

9920201 Highway Lighting Materials  
COMMENTS FROM INTERNAL/INDUSTRY REVIEW

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Comments: (Industry, 11-13-17)

There are several items to consider when making the decision to include UL1449 in your specification: 1. The Cost 2. The Value 3. Historical Data Assigning "UL Compliance" to highway lighting surge protection products may double or even triple the current cost of the product. Costs include: a. Initial Testing Depending upon which NRTL (Nationally Recognized Test Laboratory) you select, testing may cost between \$15,000 and \$40,000. That cost is per model. For instance: testing HESCO/RLS HE120, HE240, and HE480 highway lighting surge protectors may cost a total of \$120,000. This incremental cost will be added to the cost of each individual unit. b. Quarterly Inspections UL quarterly inspections can cost as much as \$400 per visit. This additional cost will be added to the cost of the individual SPDs. c. Annual UL file maintenance fees Annual maintenance fees for UL products cost around \$1,500 annually. Again...another added cost. The Value: UL 1449 is a safety standard for surge protection devices. Safety issues include: fire hazard, shock hazard, and explosion hazard. Have there been rampant reports of pedestrians being shocked, exposed to shrapnel from an exploding SPD, or burned by any of these highway lighting surge protection devices in the past 30 years? UL 1449 compliance for products in our homes and offices should be mandatory. We come into contact with these devices daily. They are attached to our homes. Highway lighting surge protection devices are placed in pedestals and pull boxes where there should be no reasonable expectation for any civilian or pedestrian to have access to being shocked or burned. Considering this....what is the value of doubling or tripling the tax payers cost for compliance with this standard?? Historical Data: HESCO/RLS has proudly been one of the primary highway lighting surge protection manufacturers for the FDOT for over 30 years. We have manufactured tens of thousands of highway lighting SPDs with not a single reported failure or incident. We stand behind our products 100%. We are IPC certified and ISO 9001:2015 registered. We take our quality and safety seriously. The main question I have is what event brought about the consideration of assigning UL compliance to highway lighting SPDs after all of these years? Was there a major fire, an injured pedestrian, an explosion? Thank you for considering my opinion. Please feel free to contact me any time. Shane Hunt President

Response: The proposed Specifications revision related to UL1449 was withdrawn. For future consideration, this comment will be forwarded to Ed Cashman, Standard Plans Engineer. The commenter has already spoken with Ed Cashman on this topic.

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