February 8, 2008

STANDARDS BULLETIN 2008-01

CAN/ULC-S536-04, Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems

INTERPRETATION OF CLAUSE 5.2.1.3

The following is an interpretation of Clause 5.2.1.3 by the ULC Subcommittee on Installation, Inspection and Testing, and Verification of Fire Alarm Systems, on CAN/ULC-S536-04 (Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems). This is being issued in response to a request for an interpretation that was received by ULC.

Interpretation Request:

The point in question reads...

5.2.1.3 - One active field device in each software zone shall be operated to confirm appropriate output circuit operation. Other active field devices within the software zone may be tested with the output circuits inhibited.

The prior Inspection Standard CAN/ULC S536-97 indicated that the test could be omitted if it could be verified that the operation of each device will cause the appropriate output circuit operation.

Question:
Can a printout of the input to output software correlation be used to satisfy Clause 5.2.1.3 in the CAN/ULC-S536-04 (Inspection Standard).

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

A printout of the input to output software correlation cannot be used as a basis for complying with Clause 5.2.1.3 in CAN/ULC-S536-04 (Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems).

Although it is recognized that in the previous edition of this Standard (i.e. CAN/ULC-S536-97), this test could be omitted if it could be verified that the operation of each device will cause the appropriate output circuit operation, the intent of Clause 5.2.1.3 in the current edition of this Standard (CAN/ULC-S536-04) is to ensure that a functional test of at least one device in each software zone needs to be conducted to confirm appropriate output circuit operation.

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The Subcommittee recognizes that the use of technology, such as correlation software that can verify that the operation of each device will cause the appropriate output circuit operation, will need to be considered during the development of the next edition of this standard.

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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