



Setting Standards for Excellence

August 31, 2006

Mr. Daniel P. Ryan  
STP Chair, Global Standards  
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.  
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Dear Dan,

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) proposes the creation of a new Underwriters Laboratories safety standard for emergency call systems used in Assisted and Independent Living Facilities. These systems are increasing in use and are relied upon to protect residents of these facilities. There is currently no national standard addressing the safety and performance of these systems.

Emergency Call systems are intended for use by residents that are ambulatory, rather than patients that are normally at or in bed. Emergency Call systems are used in multi-unit residential communities encompassing various configurations including assisted/independent living apartments and single-family residences within an independent living campus. Within the Congregate Care Retirement Communities (CCRC), emergency call systems would cover all areas except those classified as skilled care.

Current systems employ hardwired, wireless, and telephony technologies. To protect residents, all systems must provide for reliable call initiation from resident areas and subsequent annunciation at a central staff location. A safety standard for emergency call systems addresses these needs through the establishment of minimum performance requirements.

A national safety standard provides guidance for systems manufacturers in the design of emergency call products. A national safety standard assists in the effective communication of critical systems information among manufacturers, specifiers, regulators, installers, and those who purchase and use these systems. While other national standards exist for acute and skilled care (UL1069), as well as home health care (UL1637), neither is intended to address the unique needs of the facilities described above.

NEMA would like to offer its support to UL in the development of this important new national safety standard for emergency call systems used in Assisted and Independent Living Facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Collins, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

John P. Collins, Jr.

NEMA Signaling Protection and Communication Section 3SB  
Program Manager

National Electrical  
Manufacturers Association

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