



**the standard in safety**

**Underwriters  
Laboratories**

December 8, 2009

**Ark Tsisserev, M.Sc. P.Eng.**  
Electrical Safety Manager,  
Chief Electrical Inspector and City Electrician  
City of Vancouver  
Licences and Inspections  
453 West 12th Ave, City Hall, East Wing  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

**Subject: ULC Listing of Model EST3 Fire Alarm Control Panel, Product Incident Report  
2009FR-2275**

Dear Mr. Arkady Tsisserev,

Product Incident Report 2009FR-2275 was opened to investigate the report that a GE Security Model EST3 Fire Alarm Control Panel had a false response when in close proximity to a hand held radio.

The Model EST3 Fire Alarm Control Panel is currently Listed under ULC's Fire Alarm Control Units product category. At the time of Listing, ULC determined the product met all of the applicable requirements of the Standard for Control Units for Fire Alarm Systems, CAN/ULC S527. The Listing information is readily available through ULC's online certification directory. In addition, the product is subject to ULC's factory Follow-Up Service.

CAN/ULC S527 requires that the control units do not unfavorably respond to radio frequencies when tested in accordance with Section 9.15.5 of the Standard.

The Radio Frequency Interference test is conducted at 5 separate frequencies (27 Mhz, 150 Mhz, 450 Mhz, 866 Mhz and 910 Mhz) representing a broad range of radio frequencies utilized by first responders in Canada. The tests are conducted with the radio in two different positions.

One test sequence is conducted with the antenna pointing towards the control unit and one with the radio and antenna parallel to the control unit. The tests are conducted with the antenna positioned 300 mm from the nearest point of the control unit (typically the outer door/panel of the control unit). The transmitters have 5 W output and utilize random voice messages operating at the frequencies noted above. The control unit being tested is mounted in its intended position and the tests are conducted with the door panels in the closed position.

Our investigation revealed that during the reported incident, the hand held radio was held closer than the 300 mm required by the standard and that the door panel was not in place (i.e. closed). The radio did not interfere with the operation of the control panel when the radio was 300 mm or more from the control panel and the door panels installed and in the closed position.

Based on the results of our investigation on the reported incident and the information GE Security provided in their December 3, 2009 letter to you, it appears that the control panel is

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adversely affected when the radio is fewer than 300mm from the panel which is less than as specified in the standard.

We are therefore providing the information on this report to the Standards Committee for ULC S527 for its review and consideration.

This letter represents the completion of our investigation on the subject product incident report. We appreciate you bringing this issue to our attention and consider the matter closed.

UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES OF CANADA



Gunsimar Paintal

Regional Quality Manager & ULC Mark Program Owner

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**From:** Tsisserev, Arkady [mailto:arkady.tsisserev@vancouver.ca]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 08, 2009 7:59 PM

**To:** Gunsimarbir.Paintal@ca.ul.com

**Cc:** Martin.Oughton@ca.ul.com; Donald.Ackerman@us.ul.com; Mezenberg, Tony (GE EntSol, Security); McCuaig, Scott (GE EntSol, Security)

**Subject:** FW: GE (Edwards) Fire Alarm System

**Importance:** High

Dear Mr. Paintal:

This is in response to the attached follow up report on the subject matter.

Please, be advised that the conclusions presented in this report are deemed to be satisfactory to this office for the purpose of acceptance of the referenced product for installation in Vancouver as an "approved" fire alarm control panel.

I'm also encouraged that despite the fact of determining by the follow up report that the referenced product meets applicable provisions of ULC S524, it was recommended by the investigating Certification Organization that the Technical Committee responsible for a development of ULC S 527 should review current requirements of this standard so, as to mitigate any future design, construction and performance problems described in the report - for the benefit of the fire safety.

By the copy of this e-mail to Martin Oughton and Donald Ackerman I want to thank the Senior Management of the ULC and ULI for the expedient attention to the safety concerns expressed by this office in respect to the referenced subject.

By the copy of this e-mail to Tony Mezenberg and Scott McCuaig I'm advising Technical Management of GE Security that the referenced issue is considered to be resolved, and that all restrictions on use of EST3 in the City of Vancouver indicated in my original e-mail to Scott are no longer applicable.

Best regards,

Ark.

Ark Tsisserev, M.Sc.,P.Eng.

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**From:** Gunsimarbir.Paintal@ca.ul.com [mailto:Gunsimarbir.Paintal@ca.ul.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 08, 2009 11:32 AM

**To:** Tsisserev, Arkady

**Cc:** Martin.Oughton@ca.ul.com; Donald.Ackerman@us.ul.com

**Subject:** GE (Edwards) Fire Alarm System

**Importance:** High

Hello Ark,

Please see attached letter from ULC in reference to the subject matter.

*(See attached file: Ark Tsisserev\_GE EST3\_20091208.pdf)*

Regards,

Gunsimar Paintal  
Regional Quality Manager & ULC Mark Program Owner  
ULC NCB Certification Programs Office

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