



INFORMATION BULLETIN / PUBLIC - PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CODES

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PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL PRODUCTS LISTING (APPROVAL) REQUIREMENTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to clarify the requirements for the listing, marking and labeling of mechanical and plumbing equipment and fixtures.

DEFINITIONS

Approved - Acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

"Approved" means meeting the approval of the Enforcing Agency, except as otherwise provided by law, when used in connection with any system, material, type of construction, fixture or appliance as the result of investigations and tests conducted by the agency, or by reason of accepted principles or tests by national authorities, technical, health, or scientific organizations or agencies.

[LAMC Section 203.0 and LAPC Section 203.0]

Approved Testing Agency - An organization primarily established for the purpose of testing to approved standards and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

"Approved Testing Agency" is any agency which is determined by the Enforcing Agency, except as otherwise provided by statute, to have adequate personnel and expertise to carry out the testing of systems, materials, and various types of construction, fixtures or appliances.

[LAMC Section 203.0 and LAPC Section 203.0]

Authority Having Jurisdiction – An organization, office, or individual responsible (i.e., LADBS Mechanical Testing Laboratory or Inspection) for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, material, an installation, or a procedure

Labeled - Equipment or materials bearing a label of a listing agency (accredited conformity assessment body). [LAPC Section 214.0]

Listed (Third-party certified) - Equipment or material included in a list published by a listing agency (accredited conformity assessment body) that maintains periodic inspection on current production of listed equipment or materials and whose listing states either that the equipment or material complies with approved standards or has been tested and found suitable for use in a specific manner.

[LAPC Section 214.0]

Listing Agency - An agency accredited by an independent and authoritative conformity assessment body to operate a material and product listing and labeling (certification) system and that is accepted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction, which is in the business of listing and labeling. The system includes initial and ongoing product testing, a periodic inspection on current production of listed (certified)

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products and makes available a published report of such listing in which specific information is included that the material or product conforms to applicable standards and found safe for use in a specific manner.

[LAPC Section 214.0]

Non-Listed - Product that is not listed.

Tested - Equipment or material that is subject to examination as outlined in the referenced standards in the California Plumbing Code. A list of the approved testing agencies can be found at

<http://ladbs.org/LADBSWeb/mechanical-test-lab.jsf>

PLUMBING PRODUCTS LISTING, LABELING AND MARKING

1. All pipes, pipe fittings, traps, fixtures, materials, and devices used in plumbing systems shall be listed or labeled by a listing agency. [LAPC Section 301.1]
2. Marking. Each length of pipe and each pipe fitting, trap, fixture, material, and device used in a plumbing system shall have cast, stamped, or indelibly marked on it the manufacturer's mark or name, which shall readily identify the manufacturer to the end user of the product. Materials and devices used or entering into the construction of plumbing systems, or parts thereof, shall be marked and identified in a manner satisfactory to the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Such markings shall be done by the manufacturer. Field markings shall not be acceptable. [LAPC Section 301.1.1]

MECHANICAL PRODUCTS LISTING, LABELING AND MARKING

1. Each appliance shall be approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction for safe use or complying with applicable nationally recognized standards as evidence by listing and label of an approved agency. [LAMC 302.1]
2. Installers shall furnish satisfactory evidence that the appliance is constructed in conformity with the requirements of the Los Angeles Mechanical Code. The permanently attached label of an approved agency may be accepted as such evidence. Additionally, Fuel-burning appliances, heat pumps, and electric cooling appliances have specific labeling requirements as specified in section 306.0 of the Los Angeles Mechanical Code. [LAMC 302.2]

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are frequently asked questions relating to the Los Angeles Mechanical Testing Laboratory (LADBS-MTL):

1. Do plumbing and mechanical equipment and fixtures require approval by LADBS-MTL?

No, provided the equipment or fixture is listed by an approved listing agency to meet the applicable standards listed in the code.

2. What are the different approvals I can get from LADBS-MTL?

One-time Approval - This approval is granted for fixtures and equipment that are custom made or installed at a specific job site. The evaluation and testing can often be performed at the location where the fixture/equipment is installed. Application for this type of approval may be filed by the building owner, installer, vendor, or manufacturer. The approval is for one time and for a specific location, and it can not be used for another installation.

General Approval/Laboratory Approval - This approval is granted for fixtures and equipment to be used anytime and anywhere within the City. The testing and physical evaluation are usually done in an approved laboratory, unless a suitable site visit is prearranged. Application for this type of approval shall be filed by the manufacturer.

3. What is the process of obtaining an LADBS-MTL approval?

The process to obtain a Los Angeles City Mechanical Research Report consists of the following steps:

- a. Submit an "Application for Testing or Evaluating Mechanical Equipment" to the LADBS-MTL and pay the fees (see item g below).
- b. Attach product literature that shows materials and dimensions, and describes the intended use, installation and maintenance instructions. Also, you may include pictures or other materials that will help to evaluate the product. A product sample or a field visit maybe required.
- c. Provide substantiating data such as test reports from an approved third party testing agency and/or engineering analysis in support of the requested approval.
- d. Attach a typed list of sizes and models, as applicable, of the product to be approved.
- e. After reviewing the submitted documents, an approval letter or a correction notice will be issued by an LADBS-MTL engineer and sent to the applicant.
- f. Upon approval of a Mechanical Research Report, the approval letter will be posted on the Los Angeles City Department of Building and Safety web site. The approval letter will contain conditions of approval specifying the proper use and installation of the product.
- g. An application package and other information can be found at http://ladbs.org/LADBSWeb/LADBS_Forms/PlanCheck/PC-MECH.App14-TestorEvalMechEquip.pdf

4. How can I obtain an application for product approval?

The application form is available from the Department's web site:

http://ladbs.org/LADBSWeb/LADBS_Forms/PlanCheck/PC-MECH.App14-TestorEvalMechEquip.pdf

5. How long does it take to obtain LADBS-MTL approval for a product?

It depends on the backlog at the time the application is submitted. The backlog information is provided to applicants at the time of submittal. The backlog is the time it takes to assign an application and report to an LADBS-MTL engineer to be processed from the submittal date. If there are any corrections, it will be up to the applicant to address the corrections in a timely manner.

6. Who can apply for approval?

For a general approval/laboratory approval, a company who has the legal rights to the product's test reports being submitted and the legal rights to the product. Test reports being submitted shall bear the name of the applicant, unless documentation is provided authorizing the applicant to use such reports.

For One-Time approval, application may be filed by the building owner, installer, vendor, or manufacturer.

7. How long is the approval good for, and where do I find it?

A General Approval/Laboratory Approval is valid for one year from the approval date. A copy of the approval letters can be found at:

Also, a list of Recently Approved/Modified products is posted at LADBS website http://ladbs.org/LADBSWeb/LADBS_Forms/TestLab/RecentlyApprvdModifiedProduct.pdf

8. Can I expedite the review process?

Expedite fee pursuant to Section 98.0433 of the Los Angeles City Municipal Code may be paid by the applicant to reduce the time it takes to assign the application to an LADBS-MTL engineer. The amount of the expedite fee is, in addition to the regular application fee, equal to one-half of the regular application fee.

9. How can an approval be renewed?

Submit an "Application for Testing or Evaluating Mechanical Equipment" to LADBS-MTL, check the box "renewal" and pay the fees.

Additional information, tests, and/or engineering analysis may be required, in which case written comments will be sent to the applicant.