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Can I Void the UL Label on Products?

Modified, Modification

Is the UL Label void if a product bearing the UL Mark is modified in the field?

The modification of a product in the field does not void the UL Mark. Product modification in the field often raises questions regarding the impact it has on the UL Listing Mark that is placed on the product at the factory. Many products are modified before installation. Cutting holes in a UL Listed enclosure for conduit entry is a modification to the product but it does not void the UL label since it is being used in its intended manner.

So what does the UL Mark indicate on a product that is installed in the field?

The UL Mark is applied to the product when it is originally manufactured, or as it leaves the factory. Authorization from UL allows the manufacturer, Square D[®], to apply the UL Mark as a declaration that the product was originally manufactured in accordance with the applicable UL standards and requirements. Products undergo follow-up inspection at facilities where the UL Mark is being applied to products. UL Engineers randomly visit these manufacturing facilities inspecting product in order to ensure continuous compliance with UL product standards.

The UL Mark indicates the product left the factory complying with industry adopted levels of safety and performance, generally the applicable UL standard and the NEC. However, UL and Square D may not know the effect an alteration or repair could have on the safety of the product or UL Certification unless the modified product has been specifically evaluated. The only exception for field modification authorized by UL is when the product is specifically marked. An example might include ground bar kits marked on labels of panelboards, or electric interlock kits marked on switch labels.

Should you state "the UL Label is void" if a product is significantly modified in the field?

One should refrain from using the phrase "voids the UL Mark" as a reaction to hearing the product was modified in the field. Remember, the UL Mark is applied to the product before it leaves the factory where UL has reviewed the manufacturing processes and randomly inspects products to ensure product compliance with the applicable codes and standards. Neither UL nor Square D can state the modifications "void" the UL Mark, nor can either organization determine compliance to the UL safety standards, without evaluating the modification for compliance to the specific UL requirements.

For More Information:

For more information of installing products in accordance with their Listing see the following references:

2008 NEC® Section 110.3(B)

UL Whitebook—Field Engineering Services Section

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