

INFORMATION LETTER 0015-2008
Electrically Listed Signs
Section 406.6 of the Electrical Code
Effective Immediately (10/15/08)

A long awaited change to the Electrical Code has been approved by City Council effective September 1, 2008. This involves a shop inspection for those signs that are electrically wired to standards of an approved agency.

The Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTL) is designated by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) which is part of the U.S. Department of Labor. The NRTL web site will provide a listing of all approved agencies (<http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/index.html>) or go to your browser and type in NRTL.

This change will allow Sign Administration not to charge for a shop inspection for an electrical sign that has an approved agency label as long as it is declared at the plan checking stage. The approved agency label must be indicated on the application and on the applicable drawing. The number must match the number on the sign as the electrical inspector will be verifying for the approved agency label on the sign. In an effort to expedite your installation, you will not be required to call in a shop inspection.

If you decide at some later point that the sign has an approved agency label/sticker and you want to bypass or forego the shop inspection, you will be required to seek a plan re-examination if you had previously declared an approved listing. Some contractors may choose to bypass this process and elect for a shop inspection even if the sign has a label. Complete your electrical application to indicate both shop and install inspection; busy as usual. A ship-in and a sign built to an approved agency standard will be treated the same.

For a sign that spans several raceways/wireways: Each separate raceway/wireway as well as each remote power supply/transformer will require a separate approved agency label.

For individual letters: Each letter will require an approved agency label plus the transformers.

If using the no-shop process (approved agency label), the label has to be visible from the ground as this is the only way the electrical inspector can validate. There will be some of your customers that will not want a label seen, in that case, you will need to proceed with having a shop inspection performed and pay for a shop inspection.

An install/final inspection continues to be required.