



## PRODUCT CERTIFICATION AND THE CSA MARK

QSSI is pleased to announce that we have completed the requirements to participate in the CSA certification process, and in fact, are qualified and authorized to do our own in-house testing and certification! As a result of this ability, we will now be able to bring new products to market quickly. CSA is one of the three largest certification laboratories for product testing and safety in North America, and is interchangeable with the UL certification and acceptance.

### **About CSA:**

CSA is an independent, not-for-profit organization with certification and laboratory facilities that provide global services. CSA was founded in 1919, and CSA International (their testing and certification division) is fully accredited in the United States by the Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) as a National Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL), and in Canada by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). In addition, they are accredited by ANSI and NES, and test and certify products to U.S. standards and codes. All OSHA accredited laboratories must conduct testing to the same set of U.S. standards and codes, so the end certification is the same, regardless of which lab issues it. Among the U.S. standards that are used are American National Standards Institute (ANSI), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and many others.

In addition, CSA has a staff of field representatives that carry out factory visits to ensure that CSA certified products continue to meet the standards. They conduct over 50,000 such visits per year, worldwide.

### **What a National Recognized Testing Laboratory Means to You**

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) accredits testing facilities in the U.S. and designates them as "Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTLs)". This means that OSHA has found them to possess the capabilities, competence, calibration and control programs, independence, and reporting capabilities to test and certify that products meet U.S. standards according to OSHA's regulation 29 CFR 1910.7. All NRTLs test products to the same standards. CSA International has been accredited by OSHA since 1992.

### **About the CSA Mark:**

The CSA mark means that the product has been tested and meets the applicable standards for performance and safety, whether those standards are written by ANSI (American National Standards Institute), UL (Underwriters Laboratory), CSA (Canadian Standards Association), NSF (National Sanitation Foundation International), or others. CSA marks appear on over 1 Billion products worldwide!

CSA marks are widely recognized and accepted by authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ's) throughout North America, including the City of Los Angeles, CA, North Carolina, New York, Oregon, Washington, and hundreds of other state and municipal jurisdictions.

The marks used for the U.S. market are as follows:



For the US only: The CSA mark with “US” or “NRTL” means the product is certified for the US market to the applicable US standards.



For the US and Canada: The CSA mark with “C” and “US” or “NRTL/C” means the product is certified for both the US and Canadian markets, to the applicable US and Canadian standards.

### **Why Marks Matter:**

A product that has been tested and certified offers peace of mind to consumers, retailers, regulatory bodies, and specifiers. The CSA mark shows that the product meets recognized standards for safety and performance and has been independently tested. Some jurisdictions require certification marks on items sold within that jurisdiction, but even if they do not, the mark still provides a benefit by assuring everyone that the product has been independently tested and found compliant with prevailing standards. It indicates your commitment to your customers for their safety and satisfaction, and their confidence in your products is priceless.

### **The Product Certification Process:**

Standards organizations (ANSI, UL, CSA, NSF, etc.) are responsible for developing the requirements for each type of product. They work with many different interested parties—consumers, industry representatives, regulatory agencies, etc.—to define the requirements needed, and then publish these as the standards. Some of these standards become mandatory through legislation, while the rest remain voluntary.

Manufacturers then use these standards to develop products that meet the requirements. They then submit their products for testing and certification to an accredited testing organization, such as CSA.

The testing organization tests the product, and if found to be in compliance with the applicable standards, issues a certification which allows the product to bear the testing organizations mark. They also perform regular follow-up inspections of the manufacturers’ factory to ensure that the products continue to conform to the standards. Testing organizations are all accredited by OSHA (in the U.S.) or SCC (in Canada), and they are required to be accredited to certify products to national standards. Because of this process, the certification mark is widely respected and requested.

### **The Product Certification Process:**



### **The Most Important Thing You Should Know:**

All accredited testing laboratories are required to test to the exact same standards. This means that all “listed” lighting fixtures are tested to the bi-national U.S./Canadian standard, “UL 1598/CSA 22.2 No. 250.0-00, which was effective February 1, 2001. This standard replaced previous standards such as UL 1570, UL 1571, and UL1572.

### **Competition for Certification**

OSHA accredits multiple laboratories, and manufacturers can choose among them based on turnaround time, convenience, and price. Because all accredited test facilities evaluate products against the same standards, product selection in the marketplace can be based on brand, quality, and price rather than the certification mark on the product. Competition in the testing marketplace allows manufacturers to bring products to market quickly and economically, while still maintaining the testing required by the standards. This benefits everyone, from the manufacturer to the end user.

### **You're in Good Company:**

We've joined thousands of other companies that rely on CSA International for their product testing and certification requirements. Among them are American Water Heater, Apple, Black & Decker, Delta, GE, Hewlett-Packard, Hubbell, IBM, Intermatic, Lennox Industries, Mitsubishi, Moen, Sanyo, and Whirlpool just to name a few.

Even more importantly, the CSA mark is accepted at major retailers, manufacturers, and distributors in the U.S. and throughout the world. Some of the major retail chains carrying CSA marked products include Best Buy, Canadian Tire, The Home Depot, JC Penney, Lowes, Radio Shack, Sears, Spiegel, and Wal-Mart. Of course, there are many more not listed here.

### **For More Information**

Visit the CSA website at [www.csa-international.org](http://www.csa-international.org).

**WORLD WIDE MANUFACTURING SINCE 1985**

USA CORPORATE OFFICE: 12802 COMMODITY PLACE / TAMPA, FL 33626

PHONE: 813 855-9416 FAX: 813 854-2915 EMAIL: [sales@qssi.com](mailto:sales@qssi.com)

TAMPA FACTORY: 12802 COMMODITY PLACE, TAMPA, FL 33626 PH: 813-316-2221 FAX: 813-855-3717

CERRITOS FACTORY: 15980 BLOOMFIELD AVE., CERRITOS, CA 90703 PH: 562-407-1390 FAX: 562-407-1836

WALDEN FACTORY: 827-2 RT. 52, WALDEN, NY 12586 PH: 845-778-6374 FAX: 845-778-6380

VANCOUVER FACTORY: 1304 NE 154TH ST, VANCOUVER, WA 98685 PH: 360-567-0580 FAX: 360-567-0587

MEMPHIS FACTORY: 241 E INDUSTRIAL ST, MEMPHIS, TN 38109 PH: 901-334-2391 FAX: 901-205-0583

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