

The Importance of the NRTL Mark

The National Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) Program is third party testing and certification of products established by OSHA for compliance with the National Product Safety Standards found in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29CFR). These private laboratories test and recognize many products for meeting the standards. OSHA administers the program by reviewing applications and assessing laboratories for recognition in the program. Laboratories that are recognized by OSHA undergo periodic audits and site inspections to ensure continued compliance with national product safety standards, the National Electrical Code, and other applicable standards for safety on an array of products not limited to electrical equipment. OSHA Safety Standards for electrical equipment (subpart S of 29 CFR Part 1910) define the word "approved" as **acceptable** to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. The OSHA registered NRTL marks placed on products ensure the accepted products are safe for use in the United States. Electrical contractors, inspection authorities, homeowners, and retailers of electrical products depend on NRTL marks for product certification for safety.

The following is a partial list of common NRTL marks that represent acceptance for product safety.



Some marks, which are not represented here, are applied by testing labs or manufacturers that do not comply with U.S. recognized standards, such as CSA marks without the "US" or "NRTL" identifier. Many products bear other marks that do not meet US safety standards. A common one is "CE", which is a European Union standard and not accepted as a safety standard in the United States.

It can be assured that products bearing a registered NRTL mark have undergone extensive testing and modifications required by an NRTL body to prevent injury, damage to property, or loss of life when used in accordance with their intended use as identified in their listing and manufacturer's instructions. As a matter of law equipment used in the work place is required to be acceptable to OSHA or a state occupational safety and health program and must accept an NRTL product or adopt its own NRTL program that meets OSHA requirements. Because of this, one can be confident that NRTL accepted products are a standard of safety for protection of workers as signified by a registered NRTL mark.