DNA Process

Product Safety Certification for the 21st Century

UL has been evaluating products and writing safety certification reports for over 119 years. Consequently, UL owns the largest repository of product safety certification data in the world. In 2012 UL launched the DNA process in the motor product categories focused on unlocking the potential contained in this vast database of technical knowledge. Today, as a result of overwhelming positive feedback, UL’s DNA process is expanding across a variety of industries and product categories at a rapid pace.

What is DNA?
DNA is a much simpler, data centric process and report format from UL for product safety evaluations. This process and format more readily lend itself to linking, sorting, searching and retrieving which enables referencing previous construction and testing as a means to reduce the burden, turnaround time and cost for future submittals.

Historically, UL’s certification reports have been a text- based essay on the safety critical attributes of the product that has been tested and evaluated to UL’s published requirements. In practice, technology is an ever evolving continuum. Each new product is built on the technology of the products that came before. Historically, a substantial amount of UL’s work has been evaluations of alternate constructions of products that were previously evaluated and certified. With UL’s DNA process, we’ve eliminated the text and simply catalogued and stored the critical data in a searchable, sortable, readily accessible database — unlocking the power of the technical knowledge.

We use your drawings and schematics in creating the report and store them in a database. This makes it easier for both the manufacturer and UL to create the report. Using a database now to store reports allows UL to identify key differences between products to quickly determine what testing is necessary. In turn, quicker market access.

I’m a manufacturer, how does this help me?

Faster — For manufacturers that are members of UL’s Client Test Data Program (CTDP), your total turnaround time, from submittal to certification, will now be significantly reduced. And that benefit increases as new products, built on previously certified products, are submitted.

Bringing your product to market

Easier — If, like most manufacturers, your next product builds on the technology of the product that came before, leverage that knowledge, simply link to that previous model and reduce or eliminate redundant testing or evaluation.

Implemented DNA Categories

We are leveraging the power of the technical knowledge to explore predictive modeling as a further means to drive down costs and TAT and hasten bringing safe products to market.

The current categories include:

a. Motors
b. Electronic Controls
c. Switches
d. Printed Wiring Boards
e. Plastics
f. Power Supply Cords
g. Insulation Systems
h. Portable Tools
We speak your language
DNA format allows us to use your drawings, your documents and the actual component names and numbers that you use to identify your components.

Tagging
Having products stored in a database enables attaching tags or metadata that will enable your customers to shop for your UL certified products for use in their products.

Collaboration
The DNA process enables UL to more seamlessly function as a collaborative part of your design/development team. Several of the motor manufacturers with whom we've piloted this process are pre-loading their components; stators, rotors, enclosures, so that they can build a motor as the design progresses and then submit. Others are converting their legacy reports so they can easily clone and link to attributes or components of their previously certified motors.

What is CTDP?
UL's CTDP, Client Test Data Program, is one of a family of offerings under UL's Data Acceptance Program (DAP). Clients are able to generate report information and test data in their own labs, on their own schedule and submit the information to UL for rapid acceptance.

What do I need to do to participate?
Nothing, very shortly, we will begin piloting the DNA process in the electronic controls categories. Soon, you can enjoy the benefits of the new process and format. If you want to experience all of the benefits, enroll in UL's CTDP, and you'll see the increased speed and simplified pricing that will transform how you do certification business — AND dramatically reduce time to market!

How is UL able to turn the project around so quickly?
By focusing on the critical attributes and storing test data in an intuitive and consistent manner, we can streamline the process of reviewing the design, construction and test data and pass these savings on to you.

Is this Process open to unlisted component products?
Yes, as long as the program guidelines are met, manufacturers of unlisted components are also able to participate.

I need Canadian coverage; can I participate in this program?
Yes, we can evaluate controls to both US and Canadian requirements using this new process and format. In addition, if your lab is certified as a CTDP lab, we offer a single price to cover both US and Canadian Certifications.

Contact DNAinfo@ul.com for further information.

Interested in requesting a quote? Visit www.ul.com/quote