What does it mean to be certified?

How New Developments in Product Certification Dramatically Affect the Way You Buy Equipment Today

Intertek Testing Services (ETL) is the internationally recognized laboratory used to certify LANDA equipment

For years, electrical appliances and small equipment have carried certification seals. It was the government's way of providing consumers with confidence in the safety of manufactured products.

The most popular certification seals were:

- Underwriters Laboratory (UL) in the U.S.; and
- Canadian Standards Association (CSA) in Canada.

While the testing of these products was not performed by the government, the test procedures were scrutinized and actually endorsed by federal agencies.

Two very important factors relating to certification have impacted the pressure washer industry:

- More Testing Laboratories: Other testing laboratories, besides UL and CSA, have been approved by OSHA—the U.S. government's safety "watch dog"— to certify a wide range of products; and
- New Pressure Washer Standards: In 1992 a new set of standards—called UL-1776—was established addressing the unique safety concerns associated with pressure washers, both electric- and gas-powered.

Today, consumers and businesses can know they are purchasing a pressure washer built for safety when they see the statement: "Certified to UL-1776 Standards, Second Edition."

Why buy only certified equipment?

Here Are the Three Important Ways Buying Certified Equipment Can Protect You and Your Company

It is now the law, according to OSHA, that all electric equipment in the workplace, must be certified or "approved"

When it comes to product safety, there are three key reasons businesses will want to buy only equipment that has been certified to safety standards by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL), such as UL or, as in the case of Landa equipment, the OSHA-approved testing laboratory ETL:

- Legal Compliance: It is now the law in the workplace, according to OSHA regulation 1910.399, that electrical equipment must be "listed" by an "approved" testing agency. Failure to comply can result in penalties of up to $10,000.
- Worker Protection: It makes good business sense to make sure your workers are protected by providing them only the safest of equipment.
- Liability Protection: In this day of costly litigation, one of your best legal protections against an accident on the job is purchasing only equipment that has been certified by an NRTL to rigorous safety standards.

The safety issue has become such an important factor that even the 1996 National Electrical Code (NEC) addresses the issue of pressure washers powered by electricity.

The NEC mandates that all such pressure washers (except 3-phase and over 250V models) must have a "factory-installed ground-fault circuit-interrupter…[one that] shall be an integral part of the attachment plug or shall be located in the supply cord within 12 in. (305 mm) of the attachment plug."

Every electric-driven LANDA pressure washer meets this standard.

How does certification protect you?

LANDA WATER CLEANING SYSTEMS BUILT FOR SAFETY

Here Are Some of the Features Required by UL-1776 Second Edition and How They Protect You

Special Testing: Because it has been certified to UL-1776 Second Edition, LANDA equipment also complies to the Flooding and Water Spray test, the Drop-Impact test and the Test on Gripping Areas.

Components: All electrical components must be individually certified. Machines must be subjected to a dielectric voltage-withstand test. This identifies current leakage for protection against electrical shortages.

Motor Protection: Motors must come with a thermal overload protection device (not visible).

Cord Strength: All power cords must have a more durable sheath as protection against cracking and moisture and must be certified and marked with "Water Resistant."

Cord Length: All power cords on portable models must be at least 35 feet long to discourage use of extension cords that are unprotected by the required Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).

Warning Labels: Labels must be resistant to oil and gasoline. Plus, LANDA attaches its lexan labels with a more durable, extra-strength glue. Approved wording is used for operating instructions and warnings. LANDA labels also are in English, Spanish and French, for multilingual operations.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters: For operator protection, a factory-installed GFCI must be, according to the NEC Code, "an integral part of the cord attachment plug or located within 12 inches of the attachment plug" on all machines 250 volts or less, single phase.

Also required, but not visible here:

Temperature Control Switch: Thermostat automatically shuts down the burner should water overheat.

Tire Brake: Lever actuated brake keeps pressure washer from moving while in operation.

Safety Relief Valve: Protects against the build-up of back pressure should there be some kind of blockage in the system or coil.

Anti-Siphon: Prevents cleaning water and chemicals from backing into water supply.

Rupture Disk: Protects against excessive build up of pressure.

Wand Length: All wands between the trigger gun and pressure nozzle must be at least 36 inches long on pressure washers of 200 to 3200 psi and 48 inches long on units of 3200 to 5000 psi. This is to help prevent operators from accidentally spraying themselves with a high-powered spray.

Gun-Wand Connection: No quick couplers are allowed between the trigger gun and wand to prevent the dangerous possibility of attaching a high-pressure nozzle directly into the trigger gun.

Trigger Gun: All pressure washers with pressure ratings above 200 psi must come standard with a trigger gun for quick-release control by the operator.

Hose Guard: A 2-foot shroud must cover the hose at the trigger gun so as to give strain relief to the hose connection and divert spray away from the operator in the event of a hose failure.