



Fire Protection Products



Technical Bulletin No.: T08-1001

Subject: Upcoming 1/1/2009 Changes to Grease Duct Listings

Date: May 11th, 2008

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TITLE: UL 1978 fire rated enclosure systems will not be published after 1/1/2009; only ASTM E 2336 tested listings will be available for field-applied ductwrap enclosure systems.

Effective January 1, 2009 any fire-resistive grease duct enclosure listings that do not comply with either ASTM E 2336 or UL 2221 test standards will be pulled from the Underwriters' Laboratories¹ (UL) and Intertek² (formerly OPL) design directories. ASTM E 2336 is the standard for field-applied ductwrap enclosure systems (i.e. 3M™ Fire Barrier Duct Wrap). The UL 2221 test standard applies to factory-built prefabricated grease duct enclosures. This means that any fire-resistive grease duct design listing based on an older, less severe test standard (namely UL test standard 1978) will no longer appear in either UL or Intertek's directory. UL has stated their intention of making this information known to the code community in the 4th quarter of 2008 in their publication *The Code Authority*.

The International Code Council Evaluation services (ICC-ES) has made a similar policy shift. On January 1, 2009 ICC-ES will delete all grease duct enclosure system reports that are currently recognized under UL 1978.³

Note: Although the UL 1978 test standard will no longer be used as a basis for testing fire-resistive grease duct enclosures, it will remain an active standard for testing grease duct assemblies at reduced clearances where 18 in. clearance is specified by NFPA 96 *Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations* and the International Mechanical Code (IMC). Other types of grease duct testing: accessories, joints, doors, materials, leakage, strength, support, etc... remain in the scope of UL 1978 as well.

From a technical perspective, compared to the internal fire exposure in the ASTM E 2336 test standard, the UL 1978 internal fire exposure is less severe. This seems to be the underlying rationale behind the ICC, UL, and Intertek policy.

The IMC (2006 Ed.) and NFPA 96 (2008 Ed.) both now explicitly reference ASTM E 2336 at the sole fire test standard for field-applied duct enclosures. In jurisdictions where either the IMC (2006 Ed.) or NFPA 96 (2008 Ed.) are already adopted, the ICC, UL, and Intertek policy shift should have no effect. **However, in jurisdictions where ASTM E 2336 compliance is not yet mandatory, the impact will be significant.**

Contractors and A&E firms should check with their local code officials to see what their stance on this issue is. Typically projects permitted under a particular edition of code are held to the requirements of that edition of code for the entire duration of the project, even if new codes are adopted during that time. However, if you are in a jurisdiction that currently accepts design listings from UL 1978 grease duct enclosure testing, it would be prudent to clarify the issue with your local officials. 3M suggests posing the following questions:

1. If a project is permitted under an edition of code that accepts UL 1978 tested fire-resistive grease duct enclosure listings, will the requirements remain unchanged for the entirety of the project?
2. If a project is permitted under an edition of code that accepts UL 1978 tested fire-resistive grease duct enclosure listings, will the design listings in the original submittal package be accepted beyond January 1, 2009 even though they no longer appear in the ICC-ES, UL, and Intertek directories?

If you would like more in-depth information about this matter please contact your local 3M Fire Protection Products sales representative or distribution partner.

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¹ UL Bulletin *Announcement of Revised Requirements for Batts and Blankets (HNMF) and Grease Ducts (HNOB) and the Withdrawal of Grease Duct Enclosures (YYET) Category*, Robert Berhning

² Intertek Certification Update Notification *'UL 1978 Listings for Grease Duct Enclosure Materials'*, Bob Davidson

³ ICC-ES Memo *'Cancellation date for legacy reports on grease duct enclosure systems not complying with AC101, ASTM E 2336 or UL 2221'* Michael Beaton, P.E. http://www.icc-es.org/Criteria/pdf_files/AC101_cancellation_date.pdf