



February 8, 2008

STANDARDS BULLETIN 2008-03

CAN/ULC-S537-97, Verification of Fire Alarm Systems

INTERPRETATION OF SECTION 5 (SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS)

The following is an interpretation of Section 5 (System Modifications) by the ULC Subcommittee on Installation, Inspection and Testing, and Verification of Fire Alarm Systems, on CAN/ULC-S537-97 (Verification of Fire Alarm Systems). This is being issued in response to a request for an interpretation that was received by ULC. Take note that this interpretation is on the Third Edition (1997) of CAN/ULC-S537. The current version is the Fourth Edition (2004).

Interpretation Request:

Question 1 on CAN/ULC-S537-97, Verification of Fire Alarm System

While the building is under construction, individual devices are verified. Subsequently, software changes are made. The system's programmer and verifier has not used a compare program, printout, provided a history of changes or completed a re-verification.

The software changes were made during construction of a new building. During the construction process some devices were added to circuits that had verification work done on them. The added devices were verified and the connections to the circuit verified. It was felt that Section 5 (System Modifications) did not apply during the new construction process. The software changes were tested for the added device. Typically an added alarm initiating device would require that the annunciation function be changed. Any software changes done for the device were verified. The typical common alarm functions would not be affected by the addition of a device since it is inherent in the system as a common alarm. The requirements of Section 5 (System Modifications) were followed after the completed verification report of the new building was submitted.

Is Section 5 "System Modifications" applicable, and specifically the requirements of Clause 5.8?

Question 2 on CAN/ULC-S537-97, Verification of Fire Alarm System

While the building is under construction, individual devices on a data communication link are verified. Subsequently, new active field devices are added to the link. The system's verifier has not completed an operational test on the link's devices.

The added field devices were done during construction and the added devices were verified. It was felt that Section 5 did not apply during construction when the changes were made. The requirements of Section 5 (System Modifications) were followed after the completed verification report of the new building was submitted.

Is Section 5 "System Modifications" applicable, and specifically the requirements of Clause 5.4?

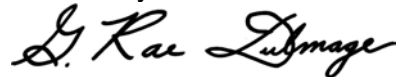
Interpretation by ULC Subcommittee on Installation, Inspection and Testing, and Verification of Fire Alarm Systems:

Section 5 (System Modifications) is not applicable under both conditions described in Questions 1 & 2 above.

Rationale: Section 5, System Modifications, is not intended for the ongoing installation and operational testing required to initially verify fire alarms systems in a building that is under construction. Section 5 applies to fire alarms systems in buildings after the initial verification report has been issued for the fire alarm system. Furthermore, it should also be noted that there are references to "existing input/output circuit", "existing devices", etc., throughout Section 5 and that the term "existing" would be further clarified as to its intent during the development of the next edition of CAN/ULC-S537, Verification of Fire Alarm Systems.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Mahendra (Mike) Prasad at 416-757-5250 Ext. 61242 or email: mahendra.prasad@ca.ul.com

Yours truly,



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