



SELdirect Dispatch

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Welcome to SELdirect Dispatch

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *SELdirect Dispatch*!

This quarterly newsletter is a new service from SEL to keep our clients informed about important changes in the product compliance arena. The compliance field as a whole is evolving so quickly that SEL sees a need to keep its client base informed of these changes. It is also intended to serve as a reference tool for questions and issues pertaining to product compliance. Although primarily aimed at product safety of electrical products, the newsletter will

include other areas of interest for our clients as well, including EMC, telecom homologation, and quality assurance. We at SEL sincerely hope you will enjoy the newsletter and find it useful. Feedback on the *SELdirect Dispatch* is encouraged and appreciated.

Please send in topics that you are interested in learning more about to: carol@SELdirect.com. If your topic is chosen, you will receive a special thank you gift.



Telecom Homologation. Will it become a reality? Watch for updates in future editions.

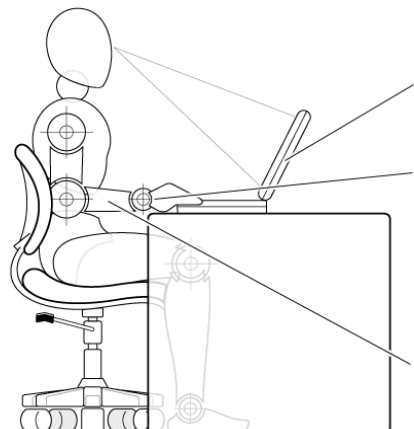
Where is IEC 60950 Headed?

The standard for Information Technology Equipment (ITE) called IEC 60950 has evolved into IEC 60950-1, published in 2001. (UL and CSA recently published their bi-national version UL 60950-1, in March 2003.) In a change of approach, the IEC subcommittee responsible for the standard has decided to "grow" the standard into additional sub-standards for specific areas of interest not covered by the base standard. The new parts will follow the format of the other IEC-based standards which have multiple parts. These standards are known as the particular standards or the -2 standards. For example, it is likely that IEC 60950-2-22 will be the standard for ITE equipment used outdoors, and very similar to UL's recent bulletin on the topic. As a result of this change in ap-

proach, it will be common for products to be tested to multiple standards. Typically, the -2 standards are short and only contain items that differ from the base standard, although sometimes they are written in a near stand-alone fashion. It is expected that the -2 versions of the IEC 60950-1 standard will only add to or modify the base standard. A common misconception is that a product must comply with both standards, taking the more stringent requirements from each. The -2 standards may be more or less stringent than the base standard, and they will always take precedence, regardless if it makes it easier or harder to comply. For example, a -2 standard may require greater spacings

for outdoor equipment and at the same time relax the accessibility requirements for products professionally installed on a pole.

We will keep you updated on the new standards in future editions of the *SELdirect Dispatch*.



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Special points of interest:

- For agency visit dates to SEL and seminar dates, see www.SELdirect.com
- For info between newsletter issues, see our website or contact us directly.
- To see our larger facility where SEL has been since early 2002, see our website, which has directions.

The New Versions of IEC 61010-1: Out of Sync

The IEC has published the 2nd Edition of IEC 61010-1 which, although similar, has some significant differences from the 1st Edition and its two amendments. UL will publish its version(s) of the standard this year based on the 2nd Edition. Getting out of sync, UL in December 2002 published three different standards, based on the 1st Edition with amendments, not the 2nd Edition. Confusing things further, UL created three different standards: Laboratory (UL 61010A-1), Test/Masurement (UL 61010B-1), and Process Control Equipment (UL 61010C-1). A consequence of being out of sync is that no US NRTLs can produce a 2nd Edition CB Report until the US national standard is published!

As for the changes to the 2nd Edition standard, one of the most

significant is the new requirement specifying V-1 rated non-metallic enclosures. This will have a significant impact on existing products with lesser-rated fire enclosures which are being updated to the new standard. The 1st Edition (EN version) of the standard is being withdrawn in the EU (you must switch by 1/1/2004!) so it is a significant issue for manufacturers using older plastic enclosures which do not meet the new requirements. Additionally, there are also new general flammability requirements which are now very similar to those for Information Technology Equipment under IEC 60950-1.

Other changes to the standard include the removal of the creepage and clearance tables

from the appendix in the 1st edition of IEC 61010-1. They have now been merged into the body of the standard and simplified, leaving the details of Over-voltage Categories and such to IEC 60664. Although the formats are significantly different from the 1st Edition, the technical requirements for creepage and clearance are essentially unchanged.

SEL will continue to make updates and observations on the 2nd Edition of IEC 61010-1 and the new Test, Measurement and Laboratory standards in the coming editions of *SELDirect Dispatch*.

CHALLENGE: Is there a leakage current test, a.k.a. touch current by other recent IEC standards, in this Standard? (The answer is



Compliance Tip!

Always obtain and review the power supply Report, particularly the

"Conditions of Acceptability" section before sourcing your power supply.

What's In Your Future?

In this section, we will provide you with a heads-up on changes happening in the compliance world.

Adjacent are a couple of the new international marks that may be in your future.

For China...



For Denan Law compliance in Japan, for Specified and Non-Specified Products...



Logo for SP



Logo for NSP

Did You Know?

Did you know that it's possible to reduce the number of UL factory visits and have advanced notice of them?

Did you know that SEL posts its agency visit schedule on its website?

Do you have access to your UL Reports electronically through UL's Client Document Access (CDA) program?

UL Using New IEC-Style CB Test Report Format

In a major departure from its traditional report format, UL migrated toward the IEC-based report format. All new Reports created after 1/1/2003 are supposed to employ the new format, although SEL has been in the beta program since mid-2002. The basic format has been used for CB reports for several years now. A number of other agencies have been using this format for both their own re-

ports/marks, as well as CB reports, for several years.

Although the new report has its advantages when submitting for other certifications, it is both more burdensome and less descriptive than the traditional UL report. The reports are often several times longer than the traditional UL report, but often lack important details found in the old style report,

which may complicate factory inspections.

The transition has been fairly smooth thus far. Although a dramatic change for UL's internal operations, the use of the IEC-based Report both for a national mark and CB simply brings UL to the same efficiencies that other agencies have enjoyed for years.



Safety Engineering Laboratory

2372-A Qume Dr.
San Jose, CA 95131 U.S.A.

Phone: (408) 544-1890
Fax: (408) 544-1899
Website: www.SELdirect.com
Email: carol@SELdirect.com

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SELdirect for Managing Compliance

For those of you who have not heard, SEL is pleased to announce our SELdirect FTP service.

SELdirect is the name of our new shared compliance database for our clients. The database is a shared, password-protected location whereby both SEL and our clients can view and/or transfer files without having to keep track of exchanged emails. The site is set up using the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) so it is easy to transfer large files, such as manuals and board layouts. On the site for our clients are SEL's Handouts which contain answers to common questions, regarding labels, manuals and plastics' flammability.

The site also acts as a reference and archive for your compliance

documents. Copies of your agency certificates and/or reports will be located in one easy-to-access location, accessible from any PC at any time. So, when you get that call from your distributor in Germany asking for an immediate copy of your CE Declaration of Conformity for your Model HAPPY 1000, you know where you can find it, quickly and easily. It also acts as an easy inbox for documents that you are sending to SEL, and a structure to keep you and SEL organized during the certification process.

For more details about the new SELdirect.com, please contact your usual SEL engineer; or Carol Wahl at carol@SELdirect.com or by phone at (408) 544-1890 Ext. 228.

Frank and Ernest



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