



**Building  
Consumer  
Confidence**



**ANSI Forum**

***TRUST BUT VERIFY***

**August Schaefer  
Senior Vice President &  
Public Safety Officer  
Underwriters Laboratories Inc**

**September 26, 2007**

# Underwriters Laboratories

## □ UL's Mission

- To promote safe living and working environments for people by the application of Safety Science and Hazard-Based Safety Engineering
- To work with integrity and a focus on quality to enhance the trust conveyed by our Certification Marks

## □ William Henry Merrill Jr (1866-1923)

- "Know by test, and state the facts."
- "Testing for Safety"

# Underwriters Laboratories

## □ Underwriters Laboratories Today

- Global company with a single mission
- Operations touching over 100 countries
- Over 6500 employees globally
- Significant activity in China
- 880 plus published standards for safety
  - Over 80% ANSI accredited
  - Developed Using Consensus Process
- Average household contains some 125 products with the UL Mark
- About 21 billion UL Marks applied to products each year

# UL Certification Process

- ❑ **Product Submittal**
  - UL conducts initial assessment
- ❑ **Product Investigation**
  - UL engineers thoroughly test and evaluate the product
- ❑ **Authorization to use the UL Mark**
  - Once compliance is determined, manufacturer is authorized to apply the UL Mark
- ❑ **Follow-Up Services Program**
  - Throughout the lifetime of the UL certification, products undergo regular inspections at the manufacturing facility

# UL Mark Integrity Program

- ❑ **Rigorous Follow-Up Program Applied Globally**
  - Some 600,000 inspection visits in over 100 countries
- ❑ **Robust Field Report System**
  - UL investigates noncompliance claims from consumers, manufacturers, regulatory authorities and others
- ❑ **Proactive Market Surveillance Program**
  - UL purchases numerous products each year to verify compliance with appropriate requirements
- ❑ **Zero-Tolerance for Counterfeit Goods**
  - Aggressive UL initiatives to protect consumers

# Building Confidence in Imported Consumer Products

- ❑ Employ market driven 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification programs where appropriate
- ❑ Attack the issue at the source:
  - Educate manufacturers on product safety issues
  - Make safety standards available to industry
  - Engage government support where necessary
- ❑ Employ a continuous feedback loop at all levels
- ❑ Allow CPSC to dialog with product certification bodies for products that bear their marks

# Building Confidence in Imported Consumer Products

- ❑ Elevate the safety consciousness of the American consumer
  - Youth education
  - The buying public

# Thank You For Your Attention

**For more information & contact -**

**August Schaefer  
Senior Vice President &  
Public Safety Officer  
Underwriters Laboratories  
Northbrook, Illinois**