

STANDARD INFORMATION

Standard: UL 48

Standard ID: Electric Signs [UL 48:2011 Ed.15+R:14May2025]

Previous Standard ID: Electric Signs [UL 48:2011 Ed.15+R:18Dec2023]

EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEW/REVISED REQUIREMENTS

Effective Date: May 14, 2027

IMPACT, OVERVIEW, AND ACTION REQUIRED

Impact Statement: Per our accreditation, Intertek is required to review reports against the standard revisions to confirm compliance. Once compliance is confirmed, the standard reference in the report is updated to show continued compliance to the technical requirements of the standard. Reports not updated to this version by the effective date above will be withdrawn.

General Coverage clients' reports will be updated on their next annual training.

Overview of Changes:

- Hinged panel pinch hazards
- Fabric sign faces
- Drain openings
- Mounting hardware loading test
- Accessibility
- Thermal spacings
- Supply connections for class 2 signs
- Rail mounted components
- Digital display signs
- Marking legibility
- Flag labels for portable signs
- Environmental location markings for multi-housing signs

Specific details of new/revise requirements are found in table below

Current Listings Not Active? – Please immediately identify any current Listing Reports or products that are no longer active and should be removed from our records. We will do this at no charge as long as Intertek is notified in writing prior to the review of your reports.



STANDARD INFORMATION

CLAUSE	VERDICT	COMMENT
		Additions to existing requirements are <u>underlined</u> and deletions are shown lined out below.
4	Info	Construction
4.1	Info	Mechanical
4.1.1	Info	General
		<i>New clause added;</i>
		Hinged parts of a sign that automatically close using a spring force shall comply with (a), (b), or (c) below:
4.1.1.9		a) A part that closes at a controlled rate of speed (such as with hydraulics) shall require no more than 30 lbf, applied at any location, to re-open. b) A part that has a mechanical means to hold it in an open position shall require an intentional manual movement to release (i.e., it will not unlatch if inadvertently bumped). The closure prevention means does not need to secure the part in the fully open position. If the location or operation of the closure prevention means is not obvious, a marking with text or symbols shall be applied in accordance with 7.2.15.1. c) A part that does not comply with (a) or (b) shall be tested in accordance with 5.21.
4.1.3	Info	Enclosures
4.1.3.2	Info	Fabricated enclosures
4.1.3.2.3	Info	Drain openings
4.1.3.2.3.4		The drain opening shall be free from burrs and either circular having a diameter of 6.4 – 12.7 mm (0.25 – 0.50 in) or non-circular with the smallest dimension at least 6.4 mm (0.25 in) and an area of 32.3 – 129 mm² (0.05 – 0.20 in²) <u>no less than 41 mm² (0.06 in²).</u> <u>Exception: A smaller drain opening is permitted when the sign contains only circuits operating within the wet location class 2 voltage limits and is provided with instructions per 8.1.7.</u>



CLAUSE	VERDICT	COMMENT
4.1.6	Info	Sign mounting and support
4.1.6.1A	Info	General <i>New clause added;</i>
4.1.6.1A.3		Signs intended to be mounted using permanent magnets shall provide means to mechanically secure one of the magnetic elements to the intended vertical or horizontal surface. The strength of the magnetic mounting means shall then be subject to the Loading Test of 5.24. <i>New section added;</i> Fabric sign faces
4.1.8		Signs that include only class 2 circuits and marked per 7.2.12 for use only in dry locations are permitted to incorporate a fabric sign face in accordance with this section 4.1.8. See standard for details.
4.2	Info	Electrical
4.2.2	Info	Accessibility of live parts
4.2.2.3	Info	Insulated parts <i>New clause added;</i> Equipment wire and appliance wiring material rated for the voltage, temperature, and conditions of service may be accessible if: a) Visible for the entire accessible length; b) Routed along a structural part of the sign, where practical; c) Secured at least every 75 mm (3 in) if stranded wire or every 100 mm (4 in) if solid wire; and d) If: 1) accessible for more than 100 mm (4 in) or containing any splices, it is 2) enclosed in minimum 0.25-mm (0.010-in) thick fiberglass or thermoplastic sleeving. Factory made splices utilizing only insulated crimp connectors are allowed in this sleeving. <i>New clause added;</i> GTO cable may be accessible if:
4.2.2.3.4		a) Visible for the entire accessible length; b) Routed along a structural part of the sign, where practical; c) Secured at least every 100 mm (4 in); and d) Is integrally sleeved GTO cable or is provided with GTO cable sleeving.



CLAUSE	VERDICT	COMMENT
4.2.5	Info	Wiring
4.2.5.2	Info	Supply connections
4.2.5.2.1	Info	Permanently connected signs
		<i>New clause added;</i>
4.2.5.2.1.8		An opening provided for the purpose of making field connections to the secondary of a remotely-located class 2 power supply is permitted to be of any configuration that maintains compliance with other requirements of this Standard. See also 4.4.6.1.4 (for class 2 Section Signs) and 8.1.2.
4.3	Info	Devices and components
4.3.1	Info	General
4.3.1.2		Electrical devices shall be securely mounted as specified in the manufacturer's instructions. When mounting options exist, a minimum of two mechanical means of attachment are required. <u>Devices attached to mounting rails shall have non-circular shoulders or similar means to prevent rotation. Mounting rails shall be fastened to the enclosure by screws, rivets, welding, or similarly effective means.</u>
4.4	Info	Supplementary requirements
		<i>New section added;</i>
		Digital display signs (DDS)
4.4.13		Digital display signs (DDS) shall comply with the requirements in this section in addition to either (a) or (b) below: See standard for details.
4.5	Info	Thermal design
		<i>New section added;</i>
		General
4.5.1		Signs shall comply with the design criteria in this section or shall comply with the temperature testing requirements of 5.2. A sign containing only class 2 circuits is considered to comply with the temperature testing requirements of 5.2 without the need for testing. See standard for details.



CLAUSE	VERDICT	COMMENT
		<i>New section added;</i>
		Spacing between internal wiring and heat producing components
4.5.2		Spacing between internal wiring and heat producing components shall comply with Table 4.25.
		See standard for details.
5	Info	Performance
		<i>New section added;</i>
		Pinch casualty hazard
5.21		This test applies to hinged parts that require evaluation in accordance with:
		See standard for details.
		<i>New section added;</i>
		Fabric sign face secureness test
5.22		To evaluate the secureness of a fabric sign face, a sample of dimensions no smaller than 76 x 61 cm (3 ft x 2 ft) shall be tested as follows:
		See standard for details.
		<i>New section added;</i>
		Marking legibility test
5.23		Label text shall remain legible when labels containing user-applied markings [see 7.1.2(c)] are tested in accordance with this section.
		See standard for details.
		<i>New section added;</i>
		Loading test
5.24		The sign is to be mounted in accordance with its instructions.
		See standard for details.



CLAUSE	VERDICT	COMMENT
7	Info	Marking
7.1	Info	General
		All markings shall be permanent and in a legible font. The forms of markings considered to be permanent include:
7.1.2		c) Indelibly-printed, pressure-sensitive labels secured by adhesive that, upon investigation, is found to comply with the Standard for Marking and Labeling Systems, UL 969, and is rated for the environmental conditions and surface to which it is affixed. <u>When user-applied markings are added using a permanent marker, the Marking Legibility Test in 5.23 is additionally required; and</u>
		<u>e) Flag, tag, and wrap-around labels that adheres to itself and the cord around which it is wrapped, and is found to comply with UL 969A, Standard for Flag Labels, Flag Tags, Wrap-Around Labels, and Related Products, with a limited slippage rating.</u>
7.2	Info	All signs
		<i>New clause added;</i>
7.2.12		A sign shall be marked to identify its environmental location suitability, with one of the following: "Dry Locations Only", "Suitable for Damp Locations", or "Suitable for Wet Locations". See also 7.2.13.
		<i>New clause added;</i>
7.2.13		A damp location evaluated sign (other than a section sign) consisting of multiple housings is permitted to designate a different environmental location suitability for housings containing only class 2 circuits. The housing containing the sign power unit shall always be marked per 7.2.12, while a separate environmental suitability marking for housings containing only class 2 circuits is optional. See also 8.1.2(a). For section signs, see also 7.7.2
		<i>New clause added;</i>
7.2.15.1		In accordance with 4.1.1.9(b), a hinged panel closure prevention means whose location or operation is not obvious shall be marked "Panel Open Latch Here", with or without an arrow, or some equivalent means to draw attention to the location. If deemed necessary, text or images showing how to secure the panel in the open position shall be included.



CLAUSE	VERDICT	COMMENT
7.7	Info	Section signs <i>New clause added;</i> Sections of a section sign are permitted to be marked, per 7.2.12, with different environmental suitability designations when such distinctions are explicitly noted in the installation instructions, per 8.1.2. When all sections have the same environmental suitability, a single label identifying that suitability (i.e., dry, damp, or wet) on a single section is permitted. When sections have different levels of suitability, options (a) or (b) are permitted: a) Each section has its own environmental suitability markings; or b) A marking on one section identifies the environmental suitability of each section. For example, "Section 1 is suitable for dry locations only. Sections 2 – 10 are suitable for wet locations."
7.7.2		