

Third Edition: ANSI/UL 1449-2006 Standard for SPDs Effective Dates and their Impact on the Industry

In our last newsletter, we gave an overview of the new UL Standard for Surge Protective Devices which becomes effective on September 29, 2009. During the next couple of newsletters, we will provide a more in-depth review of some of the standard elements.

This month, we are going to focus on the mechanics, if you will, of the document. Specifically, the question that has been asked most often, what does "effective September 29, 2009" mean? Hopefully, this discussion will lend some clarity.

The new standard incorporates essentially all of the elements of the Second Edition of UL 1449 and revisions thereto. All of those elements are in place now and products listed to UL 1449 must comply with those elements today.

New standard elements and tests, such as the Nominal Discharge Current (I_n) Test, and the change to Voltage Protection Ratings (VPRs)... are not required to be implemented by Surge Protective Device Manufacturers until September 29, 2009.

The purpose of the time lapse between publication of the new standard and effective dates is specifically to allow manufacturers and Nationally Recognized Test Laboratories (NRTLs) approved to test these devices, time to conduct the testing required.

Finally, while products listed to UL 1449 and manufactured before September 29, 2009, may be sold after September 29, 2009; all products listed to UL 1449 AFTER September 29, 2009, MUST be listed to the latest version (ANSI/UL 1449-2006) aka Third Edition.

The key is as follows: NRTL certification requires that the manufacturing date code **MUST** be shown on the Product Label. If the manufacturing date shown is AFTER September 29, 2009, then the product must be listed to the latest version of the standard.

All products listed to the new standard will also have other labeling requirements. Specifically, SPD Type identification, MCOV ratings, Nominal Discharge Current (I_n) ratings, VPR ratings, as well as the standard label information, is required. This should help you distinguish between a product manufactured to the current version of UL 1449 and one listed to the new version of UL 1449.

We look forward to sharing more information on the new standard with you during the coming months.