



The Importance of Third-Party
Testing and Certification of Building
Envelope Products

Empowering Trust[®]



Testing

Certification

Main Benefits

Why trust UL?

What drives testing?

Building envelopes represent a critical component of modern construction, serving three primary functions: keeping us safe, keeping us dry and ensuring that our buildings remain energy-efficient. Increasingly erratic weather patterns and difficult environmental situations demand more from today's building envelope products, systems and structures. Certification requires testing, and specifiers often ask that products satisfy certain performance requirements such as weather-tightness and security.

A third-party testing organization, like UL, can help you meet these obligations by offering independent testing and certification for your building envelope products to ensure that the components adhere to warranty requirements and meet contractual and project-specific responsibilities. As an EU and UK Notified Body, a third-party testing organization, like UL, can also help manufacturers seeking CE and UK Conformity Assessed (UKCA) markings to demonstrate that their products comply with European and U.K. standards.

Test your building envelope components to meet contractual obligations.

Performance mock-up (PMU) testing

Knowing how a building's facade will perform before beginning construction lets you change the design or materials early in the process if necessary, helping you save money and time.

Field testing

Ensure that fenestration and building enclosure components work together with the air barrier and perimeter conditions to meet air- and water-tightness performance requirements.

Window and door/fenestration performance and security testing

Leverage our expertise to ensure that your products meet building regulations, industry standards, project requirements and performance expectations for operation, weather, strength and security.



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What is third-party certification?

An independent, accredited third-party Certification Body can evaluate your product's performance to give you and your customers confidence that your products operate as intended. UL is proud to offer building envelope certification services in Europe. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) has accredited our laboratory in the U.K. to help you identify and close regulatory gaps, assess compliance, differentiate your building envelope products in the market and maintain best practices across your organization.

- The EU requires CE marking. Companies affected by Brexit must prepare themselves for when CE marking is no longer recognized in the U.K.
- The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) will require a UKCA mark for all construction products starting January 1, 2023.

Certification can prove challenging for manufacturers selling products in multiple markets like the EU and U.K. because each requires different credentials. As an UK approved body and technical assessment body for the CE mark and U.K. Market Conformity Assessment Body (UKMCAB) for the UKCA mark, UL can help with all of your certification needs.

How to evaluate your products for UKCA and CE marking

With UL's new Statement of Conformity (SoC), you can reduce your risk of product delays due to nonconformity with post-Brexit import regulations. We can also help you provide U.K. importers and retailers reassurance that your products comply with the EU's Brexit-related import requirements.

Secured by Design (SBD) highly encourages UKCA and UK Northern Ireland (UKNI) markings. This widely recognized industry body has produced a series of authoritative guides to assist the building, design and construction industries.

While third-party certification schemes aren't always mandatory, they provide an added level of trust that your products comply with safety regulations and include periodic surveillance activities, critical to differentiating your products in a competitive, challenging market.



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Manufacturers Benefits

- Helps consumers accurately compare competing products in the market
- Signifies a manufacturer's commitment to go above minimum market requirements to differentiate their products
- Provides self-assurance by meeting additional product certification requirements before an organization
- Supports export to markets that mandate third-party certification, e.g., Middle Eastern and North American markets
- Drives a commitment to deliver high-integrity products

Architects Benefits

- Reduces risks in product selection
- Provides verifiable information about the product, including use and installation, available through the certification provider's website or published directory
- Allows stakeholders to refer to the product certificate and documentation that the certification provider issued to easily confirm marketing claims
- Confirms testing conducted for various product-specific requirements such as air, water, fire and corrosion resistance
- Doesn't require relying solely on the DoP to make product selection decisions issues their DoP.

Building Projects Benefits

- Increased transparency benefits for the warranty provider, building regulator and local authorities
- Confidence that the product meets project specifications
- More information and documentation to support product acceptance decisions
- Various resources such as web-based directories available around the clock for confirming product attributes
- Marking tools to indicate products participating in optional labeling schemes





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Through the years, we have served as a trusted partner for testing for high-visibility landmarks around the world, such as Arsenal's Emirates Stadium and Heathrow Terminal 5 in the U.K., and Olympic Stadium and the National Gallery of Canada in Canada.

We can help you get your products to market faster and more efficiently by providing bundled testing and certification services as your single-source partner. UL's global expertise can help you meet requirements, open doors to new markets, reduce risks and improve building quality.

Contact UL to learn more about how we can help meet your testing and certification needs for building envelope components, products and systems.



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