

ENGINEERING REPORT

TOPIC: UL Classification Labels and Their Meaning

Report No. 705

JULY 2005

By Richard Cravy

The Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) classified label on a fire, smoke or combination fire/smoke damper means UL has tested representative samples of that damper and determined they meet the requirements of UL Standards for Safety 555 for fire dampers, 555S for smoke dampers or both of these standards for combination fire/smoke dampers. The label also means that these dampers are periodically inspected by UL at the place of manufacture to ensure they are built to UL procedures and continue to meet UL requirements. This is an ongoing follow-up service that distinguishes UL from most other testing organizations.

The UL classified mark is also found on the installation instructions for fire, smoke and combination fire/smoke dampers, meaning they have been reviewed and approved by UL.

There are three UL classification marks currently being used in association with fire, smoke and combination fire/smoke dampers in North America today.



The **UL Classified** mark is the mark for the United States only. It indicates that UL has tested and evaluated dampers with respect to the requirements of the USA – currently the sixth edition of UL Standard 555 and the fourth edition of UL Standard 555S.



The **c-UL Classified** mark is the mark used on dampers intended for the Canadian market only. It indicates that UL has evaluated representative samples with respect to Canadian safety standards. Canada has not yet adopted requirements for dampers to meet the most current versions of UL Standards 555 and 555S. Dampers with the **c-UL Classified** mark have not been tested to the more stringent USA standards and should not be used in the USA. The 2003 International Building Code (IBC) recognizes only the current UL Standards 555 and 555S. Consequently, any fire, smoke or combination fire/smoke damper installed in a building constructed to IBC requirements and marked with a **c-UL Classified** label would be in violation of the building code.



The **c-UL-US Classified** mark, introduced in 1998, is the most flexible mark that can be applied to your fire/life safety dampers. This UL label indicates that the dampers are certified and approved to meet the requirements of both Canada and the USA. Be sure to look for the **c-UL-US Classified** mark on all of your fire, smoke and combination fire/smoke dampers for assurance that these dampers not only meet code requirements but can also be installed anywhere in North America.