

Commercial grade food equipment standard identification

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National Sanitation Foundation (NSF International)

With regard to the food service industry, NSF International's primary focus is on creating and maintaining sanitation standards. With thousands of people every year being hospitalized as a result of foodborne illness, food safety has become an increasingly important issue. Although the rules governing sanitation are not universal to all regions, the NSF marking on a product guarantees that it was rigorously tested at the manufacturing level to ensure that it protects food quality and safety when in use. Facilities that manufacture NSF certified products are required to undergo yearly evaluations by NSF auditors to renew their certification. NSF approved items are almost guaranteed to be in compliance with health department rules, and food service establishments that use them will often see a boost in their overall inspection scores.

NSF International:

The basic NSF International symbol.



NSF US and Canada



NSF US & Canada:

An NSF symbol with a "C" to the bottom left and a "US" to the bottom right denotes that the product has been certified to meet both Canadian and U.S. safety and sanitation requirements. If you see a product that is NSF/ANSI listed, it has met the rules of both NSF International and the American National Standards Institute, which works closely with NSF to develop and test food safety standards.

Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) is a certification agency that focuses mostly on equipment safety standards. The engineers at UL test both electrical and gas fired food service equipment to ensure that standards in soundness of design, electrical safety, and structural integrity are met. If all the testing procedures are completed successfully, the piece of equipment is deemed safe for use in food service operations and is given the UL sticker. UL also has a sanitation classification that is similar to the one set forth by NSF International. In many instances, products listed as UL Sanitation certified are acceptable alternatives to NSF Listed items during health inspections. Consult your local regulatory offices for further information.



UL Listed EPH:

This symbol appears on products that are certified to meet specific environmental and public health standards. If it shows the word "Classified" above the UL mark, then the product also complies with ANSI/NSF regulations.

Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

As one might guess, CSA, or the Canadian Standards Association, is primarily applicable to the Canadian market. However, because CSA tests electrical and gas equipment to both its own standards as well as NSF and UL requirements, CSA marked equipment may be acceptable alternatives to NSF or UL Listed products during health inspections in the U.S. Consult your local regulatory offices for more information.



CSA Sanitation:

A CSA sanitation mark is found on products that have been tested and found to meet all applicable NSF/ANSI sanitation requirements.

Edison Testing Laboratories (ETL Intertek)

Edison Testing Laboratories (ETL) is a division of Intertek, a global group of laboratories that test everything from petroleum to toys. This organization's mark, like many others on our list, is placed onto products that adhere to widely accepted gas, electrical, and other safety standards. These safety standards are developed through independent testing and routine follow-ups by an NRTL (nationally recognized testing laboratory), which means that ETL is held to the same standards as competing certification marks such as UL or CSA. The ETL Listed marking is recognized by local inspectors and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) throughout North America.



Intertek

ETL Sanitation Listed:

The ETL Sanitation mark is awarded to food service equipment that has been rigorously tested against national sanitation requirements. This mark ensures you that the equipment is fit for use during food production as the manufacturer has not only passed the initial testing, but remains in compliance by completing periodic follow-up inspections.