

Subject 969A

July 6, 2018

SUMMARY OF TOPICS

The Standard for Marking and Labeling Systems for Cords and Hoses, ANSI/CAN/UL 969A, is being proposed.

1. The proposed first edition of the Standard for Marking and Labeling Systems for Cords and Hoses, ANSI/CAN/UL 969A, covers flag-type tags (cord tags) affixed with an adhesive or a securement strap, i.e. cable tie or similar device and adhesive backed wrap around labels affixed directly to a cord or hose. The adhesives may be pressure sensitive, heat activated or solvent activated. These labels are intended to be applied by manufacturer's at the location they produce their end products.

STP BALLOTS AND ALL COMMENTS DUE: September 4, 2018

UL's goal is to have no interest category comprise more than one-third of the STP membership balance. To improve the current balance for STP 969, UL is looking for participants in the following interest categories: AHJ, Commercial/Industrial User, Consumer, General, Government, Supply Chain, and Testing and Standards. Definitions for these interest categories are available on the Standards STP Internet site:

<http://ulstandards.ul.com/develop-standards/participation/interest-categories/>

If you are interested in applying for STP 969 membership or are aware of potential candidates for this STP, please contact the STP Project Manager, Megan.Monsen@ul.com.

For your convenience in review, proposed additions to existing requirements are shown underlined and proposed deletions are shown ~~lined-out~~.

1. The proposed first edition of the Standard for Marking and Labeling Systems for Cords and Hoses, ANSI/CAN/UL 969A, covers flag-type tags (cord tags) affixed with an adhesive or a securement strap, i.e. cable tie or similar device and adhesive backed wrap around labels affixed directly to a cord or hose. The adhesives may be pressure sensitive, heat activated or solvent activated. These labels are intended to be applied by manufacturer's at the location they produce their end products.

BACKGROUND

At the STP 969 meeting in June 2017, James Thompson, UL LLC, led a discussion that there were over 40 UL end product standards that make reference to cord tags, most of which include specific requirements for cord tags and wrap around labels. A lot of the cord tag requirements in the end product standards are consistent, but the biggest differences appear to be slippage requirements. The amount of slippage would be recorded during the evaluation. As a potential solution, a rough draft of a new UL 969A standard was presented during the STP meeting. There was support for the development of the new standard amongst the meeting attendees and UL agreed to continue work on finalizing the new UL 969A standard.

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RATIONALE

Proposal submitted by: James Thompson, UL LLC

Since over 40 end-product standards have cord tag requirements that are very similar in regard to the test method and pass fail criteria, UL is proposing a new standard that would allow manufacturer's to test to one document which cover a number of requirements specified in the end-product standards.

Publication of UL 969A would allow for end-product standards to reference UL 969A and could eliminate the need for end-product requirements to address these type of marking systems.

Benefits of a Single Standard for US and Canada

Publishing UL 969A as a binational US/Canadian Standard is expected to provide the following benefits:

- Greater consistency in safety of marking and labeling systems for cords and hoses across both countries and jurisdictions.
- A more efficient maintenance of the standard using a single standards development process. The process uses only one standards technical committee including stakeholder representatives from both countries and will result in one document rather than two that need to be updated moving forward. This can happen quicker and result in requirements across countries remaining harmonized as technological and safety advances are made over time. This also eliminates the risk of de-harmonization over time and eliminates cost, effort and resources required to maintain two separate standards. Industry will only need to participate once rather than multiple times to maintain consistent requirements.
- Clearer guidance for manufacturers using a single Standard. One document can be used to design and evaluate products for multiple countries and across jurisdictions. This can save time and money, and can reduce potential trade barriers and enable freer flow of goods to multiple countries.
- Simpler evaluation and certification process, compared to multiple standards.

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PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover flag-type tags (cord tags) affixed with an adhesive or a securement strap, i.e. cable tie or similar device and adhesive backed wrap around labels affixed directly to a cord or hose. The adhesives may be pressure sensitive, heat activated or solvent activated. These labels are intended to be applied by manufacturer's at the location they produce their end products.

1.2 These requirements also cover:

- a) Unprinted materials and other label components used by label converters to produce finished labels, and
- b) Specific combinations of label material, ink and printing process evaluated as a system.

1.3 These marking and labeling systems are evaluated for use on specific cord or hose types and AWG sizes, outside diameters, respectively that they will be applied to during actual use.

2 Units of Measurement

2.1 Values and their respective units of measurement that are stated without parentheses constitute the requirement of the standard and those in parentheses constitute explanatory or approximate information.

3 Undated References

3.1 Any undated reference appearing in the requirements of this standard shall be interpreted as referring to the latest edition of the reference, including all revisions and amendments.

4 Normative References

4.1 The following standards are referenced in this standard, and portions of these referenced standards may be essential for compliance.

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standards

ASTM G151

Standard Practice for Exposing Nonmetallic Materials in Accelerated Test Devices That Use Laboratory Light Sources

ASTM G155

Standard Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials

5 Glossary

5.1 For the purpose of this Standard, the following definitions apply.

5.2 FACE STOCK – A polymeric film, metal foil, paper, and fabric or laminated material capable of receiving print.

5.3 FLAG-TYPE TAG – The flag-type tag may be an adhesive backed printed construction with or without a overlamination or overprint coating that is intended to be wrapped around a cord or hose and adhered to itself and extends from the cord or hose like a flag. Alternately, a flag type tag maybe a printed film or similar material with a hole that will allow a securement strap, i.e. cable tie or similar device to be used to affix it to a cord or hose.

5.4 FLOOD COAT – A layer of ink that coats an area of the face stock, generally intended to provide background color.

5.5 LAMINATING ADHESIVE – An adhesive coated on a release liner and intended to be bonded to the face stock.

5.6 OVERLAMINATION – A transparent film or transparent portion of the face stock applied over the printed area for protection.

5.7 OVERPRINT COATING – A transparent coating, such as a varnish applied over the printed face stock or label stock for protection.

5.8 PRINTING PROCESS – A means by which ink is applied to a face stock.

5.9 RELEASE LINER – A removable component of a label or label stock that protects the adhesive prior to application.

5.10 SECUREMENT STRAP – Typically, a cable tie or similar device used to secure the flag-type tag to a cord or hose.

5.11 SUBSURFACE PRINTING – Printing on the underside of the face stock.

5.12 TEMPERATURE RATING, MAXIMUM – The highest surface temperature the flag-type tag or cord label is intended to be used.

5.13 TEMPERATURE RATING, MINIMUM – The lowest surface temperature the flag-type tag or cord label is intended to be used.

5.14 TOP COAT – A coating applied to the face stock or label stock to improve ink receptivity.

5.15 TOP-SURFACE PRINTING – Printing applied to the topside of the face stock or label stock.

5.16 WRAP AROUND LABEL – An adhesive backed printed construction that is intended to be affixed directly to the cord or hose.