

In the Line of **FIRE**

RUSKIN[®]

Field Modification of UL Classified Products

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Greater life safety awareness is resulting in more fire, smoke and combination fire smoke dampers being applied on HVAC projects throughout the country. These dampers differ from their standard control damper counterparts in that specific rules govern their modification (if required) once they leave the original manufacturing facility.

Fire smoke dampers are UL (Underwriter's Laboratories) classified products; they are rigorously tested in accordance with the nationally recognized standards UL555 and 555S. A major component of UL's certification or classification is the Follow-Up Service. The follow-up service is an unannounced visit by UL field representatives to manufacturing facilities. These field representatives check production controls, witness testing, conduct inspections and periodically select samples for further testing at a UL laboratory. Successful completion of the UL "visit" means the manufacturer can continue to label the product with the UL mark.

Once the product leaves the factory subsequent changes (field repairs or modifications) no longer fall under the auspices of the Follow-Up Services Program. Any modification or repair of the labeled product outside the factory becomes the responsibility of the local authority having jurisdiction. The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is the person or organization who approves the application of the product. The degree to which the AHJ controls the approval process varies according to local codes.

UL will not make any determination concerning the suitability of any repair or modification of labeled products that are not reviewed by a UL representative. UL does, however, offer the following programs for field repairs.

Field Inspection

A repair or modification, using original parts, which results in a construction that is in compliance with the current UL Follow-

Up Service procedure, can be verified by a UL representative by a field inspection (initiated by the manufacturer).

Field Evaluation

If the repair or modification involves parts or constructions that are not original to the product, or described in the Follow-Up Service procedure, the repaired product may be investigated by UL's Engineering department through the Field Evaluated Product or Field Investigation program. Field evaluations are chosen when the request is from a party other than the manufacturer.

Actuator Replacement

Sometimes it becomes necessary to replace actuators "in the field." Field substitution of actuators is not covered within the scope of the UL certification of the product. However, this does not necessarily preclude the replacement of actuators in the field. If replacement or substitution is necessary, UL expects it to be done using parts available from the damper manufacturer and in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing program.

Missing Label or Mislabeled Products

From time to time, a product is shipped without a label or mislabeled. In those cases the AHJ can authorize the application of the label in the field under the supervision of a UL field inspector.

Summary

- It is extremely important to specify and order the correct product.
- If repairs or modifications are required, the AHJ should be consulted.

UL representatives can verify repairs and modifications compliant with UL requirements.

For more information about UL and UL classified products consult the Ruskin representative near you or the fire smoke damper experts at Ruskin.