



Information Bulletin / Public – Mechanical Code - Plumbing and Mechanical Product Listing (Approval) Requirements			
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City of Los Angeles – Department of Building & Safety

Plumbing and Mechanical Product Listing (Approval) Requirements

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to clarify the requirements for the listing, marking, and labeling of mechanical and plumbing equipment and fixtures.

II. Definitions

Approved – Acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

“Approved” means meeting the approval of the Enforcing Agency, except as otherwise provided by law, when used in connection with any system, material, type of construction, fixture or appliance as the result of investigations and tests conducted by the agency, or by reason of accepted principles or tests by national authorities, or technical, health, or scientific organizations or agencies. [LAMC Section 203.0 and LAPC Section 203.0]

Approved Testing Agency - An organization primarily established for the purpose of testing to approved standards and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Authority Having Jurisdiction – The organization, office, or individual responsible (i.e., LADBS Mechanical Testing Laboratory, Mechanical Plan Check or Inspection) for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, material, an installation, or a procedure. This definition shall include the Authority Having Jurisdiction’s duly authorized representative. [LAMC Section 203.0 and LAPC Section 203.0]

Labeled - Equipment or materials bearing a label of a listing agency (accredited conformity assessment body). [LAMC Section 214.0 and LAPC Section 214.0]

Listed (Third-party certified) - Equipment or materials included in a list published by a listing agency (accredited conformity assessment body) that maintains periodic inspection on current production of listed equipment or materials and whose listing states either that the equipment or material complies with approved standards or has been tested and found suitable for use in a specified manner. [LAMC Section 214.0 and LAPC Section 214.0]

Listing Agency - An agency accredited by an independent and authoritative conformity assessment body to operate a material and product listing and labeling (certification) system and accepted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction, which is in the business of listing and labeling. The system includes initial and ongoing product testing, a periodic inspection on current production of listed (certified) products, and that makes available a published report of such listing in which specific information is included that the material or product is in accordance with applicable standards and found safe for use in a specific manner. [LAMC Section 214.0 and LAPC Section 214.0]

Non-Listed – Equipment or materials that are not listed.

Tested - Equipment or material that is subject to examination as outlined in the referenced standards in the California Plumbing Code and/or Mechanical Code. A list of the approved testing agencies can be found at <https://dbs.lacity.gov/services/core-services/plan-check-permit/product-approval/mechanical-test-lab>

III. Plumbing Products Listing, Labeling, and Marking

1. **Minimum Standards.** Pipe, pipe fittings, traps, fixtures, material, and devices used in a plumbing system shall be listed (third party certified) by a listing agency (accredited conformity assessment body) as complying with the approved applicable recognized standards referenced in the Plumbing Code. [LAPC Section 301.2]
2. **Marking.** Each length of pipe and each pipe fitting, trap, fixture, material, and device used in a plumbing system shall have cast, stamped, or indelibly marked on it any markings required by the applicable referenced standards and listing agency, and the manufacturer's mark or name, which shall readily identify the manufacturer to the end user of the product. Where required by the approved standard that applies, the product shall be marked with the weight and the quality of the product. Materials and devices used or entering into the construction of plumbing and drainage systems, or parts thereof shall be marked and identified in a manner satisfactory to the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Such marking shall be done by the manufacturer. Field markings shall not be acceptable. [LAPC Section 301.2.1]

IV. Mechanical Products Listing, Labeling, and Marking

1. **Minimum Standards.** Listed pipe, pipe fittings, appliances, appurtenances, equipment, materials, and devices used in a mechanical system shall be listed (third-party certified) by a listing agency (accredited conformity assessment body) as complying with the applicable recognized standards referenced in the Mechanical Code, and shall be free from defects. Unless otherwise provided in this code, materials, appurtenances, or devices used or entering into the construction of mechanical systems, or parts thereof, shall be submitted to the Authority Having Jurisdiction for approval prior to being installed. [LAMC 302.1]
2. **Marking.** Each length of pipe and each pipe fitting, material, and device used in a mechanical system shall have cast, stamped, or indelibly marked on it any markings required by the applicable referenced standards and listing agency, and the manufacturer's mark or name, which shall readily identify the manufacturer to the end user of the product. Where required by the approved standard that applies, the product shall be marked with the weight and the quality of the product. Materials and devices used or entering into the construction of mechanical systems, or parts thereof, shall be marked and identified in a manner satisfactory to the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Such marking shall be done by the manufacturer. Field markings shall not be acceptable. [LAMC Section 302.1.1]

V. Frequently Asked Questions

Below are frequently asked questions relating to the Los Angeles Mechanical Testing Laboratory (LADBS-MTL):

1. Do plumbing and mechanical equipment and fixtures require approval by LADBS-MTL?

No, provided the equipment or fixture is listed by an approved listing agency to meet the applicable standard(s) referenced in the code.

2. What are the different approvals I can get from LADBS-MTL?

One-Time Approval - This approval is granted for fixtures and equipment that are custom made or installed at a specific job site. The evaluation and testing can often be performed at the location where the fixture/equipment is installed. Application for this type of approval may be filed by the building owner, installer, vendor, or manufacturer. The approval is for one time only and for a specific location, and it cannot be used for another installation.

General Approval/Laboratory Approval - This approval is granted for fixtures and equipment to be used at anytime and anywhere within the City. The testing and physical evaluation are usually done in an approved laboratory, unless a suitable site visit is prearranged. Application for this type of approval shall be filed by the manufacturer.

3. What is the process for obtaining an LADBS-MTL approval?

The process to obtain a Los Angeles City Mechanical Research Report consists of the following steps:

- a. Submit an "Application for Testing or Evaluating Mechanical Equipment" to the LADBS-MTL and pay the fees (see item g below).
- b. Attach product literature that shows materials and dimensions, and describes the intended use, installation and maintenance instructions. Also, you may include pictures or other materials that will help to evaluate the product. A product sample or a field visit may be required.
- c. Provide substantiating data such as test reports from an approved third-party testing agency and/or engineering analysis in support of the requested approval.
- d. Attach a typed list of sizes and models, as applicable, of the product to be approved.
- e. After reviewing the submitted documents, an approval letter or a correction notice will be issued by an LADBS-MTL engineer and sent to the applicant.
- f. Upon approval of a Mechanical Research Report, the approval letter will be posted on the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety website. The approval letter will contain conditions of approval specifying the proper use and installation of the product.
- g. An application package and other information can be found at:

<https://dbs.lacity.gov/sites/default/files/efs/pdf/publications/mtl/application-for-testing-or-evaluating-mechanical-equipment-pc-mech-app14.pdf>

4. How can I obtain an application for product approval?

The application form is available from the Department's web site:

<https://dbs.lacity.gov/sites/default/files/efs/pdf/publications/mtl/application-for-testing-or-evaluating-mechanical-equipment-pc-mech-app14.pdf>

5. How long does it take to obtain LADBS-MTL approval for a product?

It depends on the backlog at the time the application is submitted. The backlog information is provided to applicants at the time of submittal. The backlog is the time it takes to assign an application and report to

an LADBS-MTL engineer to be processed from the submittal date. If there are any corrections, it will be up to the applicant to address the corrections in a timely manner.

6. Who can apply for approval?

For a general approval/laboratory approval, the application shall be filed by the company who has the legal rights to the product's test reports being submitted and the legal rights to the product. Test reports being submitted shall bear the name of the applicant, unless documentation is provided authorizing the applicant to use such reports.

For One-Time approval, application may be filed by the building owner, installer, vendor, or manufacturer.

7. How long is an approval valid, and where can it be found?

A General Approval/Laboratory Approval is valid for one year from the approval date. A copy of the approval letters can be found at:

<https://www.ladbsservices2.lacity.org/ResearchReport/reports/search>

8. Can I expedite the review process?

An expedite fee pursuant to Section 98.0433 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code may be paid by the applicant to reduce the time it takes to assign the application to an LADBS-MTL engineer. The amount of the expedite fee is, in addition to the regular application fee, equal to one-half of the regular application fee.

9. How can an approval be renewed?

Submit an "Application for Testing or Evaluating Mechanical Equipment" to LADBS-MTL, check the box "renewal" and pay the fees.

Additional information, tests, and/or engineering analysis may be required, in which case written comments will be sent to the applicant.