



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

Hugh M. McLaurin
Associate Executive Director
Directorate for Engineering Sciences

Tel: (301) 504-7531
Fax: (301) 504-0533
Email: hmclaurin@cpsc.gov

March 20, 2003

**Subject: Certification of Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters
Manufactured for the U.S. Market**

To: Independent Testing Laboratories that Certify Electrical Consumer Products

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff has worked cooperatively with Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), the developer of the safety standard for Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters (GFCIs), and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), which represents GFCI manufacturers, to address GFCI field failures.

UL has adopted new safety certification requirements that will improve GFCI reliability. The effective date of the new requirements was January 1, 2003. UL will require products manufactured after the effective date to pass all of the new safety certification requirements to be "listed" by UL when they are certified to UL 943, *Standard for Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters*. The CPSC staff believes that adoption of these safety certification requirements will result in significant improvements in GFCI reliability and safety for consumers.

The newly adopted safety certification requirements are:

1. Expansion and Revision of Surge Test Requirements
2. Resistance to Moisture and Corrosion Test
3. Reverse Line-Load Miswire Test (Line Terminals)
4. New Requirements for Abnormal Overvoltage Test
5. New Requirements for Operational Mechanism Test
6. Replacement Requirement for Resistance to Environmental Noise Test
7. Supplemental Voltage Surge Test

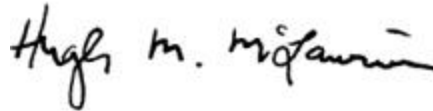
Items 1, 4, 5 and 6 received consensus as part of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) review process and are included as requirements within ANSI/UL 943. The remaining requirements, items 2, 3 and 7, have not yet received consensus and thus are not

presently included in ANSI/UL 943. However, they will be submitted by UL for consensus balloting to be included in the ANSI/UL standard in the near future.

As a testing laboratory that permits its certification mark to appear on products that conform to UL 943, the CPSC staff encourages you to inform your clients of the new UL requirements and ensure that products you test meet all of these requirements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. The views expressed in this letter are those of the CPSC staff and have not been reviewed or approved by the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hugh M. McLaurin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hugh M. McLaurin

Cc: Paul Orr, UL/Northbrook
Jim Beyreis, UL/Northbrook
Gordon Gillerman, UL/Washington
Edward Minasian, UL/Melville
John Smith, UL/Melville
Colin Church, CPSC
William King, CPSC
Len Frier, American Council on Electrical Safety