ULC Subj. S561

CERTIFICATION BULLETIN NO. 2004-04

To: Listees of Fire Protective Signalling Systems, Signal Receiving Centres,
Listees of Fire Protective Signalling Systems, Installation Companies
Members of the Advisory Council of Underwriters’ Laboratories of Canada
Members of ULC S500F and S561 Standards Committees
Others Interested

Subject: First Edition of CAN/ULC-S561-03, Installation and Services for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems

ULC is pleased to announce the publication of the First Edition of CAN/ULC-S561-03, Installation and Services for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems. This Standard has been approved by the ULC Committee on Fire Alarm Equipment and Systems, and has been published under the date of September 2003.

This Edition of the Standard has been developed on the basis of ULC/ORD-C693-1994, Central Station Fire Protective Signalling Systems and Services, and has been extensively revised to harmonize with requirements contained in CAN/ULC-S301, Standard for Central and Monitoring Station Burglar Alarm Systems; CAN/ULC-S559, Equipment for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems; and to reflect requirements in other fire alarm system standards.

The significant changes from ULC/ORD-C693-1994 are as follows:

- Realistic performance based requirements.
- Requirement for 30-second time limit for the transmission of a fire alarm signal from the monitoring station to the fire department.
- Addresses integral communication devices in fire alarm control units.
- Point of Demarcation – monitoring vs. fire alarm system service.
- Embraces new technologies.
- Eliminates duplication of requirements covered in other applicable standards and codes.

- Covers requirements for the construction, installation, services and testing for fire signal receiving centres (SRC), satellite centres and signal processing centres, as well as proprietary fire signal receiving centres. Includes: building survivability, receiving equipment, controlled entry, staffing, fire protection, tr_

- Covers requirements for the installation, inspection and test of signal transmitting units and field devices (directly connected to signal transmitting units) for the protected premises. Includes: signal transmitting units, wiring to all devices, power to signal transmitting units, standby power, signals from fire alarm control units, signals from sprinkler systems, tests, inspections and records.

- Covers communication systems and methods used to send signals to the fire signal receiving centres: new terminology – active communications and passive communications.

Underwriters’ Laboratories of Canada has adopted the provisions of this Edition of the Standard and all new submittals for alarm company investigations are being investigated in accordance with these requirements.

Other than the clauses noted below, these requirements become effective for currently listed alarm companies on December 31, 2004.

The following requirements may require some Signal Receiving Centres to make construction changes to their centre and therefore have an effective date of December 31, 2006:

Clause 3.3.1 A fire signal receiving centre shall not be located within a building classified as a Group F, Division 1 and 2 Major Occupancy, as defined by the National Building Code of Canada.

Clause 3.1.6 Requirement for a minimum of 2 accesses to exit from receiving centre.

Clauses 5.1.4 to 5.1.7 Requirement for a building fire alarm system

Clause 5.4.1 Requirement for a diesel type generator for emergency supply

Each Listee is requested to review the standard and forward written confirmation to ULC, attention Lisa Dudkowski, that they have reviewed the requirements and acknowledge that their service operation will be in compliance by the effective dates stated above. Receipt of this written confirmation is required by June 30, 2004.
Failure of an alarm company to comply with these requirements by the effective dates may result in the withdrawal of their ULC listing and consequently their ability to issue ULC certificates.

Should you require any additional technical information, please contact Bruce Paterson at 416-757-5250 Ext. 61250 or email: bruce.paterson@ca.ul.com

This standard can be ordered though our website at www.ulc.ca and selecting ULC Online Store.

UNDERWRITERS’ LABORATORIES OF CANADA

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