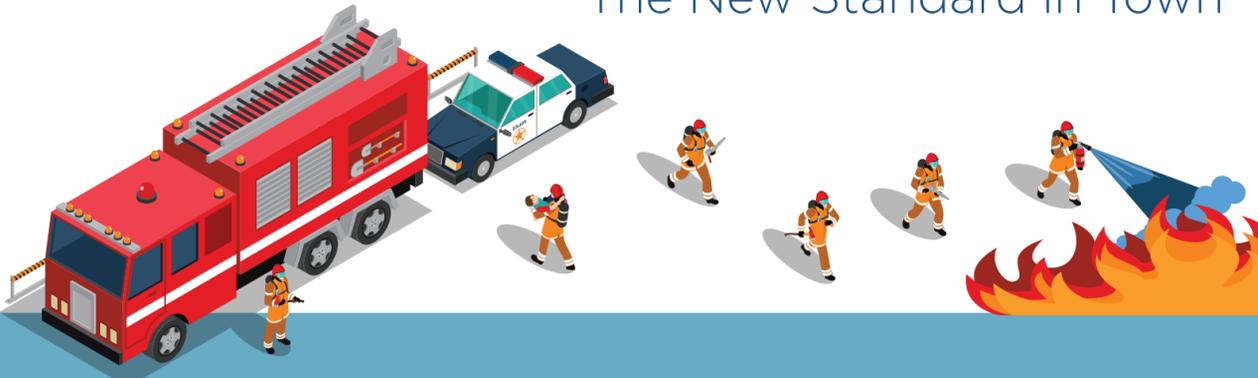


Learning UL 2524

The New Standard in Town



Public safety in-building wireless communication systems are required in every commercial building to ensure emergency responders have uninterrupted connectivity when using portable land mobile radios (LMR) anywhere on premises including critical coverage areas like fire command rooms, exit stairwells, elevator lobbies, basements and exit passageways.

To ensure all structures and areas have ubiquitous coverage, authorities having jurisdictions (AHJ) enforce codes from the (National Fire Protection Association) NFPA, (International Fire Code) IFC and the (Federal Communications Commission) FCC, including local addendums depending on the regions they operate. Now there is a new standard in town called UL 2524, which is designed to make two-way emergency radio communication enhancement systems safer and more reliable for first responders.

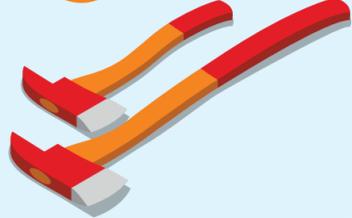


What Is UL 2524 and What Does it Cover?

UL 2524 is a standard proposed by Underwriters Laboratories for In-building 2-Way Emergency Radio Communication Enhancement Systems (ERCES). It represents the most rigorous set of standards to ensure emergency responders can communicate with each other in and around commercial buildings.

UL 2524 second edition covers products including repeater, transmitter, receiver, signal booster components, remote annunciators and operational consoles, power supply, and battery charging system components. These technologies are meant to be deployed in accordance with the following Model Building and Installation Codes: NFPA 1, NFPA 72, NFPA 101, NFPA 1221, and the International Fire Code (IFC).

UL 2524 does not cover passive RF components which are defined in the standard as any RF device that does not have an active electronic component, and instead, requires external power. This includes antennas, splitters, couplers, coaxial cable and connectors.



Why Is the UL 2524 Standard Important?



UL 2524 is going to soon be a requirement in order to receive their certificate of occupancy as the standard will rapidly be enforced by AHJ's across the country. In fact, the IFC 2021 and NFPA 1225 code versions will both require UL 2524 certified system listing.

UL 2524 listing will not only make it easier to select an ERCES that's compliant with AHJ-enforced codes, it will also make it easier for AHJs to enforce wireless product code testing and approval due to its UL 2524 certified mark and corresponding QR code.



Don't Get Caught Up in UL 2524 Wordplay



All building owners will soon need to install a UL 2524 listed/certified product in new and existing buildings if they do not meet the required First Responder coverage per IFC/NFPA code. Unfortunately, there are many different terms thrown about when referencing UL 2524 and it's important to separate fact from fiction:



Enhanced UL Listed/Certification Mark for UL 2524, second edition: Simply put, if a ERCES product has this marking then it is a UL-Listed or certified product by UL. AHJs can scan the QR code on the Enhanced Mark to receive complete details about the certification.

Misleading Phrases



UL 2524 Classified:
Passed some of the UL standards (i.e. only the fire and shock safety standards of the UL 2524), which is performed by a third-party testing facility.

Conforms to UL 2524
This does not indicate passing of any testing. This will not meet AHJ requirements in most states and counties.

Compliant to/with UL 2524
The product believes it adheres to the standards laid out in UL 2524 but has not officially passed the testing or received the mark. This will not meet AHJ requirements in most states and counties.

