ULC & UL1981 changes

SIMS 2006 User Conference

(Steve Ryckman)

Canadian sites now UL1981 also….

- Effected August 18th , 2004 we were advised by UL to issue UL1981 "Letter of Compliance" for new Canadian as well as U.S. customers.

- Existing sites will be given a grace period (probably several years) to switch from ULC to UL1981 standards for automation.

Changes to UL 1981

- Effective Jun30, 2007, the second edition of UL1981 will go into effect. This was postponed from an initial date of June 30, 2005 because other automation vendors weren't ready.

- All UL sites should become compliant with the new second edition as soon as possible. On site inspectors are supposed to give you two site visits after they notify you of the changes, to put them into effect.

- Most changes will be minimal for SIMS sites since our "best practices" usually specified these some items already.

"Active" Systems

- Original UL1981 classification:
  - Previously it started that account that sent openings and closings at least once a day.
  - Now any system that sends "more than one signal per day to the central station automation system" This would include test timers. However clarification by cliff Wadiack of UL states "UL is looking for supervised Open/Close signals and don't care about other signals." According to him, even if an account sends hourly test signals and twenty unsupervised open/close a day, if they are unsupervised they wouldn't be "active" to UL

Surge Protection

- Under old UL1981, only circuits which left the protected central station had to have surge protection. Under the new classification any telecommunications or network connection should also be protected(T1, serial cable etc.).

- An exception was added stating that fiber optic circuits do not need surge protection.

HVAC Maintenance Contract

- A maintenance contract for the HVAC system is now required with a 24 hour response time, 7 days a week.

Training

- Previously UL1981 stated that the central station operators would be trained for a period "long enough" each month. Now it states this period must be a minimum of one hour each month.

- Operators must be trained in switchover to backup computer – n/a for SFTIII/Stratus sites.

More Server

- A new section states that sites with more than 25,000 active systems or 125,000 inactive systems must have a second backup computer. The SIMS alternative primary workstation is sufficient for this purpose.

- UL doesn't define what a "server" is.

More Information

- UL 1981 changes in SIMS Wiki http://wiki.simsware.com/tags/ul-1981-changes (old TechNet # 041002 on our Website) lists all the changes between UL1981 and UL1981 Second Edition.