For many years, designers and code authorities have relied on printed UL product directories and the Online Certifications Directory to obtain UL product certification information. These resources contained useful information, but familiarity with UL terms and product categories was often needed to locate it. In response to user requests, UL developed this next generation online tool with a portfolio of user friendly, intuitive features.

Five Tools in One
UL Product Spec is a combination of five tools in one. It includes the following customized searches:

1. Search by installation code requirements using section numbers from 32 of the most commonly used North American model codes.

2. Search by product name using common industry terms.

3. Browse electrical, fire and building UL product categories organized by intuitive groupings. You can also locate a variety of fire rated assemblies, systems and designs using construction parameters, ratings, and materials, or using UL design numbers.

4. Find information based on traditional UL product category codes.
NEW eLEARNING COURSE ON ROOFING MATERIALS
An interactive 90-minute eLearning course on Testing and Certification of Commercial Roofing Products is now available. The course focuses on how UL testing, certification and evaluation services can help mitigate costs and reduce damage to commercial roofing resulting from fire, wind and hail. To register please visit ulknowledgeservices.com, and select the eLearning track for Building Materials.

Enhancing UL Information Systems

Managing Editor’s Column / by Howard Hopper

An important part of meeting the needs of our regulatory stakeholders is to provide them with the information, resources and services they need, in a form that can be used with the devices they use at their jobs.

For many years code authorities and designers relied on printed UL product directories, and Listing cards printed on UL card stock to verify that products were listed. Questions were handled with letters, faxes and phones calls, which met the needs at that time. Flash forward to today’s business climate where communication and information resources are changing rapidly, and texting, online chats, tweets, and other social media provide instant information to individuals and groups with similar interests. It is a challenge to keep up with our regulatory stakeholders who are riding the wave of new technology and communications.

We are pleased to launch new web based tools, Code Link and UL Product Spec, that take advantage of enhanced search capabilities. These new tools are able to deliver information to devices such as smart phones and note pads that are increasingly used by code authorities and designers in the field. While we continue to pursue new communication and information technologies, we will not forget those who want to communicate in more traditional manners, such as via phone and email.

We are currently pursuing even more new communications tools, and I look forward to announcing our next innovation in the near future. Stay safe my friends, and please don’t text when you drive.
An important part of complying with model codes is being able to identify products that comply with requirements specified in a particular code section. In many cases the code section may require a product to be Listed (certified), listed and labeled, or comply with a particular referenced standard, such as UL 253.

We are proud to announce the launch of a new online tool which represents a major step forward in allowing users to quickly and easily locate this information wherever and whenever they want. This tool, UL Code Link, is now available at ul.com/codelink.

Historically, people have used the UL Online Certifications Directory (OCD) or UL product directories to determine if a particular product is certified for use in accordance with a particular code section. Certification information is certainly available for thousands of certified products, but since the information is arranged by product categories, rather than code sections, significant effort may be needed to identify the products certified for use in these applications.

A few years ago we launched the Code Correlation Database (CCD), which allowed Code users who are looking at a particular code section to find UL certified products that correspond with that code section. However, the CCD was designed to work primarily with computer workstations and laptops.

The new UL Code Link has effectively replaced the CCD, and has been expanded to include correlations with 32 installation codes, including several “Green” codes. More importantly, it has been upgraded so it can be used effectively with smart phones and pads in the field.

Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with UL Code Link so you can experience the information it can quickly and easily provide for busy designers and code authorities. Please bookmark it in your web browser for easy future reference. For additional information please contact Jon Roberts in Oklahoma City, Okla., at Jonathan.Roberts@ul.com, or at +1.405.760.6724.

By Howard Hopper / Codes and Advisory Services Program Manager

UL Code Link — An Enhanced Tool for Code Authorities, Designers and Contractors
Determining Code Compliance Using UL Certified Products

By Howard Hopper / Codes and Advisory Services Program Manager

Model codes often require products to be “listed” or “listed and labeled” in accordance with a specified standard. Unfortunately, many code users and enforcers are not aware of what this really entails, and how to determine if products indeed comply with the mandated requirements.

This article examines code requirements and discusses how to identify UL Certified products that comply with the specifications.

**What is a Listing?**

Many individuals think that a product with the UL Mark on the product or on the manufacturer’s cut sheets is automatically “listed” and complies with a specific code requirement. This is often, but not always, the case. One must look at the definition of Listed in the code to fully understand the listing criteria. Consider the following definition of Listed from the 2012 International Building Code, which is essentially identical to the definition appearing in all ICC, NFPA, IAPMO and other codes.

There are four key elements of this definition:

1. “Equipment, materials, products or services included in a published list ...” When UL was founded 120 years ago, it published a “list” of products that were found to comply with established requirements. This simple list was eventually replaced by UL product directories and online “lists” such as the UL Online Certifications Directory found at ul.com/database.

2. “... published by an organization acceptable to the building official ...” This provision allows a code authority to establish criteria to identify the testing and certification organizations whose Certifications they will accept. Depending on local, state and national requirements, this usually includes UL and other nationally recognized testing laboratories. More importantly, this empowers a code authority to forego accepting listings established by organizations that have not demonstrated their qualifications and are not independently accredited to certify specific products.

3. “... maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services ...” This requirement goes to the foundation of UL’s certification programs, and requires that UL conduct factory surveillance to determine that ongoing production of UL certified equipment continues to comply with applicable product safety requirements. Regardless of where the manufacturing facilities are located, our Follow-up Service staff conducts audit inspections worldwide.

4. “... whose listing states either that the equipment, material, product or service meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose ...” This portion of the definition clarifies that documentation must be provided to identify the standard to which a product was certified. For UL Certified products, this may include a required marking or information included in the product listing and appearing in the Online Certifications Directory.

**What about labeling?**

When a code section requires a product to be “listed and labeled,” it must comply with all the elements of a listed product, as described...
above. In addition, it must bear a label, seal, symbol or other identifying mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency or other organization, e.g., a UL Mark. Only those products bearing the UL Certification Mark should be considered as being certified by UL.

What UL Certifications are considered to be Listed per the code definition?

There are three distinctive UL Marks that are used to identify UL certified products that comply with the code definition of “Listed,” as follows:

**UL Listing Mark** — The traditional UL product safety Listing Mark is the most widely recognized and accepted of UL’s safety certification marks. These marks typically consist of the UL symbol, the word “Listed,” a product name and a control number.

**UL Classification Mark** — In general, products that bear the UL Classification Mark have been evaluated for specific properties, a limited range of hazards, or suitability for use under limited or special conditions. Typically, products Classified by UL fall into the general categories of building materials, and specialty or industrial equipment. Even though they don’t include the word “Listed” as part of their certification, UL Classified products comply with all four elements included in the code definition of Listed (see above) and therefore should be accepted in code applications that require the product or material to be listed. UL Classification Marks typically consist of the UL symbol, the word Classified, a product name, specific hazards or limitations pertinent to a product, and a control number.

**UL Certified Mark** — In response to evolving customer needs, we introduced an enhanced version of our Certification Marks that is an alternative to our traditional Listing and Classification Marks. The enhanced Mark utilizes a modular approach to illustrate the attributes of a product that UL has certified, and features a two-digit ISO country code to indicate the geography whose standards are used for Certification. The enhanced Mark also includes a unique identifier that provides access to more information about a product’s Certification, and details on the application for which the product is certified.

The UL Mark provides evidence of listing or labeling, as required by installation codes and standards. Whether a product bears a UL Listed, UL Classified or UL Certified Mark, you can be assured that it has been investigated to appropriate standards, is covered by a factory surveillance program, and includes markings that identify the application for which it is certified.

For more information on determining code compliance using UL Certification Marks, please contact Howard Hopper in San Jose, Calif., at Howard.D.Hopper@ul.com or at +1.408.754.6609.
5. Use the Construction Specifications Institute’s (CSI) MasterFormat section numbers as a basis for the search.

**Smart phone and pad friendly**

UL Product Spec is not an App that can be purchased online, rather it is a Web-based tool available at ul.com/productspec that requires no special login access or training to use, and is designed to work equally well on laptops, notebooks and iPads, and smart phones.

**Key search features**

Some of the key search features on UL Product Spec include the following:

**Product Type**

This search tool is a significant advancement over the Keyword and other searches included in the Online Certification Directory (OCD), because it focuses on code related products and searches and increased number of UL databases. For example, a search for “penetrations” identifies not only the traditional certification related product categories, but also those covered by the UL Evaluation Services program.

**Product Systems or Assemblies**

This is a customized search function that includes two main selections:

1. Equipment and systems covered by the National Electrical Code, and
2. Equipment, systems, designs, and assemblies covered by North American building and fire codes.

For example, electrical code searches include bundled selections for photovoltaic and wind power systems (alternate energy), industrial control equipment, and wiring devices. Building and fire code searches include selections such as windstorm rated products, commercial cooking equipment and fire protection systems. All product categories that relate to the system are included under each of these bundled selections. One-stop shopping from an entire menu of code related certification categories is just a click away.

**Fire-Resistance Ratings and Firestop Systems**

One of the best features of the Product Systems or Assemblies tool is the ability to easily locate fire resistance rated assemblies and through-penetration firestop systems that meet specific design parameters. You no longer need to understand the intricate numbering system used to classify UL design and systems. In a few easy steps, using common construction and code related terminology, you can locate the fire rated system(s) that meet your design parameters.

**MasterFormat Number Search**

The Construction Specifications Institute publishes MasterFormat, a master list of titles and numbers used to organize
Locating a Firestop System

It’s easier than ever to locate a code compliant through-penetration firestop system using UL Product Spec and related installation parameters.

Consider the following example:
First select Firestop Systems under the Building or Fire Systems search field, then enter the installation parameters using the convenient pull down menus.

As an example one can select the assembly being penetrated <Framed floors>, the item penetrating the assembly <metallic pipe, conduit or tubing>, and the desired rating based on building code requirements for the application <F and T rating ≥ 2 hours and < 3 hours>, and then select Search. The system sorts through thousands of possible designs and provides links to those that meet the specification entered.

In this case, Systems F–C–1037 and F-C-1118 comply with the parameters. Clicking on the system number displays drawings with complete construction details. These can then be copied and included with the plan submittal package.

If you wish to refine your search using additional details on the firestop system components you would like to use, enter those under Manufacturer or Keyword and select Search again.
Calendar of Events

November 4–9
ASSE International Annual Meeting
Oklahoma City, Okla.
asse-plumbing.org

November 6–8
Texas Architects Design Expo
Houston, Tex.
texasarchitects.org

November 10–13
Campus Fire Forum 2014
Orlando, Florida
campusfiresafety.org

November 14–15
Fort Lauderdale AIA Knowledge Fair
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
aiafortlauderdale.org

To include your upcoming events, email Howard Hopper at Howard.D.Hopper@ul.com. Please add “TCA Calendar” in the subject line.