark is unrelated to the requirements for product safety in the U.S. It is a generic mark used in the European Union (EU) to indicate that a manufacturer has declared conformance to EU product safety requirements. In the U.S., OSHA's NRTL requirements dictate that the product must bear the specific mark of an NRTL recognized to test and certify these types of products.

Q: Can an NRTL use others to do part of the work necessary in testing and certifying products? vii
A: OSHA permits an NRTL to use outside parties to perform certain activities involved in testing and evaluating products, provided that the NRTL has met certain criteria. OSHA has broadly grouped these activities into nine "programs" and included the description and criteria for each program in a Federal Register notice, published on March 9, 1995 (60 FR 12980).

The first or basic program stipulates that the NRTL that certifies the product must perform all product testing and evaluation independently. An NRTL's initial recognition will always include this first program. The other eight, called "supplemental programs," involve the NRTL's acceptance of testing and evaluation data or services from outside parties. An NRTL must apply for recognition to use any of the supplemental programs. OSHA will grant the request if the NRTL has met the criteria for the specific program.

OSHA has no authority over whether or not an NRTL accepts the product testing, certifications or approvals of another NRTL. It is strictly a business decision made by each NRTL to determine if they accept the work output of another – often competing – NRTL.

Q: Does OSHA subsidize or indemnify NRTLs?
A: NRTLs are private organizations or companies that operate businesses. They are not financially or otherwise supported, subsidized, or indemnified by the Government in their
capacity as an NRTL. These organizations maintain the risks and liabilities for their actions when testing and certifying products.

**Q: How does OSHA enforce requirements for NRTL approval?**

A: By recognizing a testing laboratory as an NRTL, OSHA is relying on the qualified organization to test and certify the safety of products used in the workplace. OSHA will enforce requirements for these NRTLs by conducting annual audits to verify the quality of its operation continues to meet requirements for recognition. OSHA compliance officers will also perform workplace inspections to review specific products and check whether they contain the certification mark of an NRTL.

**Q: Does OSHA have alternatives to NRTL "approval" of products?**

A: OSHA Safety Regulations for electrical equipment define the word "approved" as acceptable to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. In addition, equipment is acceptable under this subpart if it is:

1) Certified by an NRTL
2) Equipment that is inspected by another Federal agency, or by a state, municipal, or local authority
3) Custom-made equipment

**Q: Do OSHA requirements supersede any code or other requirements imposed by local code authorities?**

A: Employers must comply with OSHA requirements applicable to their operations. These requirements are U.S. law and prevail over any conflict with local (including state) requirements. However, many OSHA requirements and local code requirements are based on the same national consensus standards, which mitigate potential conflicts.

In addition, requirements that local code authorities may impose on products are primarily installation or "field labeling" requirements, whereas OSHA’s requirement for NRTL approval primarily affect the manufacturing of products. While an NRTL certifies products for a manufacturer, this certification may also meet requirements of local code authorities, who determine the nature and extent of their acceptance of an NRTL’s certification.

**Q: Do state OSHA programs have to accept products certified by an NRTL?**

A: Many states have received approval by OSHA to operate an Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) program in their state. This transfers the responsibility for enforcing OSHA’s requirements from the Federal Government to the individual state. Such states must adopt standards that are at least as effective as the Federal standards. While many do adopt Federal standards verbatim, a number have what they consider to be more effective standards. However, OSHA reviews such additional requirements to determine that there
is a compelling local interest for them and that they do not pose a burden on interstate commerce.

For workplaces under its jurisdiction, a state OSH program must accept products properly certified by an NRTL where the state standards are the same as Federal standards. If a state were to adopt its own NRTL program, the recognition it grants to its NRTLs would only apply within that state.

Choosing an NRTL

**Q: Where can I view the current list of NRTLs?**
www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/index.html

**Q: How does a manufacturer choose which NRTL to use?**
A: When choosing a testing and certification partner, the manufacturer should make a list of key purchasing drivers and use this as a guide.

While keeping production costs down is vital, the companies offering the cheapest rates aren’t necessarily the best value. In many cases, the following benefits offer far more value than low costs alone.

- **Responsiveness** – fast, quality service that improves time to market
- **Cost Effective Solutions**
- **Product Portfolio** – a wide range of certification/approval marks
- **Service Portfolio** – particular areas of industry or product expertise
- **Geographic Access** – certifications/approvals that yield maximum market access
- **Reputation**
- **Local Service Offerings** – assistance on global and local manufacturing levels

Product Marking

**Q: What does a safety mark tell me?**
A: Safety marks such as ETL, UL, and CSA signify that the product has been tested to and found in compliance with national safety standards by a qualified, independent testing laboratory. The presence of a safety mark also means the product is ‘listed’ in the directory
of the laboratory that verified the product’s compliance and is part of an on-going, follow-up program that ensures the product’s continued compliance during manufacturing.

**Q: What is the difference between the UL, CSA, and ETL Listed Marks?**

A: All of these 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 differences between the Marks are in the service, and services, of the testing laboratory behind them.

**Q: Aren't manufacturers required to use UL for their compliance testing? Isn't this mandated by the standards themselves?**

A: The simple answer to both questions is "no." In fact, this misconception has misled many manufacturers to believe that they don't have a choice in their third-party testing partner. To satisfy the prerequisite of having your products tested by an independent organization, the true legal requirement is that the laboratory which performs the testing be a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) recognized by OSHA.

Intertek is an NRTL and is recognized worldwide as a competent testing, inspection, and certification organization, and our ETL Listed Mark serves as proof of product compliance with U.S. standards. We test to UL standards, among others, and our experts sit on many committees involved with the development of industry standards.

**Q: Who looks for safety marks?**

A: In addition to product vendors, safety-minded facilities managers, and purchasing agents who specify safety certified products, a variety of people and/or organizations expect to see safety certification marks on products. This includes city code officials, OSHA officials, and electrical inspectors who adhere to the National Electric Code (NEC). Given that jurisdictional authority expectations and requirements vary from city to city and region to region, a nationally recognized safety mark is beneficial to device manufacturers and healthcare facilities throughout North America.

**Q: What does the ETL Listed Mark mean when displayed on my product?**

A: In short, the ETL Listed Mark indicates that your product has been tested by Intertek, found in compliance with accepted national standards, and meets the minimal requirements required for sale or distribution. To your distributors, retailers, and customers, the ETL Mark is assurance that the product is compliant with safety standards, having been tested and certified by a third-party organization.

**Q: Will retailers accept my product if it bears the ETL Listed Mark?**

A: Yes. Since the ETL Listed Mark is an accepted and recognized demonstration of product compliance, and Intertek is recognized as an NRTL, there is no reason why retailers should not accept products bearing the ETL Listed Mark. Any indication otherwise
by an individual retailer or distributor likely stems from misinformation in the marketplace—the same misinformation that has led some manufacturers to believe they don't have a choice in their third-party testing organization. Intertek has taken a leadership role in educating the industry on the legal requirements behind regulatory compliance, and we continue to make great strides in helping those manufacturers and retailers who remain confused to better understand their true responsibilities to the marketplace and the competitive advantages we offer.

**Q: What products bear the ETL Listed Mark?**

A: Intertek provides a broad range of electrical, electronic gas and oil-fired product safety testing and certification services for companies spanning multiple industries, markets, and applications. As such, the products bearing our ETL Listed Mark run the gamut from HVAC equipment to medical devices; automotive products; industrial machinery; life safety products; telecom; IT; wireless devices, and more. For a comprehensive look at which products bear our mark (over 85,000 listed products), we invite you to look at our Directory of Listed Products, which provides details on every product tested and certified by Intertek.

**Q: Is the ETL Listed Mark acceptable in my jurisdiction?**

A: 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 can recognize, acknowledge, and accept the mark as proof of product compliance.

**Q: How does a manufacturer maintain its Certification?**

A: The issuing certification body will conduct random checks on products to ensure continued compliance and typically ask to inspect the manufacturing site on an annual, semi-annual, or quarterly basis to monitor the process – depending on the product involved.

Occasionally, the standards that govern full product certification/approval change or expire, and therefore must be reviewed to ensure compliance with the revised/ new standard. This may be as simple as updating paperwork where the technical file is reviewed, but sometimes additional testing is required.

Another variable to continued certification/approval is critical (sometimes called *listed*) material or component substitution. If these are provided to the certification body, the substitutions can be checked to ensure that the safety of the product has not been compromised. If the certification body is not notified of such changes the certification/approval can potentially become invalid and the product *de-listed*. 

[www.intermek.com](http://www.intermek.com)
**Q: Does product certification help defend a company against product liability concerns?**

A: Yes. Should the worst happen and a product unexpectedly malfunctions – and accusations of product liability become levied against the manufacturer – product certification provides compelling evidence that you took due care to produce a reliable product as prescribed by applicable standards. The manufacturer will have validation by a recognized expert in the product evaluation field, independent and accredited testing and certification provider.

**Q: Can certification help minimize the chances of a product being recalled?**

A: Yes. The certification process for a product is a stringent one. It can help to identify potential issues with a product before it goes on sale as every aspect of the product is assessed - from its design, to its likely function, and even the clarity and accuracy of the user instructions. Intertek also offers a wide range of performance testing services that can help determine potential failure points early on, as well as its proprietary Quality & Performance Mark which helps manufacturers prove a product's quality, rather than simply promise it.

**Q: The testing and certification process seems very involved? Can a manufacturer make it shorter and less painful?**

A: A testing and certification laboratory will work with manufacturers to make the process as efficient as possible – but every product is different and some certifications simply take longer than others. However there are some common-sense tips to optimize testing and certification:

- Involve the testing and certification partner in the product design phase to help point out potential non-conformities early. A design review can help save significant time and money in potential re-testing and re-design later on.

- Where possible, “design for compliance” using the latest version of the appropriate product Standard as a guide.

- Submit families of products together to reduce test costs and potential test time.

- Consider scheduling EMC and Safety testing at the same time. The testing and certification laboratory can help plan this to reduce time and costs.

- Check what paperwork the laboratory needs to process the project and compile it as soon as possible. This too can greatly shorten overall project turnaround and help get products to market faster.

- Work with the testing and certification laboratory to identify which tests can be done for the greatest number of markets. Learning which test can be combined or how close a product is to meeting requirements for additional markets can also save
significant time and money and greatly increase a manufacturer’s revenue potential.

Other Marks

Q: Are there separate product certification marks for environmental conformity, energy efficiency, performance, etc?

A: There are dozens of certification/approval marks available to manufacturers. Some of these are product specific – but almost all deal with a notable aspect of the product, such as its safety, energy efficiency or materials composition. The types of testing that could result in certification include:

Performance

Some manufacturers use voluntary Marks to additionally highlight aspects of product performance or quality. This helps further differentiate their products in the marketplace. The tests required for such marks are usually conducted against a baseline of recognized criteria for a product.

Materials

Most markets now have in place legislation to minimize or eliminate hazardous substances that go into the making of a product. This is to reduce the amount of hazardous material that will end up in landfill at the end of product life which could contaminate land and potentially pose a hazard to people and animals.

Many certification bodies can measure the levels of hazardous substance in products and certify materials compliance with legislation. Some schemes offer product Marks and some offer documentation that can be used for port access and technical files.

Energy Efficiency

ENERGY STAR® is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

In 1992 the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced ENERGY STAR as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Computers and monitors were the first labeled products. Qualified energy efficiency ratings are usually 10% better than enforced mandatory standard limits or certification program limits. The ENERGY STAR label is now on over 50 product categories including major appliances, office equipment, lighting, and home electronics. EPA has also extended the label to cover new homes and commercial and industrial buildings.
International Testing & Certification

IECEE CB Scheme
Obtaining full product certification through the IECEE CB scheme will help a manufacturer achieve acceptance and recognition by the authorities of up to 53 countries worldwide. While some authorities accept a CB Certificate as evidence of compliance without the need to apply for a specific national certification, others do not. In this case manufacturers can use their CB Certificate to apply for the nationally recognized certification of their target markets, without the need to conduct all of their testing again from scratch. Sometimes national deviations in standards and regulations may require some additional assessment of a product, but supplemental tests are not always required as many countries use harmonized standards.

Essentially, one CB certificate can be used in applications for national certification to all 53 members – ensuring core testing does not need to be repeated. For more information, refer to: www.iecee.org.

Certification for Canada

Q: How does Certification work in Canada?
Product and Systems Standards in Canada are governed by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). This body is responsible for accrediting test and certification bodies that can test to Canadian standards and they report directly to the Canadian Parliament.

The essential process of product testing and certification for Canada is the same as it is in the US. Products must undergo testing by an independent accredited body to relevant Standards - and on successful completion of those tests and a review of the product technical file, certification can be issued.

The SCC started accrediting certification bodies and test laboratories in the early 1980s and currently 28 organizations carry accreditation – including Intertek in the US and Intertek in Canada, both of whom offer the ETL mark to demonstrate compliance with Canadian Standards.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) of Ontario now requires all manufacturers of electrical products intended for sale in Ontario to be registered with the ESA in addition to having certified products.
Certification for Mexico: NOM

Q: What does the NOM Mark mean?
A: NOM stands for ‘Norma Official Mexicana’ and is the designation of the national certification scheme of Mexico - which shows that a product has been found in compliance with accepted national standards, and meets the minimal requirements for import, sale or distribution. To a manufacturer’s distributors, retailers, and customers, the NOM is assurance that the product is compliant with safety standards, having been tested and certified by a third-party organization.

Over 2,000 product categories are required by law to carry a NOM mark, including household refrigerators, freezers, gas heaters, cloth washers, air conditioners; small induction motors and motor operated tools; vertical and submersible water pumps; compact fluorescent lamps and wiring devices; telecom products that are data transmitters (digital, analogical, LAN or WAN systems) and those intended to be connected to the Public Telecom Network (PTN) and designed to process, receive, transmit or convert signals.

All electrical products exported into Mexico must meet NOM requirements as well as mandatory energy efficiency requirements. Certifications are valid for one year and need to be renewed annually.

Q: Who accredits Intertek to test against Mexican Standards?
A: Intertek has been accredited as a testing and certification body by Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación (EMA) and approved by the General Direction of Standards (DGN) of the Secretaría de Economía in Mexico. As an accredited certification body, Intertek may test for product safety and issue the NOM Mark for Mexican market entry.

Q: Does any other company test to NOM standards?
A: Intertek offers local operations in Mexico providing independent testing to NOM Standards as well as final NOM Certification – which is mandatory for more than 2,000 product categories being sold in Mexico. Until recently, the NOM Certification program was solely managed by two Mexican Certification Bodies. Today the program allows additional Product Certification Organizations that meet strict requirements, such as Intertek, the ability to offer the NOM Certification.

Q: What standards can Intertek test and certify to?
A: Intertek is accredited to test and certify to a range of NOM standards, from small household appliances to commercial IT products, including:

- NOM-001-SCFI-1993 "Electronic Apparatus. Electronic household appliances input by different electric power sources. Safety requirements and testing methods for type approval", based on IEC-60065
The AHJ’s Guide to
North American Product Certification

- NOM-016-SCF1-1993 "Electronic apparatus for offices input by different electric power sources. Safety requirements and testing methods", based on IEC-60335-1
- NOM-019-SCF1-1998 "Safety of data processing equipment", based on IEC 60950
- NOM-003-SCFI-2000 is the mandatory NOM product safety specification for electrical products. As a specification, it does not include testing requirements, but it does call for the following standards:
- NMX-J-524/1-ANCE-2005: Handheld motor operated tools, based on IEC 60745-1-1998-02
- NMX-J-508-ANCE-2010: Wiring devices, small interrupters, incandescent-type luminaries, based on IEC 60884-1 and IEC 60669-1
- NMX-J-515-ANCE-2008: Industrial control, based on NEMA ICS
- NOM-064-SCFI-2000 safety requirements for indoor and outdoor luminaires (HID and Halogen Types).

**Q: Who can NOM Mark Certification be issued to?**
A: NOM certificates will only be issued to Mexican manufacturers, importers and exporters, or to foreign manufacturers and exporters in countries with which Mexico has a free-trade agreement.

**Q: What documentation does a manufacturer need to apply for a NOM certification?**
A:
- The successful NOM test report, product design drawings and specifications including circuit diagrams.
- The user manual in Spanish
- The product rating label in Spanish
- Name and address of the importer or distributor in Mexico.

**Q: Can a manufacturer get both a NOM Mark and an ETL Mark on its product?**
A: Yes. Intertek provides both Marks and we can test a product for access to multiple markets (Mexico, United States, Canada and others). There are many advantages in using a single testing laboratory for multiple market certifications, but primary among them are time-efficiency and cost-efficiency. Quite simply, combining projects at Intertek will save
time and money, and the manufacturer will likely be able to deliver your products to market faster – ahead of the competition.

Q: Can a Manufacturer transfer a NOM certification to a local distributor?
A: Unfortunately, no, however a manufacturer that is a NOM holder may extend usage rights of its NOM certification to Mexican distributors, who may then obtain their own NOM certification without additional testing.

Summary

Of the many things a busy Inspector, Code Official, Plans Reviewer, Fire Marshal, or other AHJ has on his/her plate, ensuring the public's safety is always at the top of the list. Reviewing the electrical safety certification of the products purchased and installed in your jurisdiction is one of the most efficient ways to do this. Ultimately, having confidence that a product bearing the ETL Mark, UL Mark, CSA Mark or any other qualified NRTL certification mark is critical for an AHJ to properly do his/her job in a timely manner.

Intertek competes with these private testing laboratories – some not-for-profit such as CSA, and some for-profit like Intertek and UL – and we differentiate ourselves on service, expertise, and in some cases on price to win the manufacturers’ business. One thing we all have in common, however, is the unwavering commitment to product safety and the safety of the people and property in which these products are used.

Sources

www.scc.ca
http://www.intertek.com

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i These safety requirements can be found in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR).
iii Examples of equipment requiring safety certification by an NRTL can be found in subpart S - Electrical, of 29 CFR Part 1910.
iv OSHA follows the “Procedures for Initial OSHA Recognition” found in Appendix A to 29 CFR 1910.7.
v OSHA specifies which test standards are in the NRTL program.
vi See ‘Test Standard Approval Criteria’ in the NRTL Program Directive.
An organization decides the detailed aspects of its own NRTL operations, though OSHA has some general policies with which NRTLs must comply.

(Pertains to March 9, 1995 Federal Register notice)

(subpart S of 29 CFR Part 1910)

One who is responsible for enforcing and assuring compliance with occupational safety provisions of the National Electrical Code

Equipment designed, fabricated for, and intended for use by a particular customer, and determined to be safe by the manufacturer for its intended use

Referred to as “State-Plan” states by OSHA