

The Importance of UL286 7th Edition

The UL 268 7th Edition is a standard for smoke detectors that was implemented in 2021. The most significant change in UL marking with the UL 268 7th edition is the increased focus on identifying smoke detectors that can better distinguish between real fire threats and nuisance alarms, particularly from cooking,



Here are some of the key changes in the 7th Edition:

Polyurethane foam tests:

The standard includes three new fire tests for detecting flaming and smoldering polyurethane foam. These tests are important because polyurethane foam is a synthetic material that burns faster and hotter than natural materials, and many existing smoke detectors can't respond quickly enough.

Cooking Nuisance test:

This test is intended to reduce false alarms and unnecessary evacuations. This test ensures that detectors aren't activated by cooking smoke, dust, and steam.



By incorporating new testing criteria to ensure better performance against smoldering synthetic materials while minimizing false alarms due to cooking smoke; this is reflected in the updated UL mark on compliant devices.

Description of the sensing technology is also identified as “Multi-Criteria smoke detector”.

NFPA has extended the compliance date for the 7th Edition of UL 268 to Jan 1, 2025.