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For Immediate Release

For Further Information Contact:

Patrick E. Attkisson (909)794-2121 x37

Is Your Installation Up To Code?

When Nightscaping® was founded in 1959 there were no set standards for 12 volt outdoor lighting. There was no need to have standards because before Nightscaping® the product did not exist.

Over the past 40 years the industry has seen safety standards developed to regulate the manufacture and installation of low voltage landscape lighting. As one would expect, these guidelines are constantly being modified or completely changed to address new products, technologies and a growing marketplace. As a result Nightscaping® has also made considerable changes to not only adhere to, but exceed these industry regulations.

Today the 12 volt outdoor lighting industry is a completely different ball game than it was in 1959. Nightscaping® can no longer insure that all 12 volt outdoor lighting equipment complies with existing standards simply because Nightscaping® is no longer the industry's sole manufacturer. Now there are manufacturers entering into this market who place a lower premium on these standards and by doing so compromise the integrity of active outdoor lighting designers and the safety of their customers.

In March 1994 Underwriters Laboratories (UL), "an independent, not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization," initiated the Standard for Low Voltage Landscape Lighting Systems, UL1838. In the best interests of our company, customers and suppliers, Nightscaping® has made several inquiries regarding the stringency of UL1838, and the garden lighting standards UL1571 and UL506 that were in effect prior to 1994.

In response to these inquiries Nightscaping® has found - as we expected - that before UL1838 was introduced, UL1571 and UL506 were the accepted standard. However, these standards (UL1571 and UL506) were found to be inadequate. Rather than revise two separate documents, UL1838 was developed to address the particular concerns regarding low voltage landscape lighting. At which time, again in 1994, requirements regarding low voltage garden lighting were deleted from UL Standards 1571 and 506.

When viewed collectively, this information concludes that equipment rated UL1571 and UL506 does not comply with the UL standard for low voltage landscape lighting systems. Versions of UL1571 revised after 1994 specify that the requirements within this standard (UL1571) do not cover low voltage garden lighting. Furthermore, it is not permissible for a UL506 transformer to supply luminaires constructed to UL1838 requirements.

UL1838 is the only UL standard that covers low voltage landscape lighting. However, there is equipment on today's market being manufactured and sold for the purposes of low voltage landscape lighting that does not comply with UL1838. This equipment does meet a UL1571 and/or UL506 standard as determined by a testing lab other than UL, but these standards are in no way equivalent to UL1838. Thus, this equipment does not meet UL standards for low voltage landscape lighting.

These shortcuts that skirt around the fringe of acceptable standards compromise the credibility of professional outdoor lighting services and the safety of residential customers. Do not jeopardize our

industry with sub-par equipment that does not meet UL1838 standards for low voltage landscape lighting.

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