



UL LABELING

Frequently Asked Questions



Why UL Labels?

What do labels on appliances, computers, lights, industrial equipment, smoke detectors, stereo equipment, DVD players, electronics, etc., have in common?

They all use some type of UL label and pursuing this “niche” business is a great opportunity. However, understanding which UL logo (known as a UL Mark) or an approved label material to use can be a daunting task. We are ready to help! We are a UL authorized label supplier who works closely with them to help you provide approved materials and Marks to your customers.

This FAQ covers the basics pertaining to UL and walks you through the steps to follow in supplying UL approved labels to your customers.

Who is UL?



Underwriters Laboratories (UL) is globally recognized and trusted for product safety certifications and compliance. It is a not-for-profit safety testing agency that has developed product safety standards that consumers recognize and value. As such, the UL certifications are valuable marketing tools that UL registered manufacturers advertise on their products with a UL recognized label.

A UL recognized label is typically any label bearing safety related information such as warnings, cautionary markings, installation instructions or electrical ratings. These labels are considered by UL as a “component” of the device they are affixed to. Therefore, the label must meet performance requirements designed to keep safety information permanently affixed to products and also maintain legibility. Furthermore, UL directs manufacturers to only use authorized label suppliers.

What is an Authorized Label Supplier?

This is a label supplier who has passed stringent testing as well as on-going UL audits in order to become recognized as an approved source.

What is the production time for UL Labels?

Production time is approximately 7 days. Labels that need UL approval can take longer depending on the UL criteria.

I've heard about Type “L” and Type “R” Marks, what are these?

There are two methods of authorization from UL to reproduce a Mark. For new orders, we work with UL to make the decision regarding the appropriate type of Mark to be used based upon the nature of the product, its performance history, and the method for producing the product.

In the case of a Type R Mark, we will need UL approved copy. This approval will be provided by the manufacturer from UL. Type L Marks will usually need serial or issue numbers and must be approved by UL. We will handle the L-type approval process. Please allow additional turnaround for L-type labels.

UL Marks

What is UL 969 – Marking and Labeling Systems?

If asked, UL 969 is the **overall guideline/requirements** that cover adhesive attached labels for use as nameplates or markers; bearing information, instructions, or identification. An adhesive for a label may be pressure sensitive, heat activated, or solvent activated. These labels are intended to be used by manufacturers for application to their products at their place of manufacture.

These requirements also cover unprinted materials, such as face stocks, label stocks, overlaminations, laminating adhesives, and inks used by label printers to produce labels.

These requirements apply to marking and labeling systems used on complete devices, appliances, or equipment and their acceptance for a particular application tested under the standards covering the device, appliance, or equipment on which the label is used.

In general, marking and labeling systems are evaluated for application to specific surface materials that are essentially smooth and flat unless another surface configuration is specified by the manufacturer.

Do I need to know which Mark to use?

The approval process for a given Mark is coordinated between the product's manufacturer and UL. Because the UL Mark is so important, manufacturers must submit a design layout of it to a UL label center to review and verify that the required information is in an acceptable format. This has to be done prior to reproduction of the UL Mark to ensure the correct design is used and to eliminate potential disruption of production due to using an unacceptable UL Mark.

There are numerous types of Marks to use for specific applications. The following are common Marks used in North America with a brief explanation of their use:

UL Listing Mark



The UL Listing Mark is one of the most common UL Marks. If a product carries this Mark, it means UL found that representative samples of this product met their safety requirements. This Mark is commonly seen on appliances, computer equipment, furnaces, heaters, fuses, electrical panels, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, many other types of products.

Classification Mark



The Classification Mark appears on representative samples of products that UL has evaluated but only with respect to specific properties, a limited range of hazards, or suitability for use under limited or special conditions. Typically, products Classified by UL fall into general categories of building materials and industrial equipment. Examples of types of equipment using these Marks includes: fire doors, protective gear for fire fighters, air filter units, and certain types of roofing systems.

Recognized Component Mark



Recognized Component Marks are rarely seen because they are specifically used on component parts that are part of a larger product or system. The Component Recognition Marking is found on a wide range of products, including some switches, power supplies, printed wiring boards, some kinds of industrial control equipment, and thousands of other products.

UL Approved Full Color and Consecutive Numbering Labels

Now approved by UL: Full-Color, PMS inks, and Consecutive Numbering on UL approved stocks.

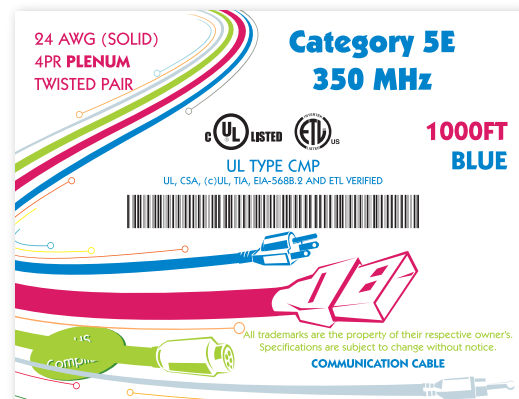
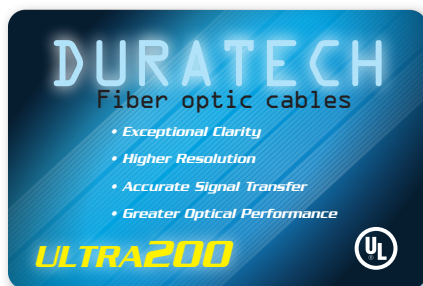
We are now approved to print full-color, PMS inks, and consecutive numbering on UL approved stocks with or without the UL marking. Our UL stocks are high-performance durable stocks for both indoor and outdoor applications. Our UL services can now enhance any color for your labeling and packaging needs.

- Full-color graphics or PMS ink colors
- White polyester, white BOPP, white vinyl, or clear polyester durable stocks that resist tearing
- Consecutive numbering
- Indoor and outdoor applications
- High-performance adhesive that is chemical and solvent resistant
- Any die-cut shape

Approved UL Stocks Listed Below.

Please note: As full-color, PMS, or consecutive numbered labels, they can not be coated, but are UL approved for both indoor and outdoor use.

Stock	No Coating- Indoor and Outdoor Use
Clear Polyester	CMYK Blend, PMS, Consecutive Numbers
White Polyester	CMYK Blend, PMS, Consecutive Numbers
White UV BOPP	CMYK Blend, PMS, Consecutive Numbers
White Vinyl	CMYK Blend, PMS, Consecutive Numbers



UL Approved Materials

What UL approved label materials do we have?

The table below displays materials, specific ink colors and protective coatings that UL has approved us to produce for indoor and outdoor applications.

Stock	No Coating Indoor Use only	Laminated See use listings below	Varnished Outdoor use OK
Matte Silver Polyester	BK, BL, YL, RD	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor only	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor BK, BL, YL - Outdoor
Bright Silver Polyester	BK, BL, YL, RD	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor only	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor BK, BL, YL - Outdoor
Clear Polyester	BK, BL, YL, RD	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor BK, BL, YL - Outdoor	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor BK, BL, YL - Outdoor
White Polyester	BK, BL, YL, RD	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor BK, BL, YL - Outdoor	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor BK, BL, RD - Outdoor
White UV BOPP	BK, BL, YL, RD	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor BK, BL, YL, RD - Outdoor	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor BK, BL, YL - Outdoor
White Vinyl	BK, BL, YL, RD	BK, BL, YL - Indoor only	BK, BL, YL, RD - Indoor BK, BL - Outdoor

BK (Black) BL (Blue - Reflex) YL (Pantone Yellow) RD (Red - 185)

UL constructions have been approved for application to a large variety of materials including:

Metals – Aluminum, Galvanized Steel and Stainless Steel

Coatings– Acrylic paint, Acrylic powder paint, Alkyd paint, Epoxy, Epoxy paint, Epoxy powder paint, Phenolic, Polyester paint, Polyester powder paint, Polyurethane powder paint, Polyphenylene oxide/ether and Porcelain

Plastics – Acrylic (AC), Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), Nylon, Melamine (ME), Polycarbonate (PC), Polyethylene (PE), Polystyrene (PS), Polypropylene (PP), Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) and Unsaturated polyester (UP)

The UL service team can review temperature ranges and chemical exposures these materials are approved for.

Can I get a new material tested?

New materials can be tested to obtain recognized component status, but the process is lengthy – up to 6 months. The cost for obtaining material recognition varies based on the number and complexity of materials being tested. Costs can range from a few hundred dollars to tens of thousands. Due to these long time frames and high costs, try to use materials that have already been approved by UL.