

# Realizing the value of the UL Mark

nVent HOFFMAN



## Company Profile

**Founded:** 1945  
**Location:** Anoka, Minnesota  
**Product:** Enclosures  
**First UL Certification:** 1947

## Challenges

- Navigating the complex global regulatory landscape is challenging.
- Unique applications may not be covered under a current certification report.
- Designing a new or unique product platform requires testing to unfamiliar standards.

## Overview

nVent HOFFMAN, headquartered in Anoka, Minnesota, manufactures products that help keep systems running smoothly. Through its 75 years in business, nVent HOFFMAN has become best known for its extensive enclosure product line. But that has not always been the case. nVent HOFFMAN's story began in the 1940s with the UL Certified Switch-O-Lite. From there, nVent HOFFMAN invented the nVent HOFFMAN Blender, also a UL certified product, among other innovations. It wasn't until an automobile manufacturer requested an oil-resistant enclosure that nVent HOFFMAN's enclosure business took off.

nVent HOFFMAN has a history of manufacturing a wide variety of products for unique applications. These unique applications challenge nVent HOFFMAN to continually evolve its enclosures to meet the shifting demands of the market. nVent HOFFMAN offers enclosure solutions for multiple applications, and while their enclosure solutions vary from application to application, UL helps test and certify their safety. UL has been a resourceful partner of nVent HOFFMAN for the past 75 years, testing and certifying products like the Switch-O-Lite to the very first enclosure used by an automobile manufacturer, along with thousands of enclosures produced by nVent HOFFMAN today. UL not only helps provide testing and certification services to nVent HOFFMAN, but our expertise and knowledge helps address their safety challenges, which in turn helps accelerate their business demands. nVent HOFFMAN's engineers recognize that there is more behind the UL Mark.



“We value UL’s diverse set of engineers with varied expertise that we can tap into quickly to solve our critical safety challenges.”

Glen Kampa, senior regulatory engineer and lab manager at nVent HOFFMAN

## Solution

- UL’s global technical expertise

Almost all nVent HOFFMAN enclosures are tested and certified to UL 50, the Standard for Enclosures for Electrical Equipment, Non-Environmental Considerations; UL 50E, the Standard for Enclosures for Electrical Equipment, Environmental Considerations; and UL 508A, the Standard for Industrial Control Panels. This is important because it proves to nVent HOFFMAN’s customers that its products are evaluated to the American National Standards Institute’s (ANSI) product safety requirements in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC®). Glen Kampa, senior regulatory engineer and lab manager at nVent HOFFMAN, said, “UL is the most recognized certification body and the primary electrical product standards development organization in North America.”

While nVent HOFFMAN sees the value in the UL Mark for North America, it also has benefitted from working with UL globally. Today, nVent HOFFMAN is producing products for European access and respects UL’s contributions to standards harmonization because it can help reduce testing time and cost for its ATEX certification. Additionally, having UL experts in multiple time zones helps to streamline and accelerate the certification process. Kampa said, “We value UL’s diverse set of engineers with varied expertise that we can tap into quickly to solve our critical safety challenges.”

UL engineers have been available to nVent HOFFMAN even when challenges arose in the field. No matter the application, industry or region around the world, UL is there to quickly perform engineering evaluations to determine if a UL Listing report needs to be revised for a unique application.

## Benefits that extend beyond initial needs

The investment nVent HOFFMAN makes in getting its products UL Certified helps them achieve success in several other ways. For example, when nVent HOFFMAN is designing a new or unique product platform that requires testing to a standard they are unfamiliar with, UL offers a preliminary review. This helps them sort through the test requirements and identify the critical components, such as special plastics, through performance testing. Kampa said, “UL has experts that can help our product engineers understand testing protocols for critical components that will help guide us to the right selection for our needs.” By getting UL involved early in the product development process, it can help nVent HOFFMAN better understand certification requirements to prepare for initial certification, and also it can help them identify the proper criteria in order to select appropriate critical components.

As nVent HOFFMAN constantly innovates in the enclosure product space to grow its business and achieve success, having a relationship with UL engineers has helped them solve challenges that accelerate their business forward. Our diverse expertise has helped to get questions answered quickly, interpretations of the standards clarified efficiently, and compliance challenges solved promptly. While nVent HOFFMAN manufactures enclosures for many different industries and varied applications, UL continually meets their challenges with optimal solutions. Due to their partnership with UL, nVent HOFFMAN recognizes that there is more behind the UL Mark.



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