

ENGINEERING REPORT

TOPIC: 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. **The purpose for this report is to clarify the repair guidelines if and when field modifications become necessary.**

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 falls under 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.

Use of Original Parts

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.**

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.

Missing Label or Mislabeled

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.

Field Installed Damper Actuators

In the past, manufacturers provided UL approved instructions to field install actuators on life safety dampers. However, in July 2001, UL made the determination to no longer recognize the field installation of actuators. Thus, the approval for field installation of actuators becomes the responsibility of the authority having jurisdiction.

"Like for Like"

UL's Follow-Up Service procedure also allows field "change out" of like products for like products if the original fails.

Summary

- It is extremely important to specify and order the correct product.
- Field repairs or modifications **almost** always result in a loss of UL certification.
- If repairs or modifications are required, the AHJ must be consulted.

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