



UL 879

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Electric Sign Components

UL Standard for Safety for Electric Sign Components, UL 879

Ninth Edition, Dated October 9, 2009

Summary of Topics

Revision pages for ANSI/UL 879 dated July 17, 2019 are being issued to reflect the reaffirmation of as an American National Standard.

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The requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated April 12, 2019.

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UL 879

Standard for Electric Sign Components

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APPENDIX A

Standards for Components.....	A1
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APPENDIX B

1 General

1.1 Scope

1.1.1 These requirements cover components for use in signs and outline lighting systems intended for installation in accordance with the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70. Components covered by this standard include the types specified in 1.1.2, including electromechanical components that convey a message or outline the structural features of a building by electronically directing or rechanneling available light from other sources and involving all forms of illumination such as:

- a) Fluorescent lighting,
- b) High intensity discharge (HID) lighting,
- c) Neon lighting,
- d) Cold cathode lighting,
- e) Light emitting diodes (LED), and
- f) Electroluminescent lighting.

1.1.2 Examples of components intended to be covered by this standard include:

- a) Materials used in signs and outline lighting such as structural panels, sign face materials, switch enclosures, sign frames, electrical enclosures, accessibility barriers, trim caps, water shields, coatings and lubricants, components related to material installation and the like.
- b) Electrical components relating to illumination circuits operating at 1000 V and above such as electrode receptacles, lampholders, neon electrode enclosures, GTO sleeving, integrally sleeved GTO cable, GTO cable splice enclosures and insulating devices.
- c) Electromechanical and electronic equipment for use in signs such as LED units, LED power sources, sign flashers, animating equipment, scrolling units, and sign rotating equipment.

1.1.3 This standard does not cover components covered by another standard, unless there are additional considerations that need to be addressed when the component is for use in signs and outline lighting.

1.1.4 These requirements do not cover:

- a) Christmas tree and other decorative lighting devices
- b) Exit lighting and luminaires and low level path marking and lighting systems
- c) Fluorescent ballasts
- d) Fluorescent lampholders
- e) Incandescent luminaires
- f) GTO cable
- g) High intensity discharge ballasts

- h) HID lighting luminaires
- i) Incandescent lampholders
- j) Incandescent lighting
- k) Luminaires of any kind
- l) Low voltage landscape lighting systems
- m) Low voltage lighting fixtures for use in recreational vehicles
- n) Low voltage marine lighting
- o) Marine navigational lights
- p) Marine type fixtures
- q) Neon transformers and power supplies
- r) Portable electric displays
- s) Portable handlamps
- t) Portable lamps and cabinet lamps
- u) Portable luminaires
- v) Portable sun/heat lamps
- w) Stage and studio luminaires
- x) Self-ballasted fluorescent lamps
- y) Temporary lighting strings
- z) Track lighting fixtures

1.2 Component identification requirements

1.2.1 All components shall be evaluated for factory installation only as specified in 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 or evaluated for factory and field installation as specified in 1.2.4 and 1.2.5.

1.2.2 A factory installed component is intended for use only under limited conditions, such as temperatures not exceeding specified limits, and shall be used only under those specific conditions for which they have been investigated. Components currently identified as intended for factory installation only are identified in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1
Factory installed sign components

Electrode receptacles other than through wall housing type
Feed type lampholders over 1000 V – without conduit connection means
Interconnecting lampholders over 1000 V
Metallic electrode receptacle enclosure
Neon electrode enclosure
Glass cup receptacles
Conduit plug assembly
GTO cable sleeving
GTO cable with integral sleeving
GTO cable splice enclosure
Neon tube support
Sign face material - not enclosure rated
Enclosure sign face materials
Sign face tensioning systems
Structural materials
Dimmers, flashers, controllers and animators
LED displays
Electroluminescent displays
Switch enclosures
Sign rotating equipment
Clock mechanisms
Lubricant

1.2.3 Components for factory installation only as identified in Table 1.1 shall comply with the requirements in Sections 2 – 4.

1.2.4 A field and factory installed component shall be intended and suitable for use in field assembled skeletal neon signs and outline lighting installations in accordance with the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70. These components shall be of a construction that does not place unique limits on the use of the components such that they cannot be installed in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 70. Components currently identified as intended for use in field assembled skeletal neon signs and outline lighting are identified in Table 1.2.