
STANDARDS BULLETIN 2016-15

CAN/ULC-S559-13 EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE SIGNAL RECEIVING CENTRES AND SYSTEMS

INTERPRETATION OF REQUIREMENT (CLAUSE 4.7.4)

The following is an interpretation of Clause 4.7.4 of CAN/ULC-S559-13, Standard for Equipment for Fire signal Receiving Centres and Systems, by the ULC Subcommittee on Control Units (ULC S500F/SC2) and ULC Working Group on Control Units for Fire Alarm Systems (ULC WG-S527). This interpretation is being issued in response to a request received by ULC Standards.

Background:

Clause 4.7.4 of CAN/ULC-S559-13 states:

“A computer work station used as one of the required displays or as fire signal receiving centre equipment shall comply with all the requirements of this section. Mechanical protection shall be provided if failure of the computer or its associated components such as a monitor, mouse or storage device, inhibit the normal operation of the fire signal receiving centre.”

The term “mechanical protection” is not defined. The intent was unclear, whether the requirement is intended to protect against accidental disconnection of cables and equipment, or to deter against malicious intent. Intuitively, it would make sense for protection against accidental, or at least non-aggressive types of interference since intentional or aggressive attacks can be carried out in any case using either the input devices or through mechanical damage to the display. It was noted that since the computer equipment complies with CAN/ULC-S559, it shall be installed in a controlled environment prescribed by CAN/ULC-S561, Installation and Services for Fire Signal Receiving Centres. Restricted access minimizes inadvertent, accidental or malicious activity towards the equipment.

Question:

The request for clarification was:

Is it correct that “mechanical protection” required in Clause 4.7.4 of CAN/ULC-S559 is intended to mean that all cabling must be secured using a means that would require proactive fastening (e.g. screws) rather than simple friction retention, and that it does NOT mean that the cabling must be protected, for example, by armored cable or an enclosure that would prevent cutting with simple tools?

Interpretation of the ULC Subcommittee on Control Units (ULC S500F/SC2) and the ULC Working Group on Control Units for Fire Alarm Systems (ULC WG-S527):

YES, it is intended that “mechanical protection” required in Clause 4.7.4 of CAN/ULC-S559-13 means that all cabling shall be secured using a means that would require proactive fastening (e.g., screws). The Clause does NOT intend that the cabling must be protected, for example, by armored cable or an enclosure that would prevent cutting with simple tools.

Should you require additional information, please contact Tess Espejo at (416) 288-2212 or by email at Theresa.Espejo@ul.com.

Yours truly,

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