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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA-2007-0042]

TUV Rheinland of North America, Inc.: Applications for Expansion of Recognition

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this notice, OSHA announces the applications of TUV Rheinland of North America, Inc., for expansion of the scope of recognition as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) and presents the agency's preliminary finding to grant the applications.

DATES: Submit comments, information, and documents in response to this notice, or requests for an extension of time to make a submission, on or before [INSERT DATE 15 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted as follows:

Electronically: You may submit comments, including attachments, electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency's name and the docket number for this rulemaking (Docket No. OSHA-2007-0042). All comments, including any personal information you provide, are placed in the public docket without change and may be made available online at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting information they do not want made available to the public, or submitting materials that contain personal information (either about themselves or others), such as Social Security numbers and birthdates.

Docket: To read or download comments or other material in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Documents in the docket (including this *Federal Register* notice) are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through the website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection through the OSHA Docket Office. Contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350 (TTY (877) 889-5627) for assistance in locating docket submissions.

Extension of comment period: Submit requests for an extension of the comment period on or before [INSERT DATE 15 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**] to the Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities, Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-3653, Washington, DC 20210, or by fax to (202) 693-1644.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information regarding this notice is available from the following sources:

Press inquiries: Contact Mr. Frank Meilinger, Director, OSHA Office of Communications, U.S. Department of Labor, telephone: (202) 693-1999; email: meilinger.francis2@dol.gov.

General and technical information: Contact Mr. Kevin Robinson, Director, Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities, Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, phone: (202) 693-1911 or email: robinson.kevin@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Notice of the Applications for Expansion

OSHA is providing notice that TUV Rheinland of North America, Inc. (TUVRNA), is applying for an expansion of current recognition as a NRTL. TUVRNA requests the addition of two test standards to the NRTL scope of recognition.

OSHA recognition of a NRTL signifies that the organization meets the requirements specified in 29 CFR 1910.7. Recognition is an acknowledgment that the organization can perform independent safety testing and certification of the specific products covered within the scope of recognition. Each NRTL's scope of recognition includes (1) the type of products the NRTL may test, with each type specified by the applicable test standard and (2) the recognized site(s) that has/have the technical capability to perform the product-testing and product-certification activities for test standards within the NRTL's scope. Recognition is not a delegation or grant of government authority; however, recognition enables employers to use products approved by the NRTL to meet OSHA standards that require product testing and certification.

The agency processes applications by a NRTL for initial recognition, as well as for an expansion or renewal of recognition, following requirements in Appendix A to 29 CFR 1910.7. This appendix requires that the agency publish two notices in the *Federal Register* in processing an application. In the first notice, OSHA announces the application and provides the preliminary finding. In the second notice, the agency provides the final decision on the application. These notices set forth the NRTL's scope of recognition or modifications of that scope. OSHA maintains an informational webpage for each NRTL, including TUVRNA, which details that NRTL's scope of recognition. These pages are available from the OSHA website at <http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpc/nrtl/index.html>.

TUVRNA currently has ten facilities (sites) recognized by OSHA for product testing and certification, with the headquarters located at: TUV Rheinland of North America, Inc., 295 Foster Street, Suite 100, Littleton, Massachusetts 01460. A complete list of

TUVRNA sites recognized by OSHA is available at <https://www.osha.gov/nationally-recognized-testing-laboratory-program/tuv>.

II. General Background on the Applications

TUVRNA submitted two applications, dated August 25, 2023 (OSHA-2007-0042-0074), to expand recognition as a NRTL to include two additional test standards. OSHA staff performed a detailed analysis of the application packets and reviewed other pertinent information. OSHA did not perform any on-site reviews in relation to these applications.

Table 1 shows the test standards found in TUVRNA’s applications for expansion for testing and certification of products under the NRTL Program.

Table 1
Proposed Appropriate Test Standards for Inclusion in TUVRNA’s
NRTL Scope of Recognition

Test Standard	Test Standard Title
UL 1557	Electrically Isolated Semiconductor Devices
UL 1577	Optical Isolators

III. Preliminary Finding on the Applications

TUVRNA submitted acceptable applications for expansion of the scope of recognition. OSHA’s review of the application files and pertinent documentation preliminarily indicates that TUVRNA can meet the requirements prescribed by 29 CFR 1910.7 for expanding its recognition to include the addition of the two test standards shown in Table 1, above, for NRTL testing and certification. This preliminary finding does not constitute an interim or temporary approval of TUVRNA’s applications.

OSHA seeks public comment on this preliminary determination.

IV. Public Participation

OSHA welcomes public comment as to whether TUVRNA meets the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.7 for expansion of recognition as a NRTL. Comments should consist of pertinent written documents and exhibits.

Commenters needing more time to comment must submit a request in writing, stating the reasons for the request by the due date for comments. OSHA will limit any extension to 10 days unless the requester justifies a longer time period. OSHA may deny a request for an extension if it is not adequately justified.

To review copies of the exhibits identified in this notice, as well as comments submitted to the docket, contact the Docket Office, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. These materials also are generally available online at <https://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. OSHA-2007-0042 (for further information, see the “*Docket*” heading in the section of this notice titled “**ADDRESSES**”).

OSHA staff will review all comments to the docket submitted in a timely manner. After addressing the issues raised by these comments, staff will make a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health on whether to grant TUVRNA’s application for expansion of the scope of recognition. The Assistant Secretary will make the final decision on granting the applications. In making this decision, the Assistant Secretary may undertake other proceedings prescribed in appendix A to 29 CFR 1910.7.

OSHA will publish a public notice of the final decision in the *Federal Register*.

V. Authority and Signature

James S. Frederick, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210, authorized the preparation of this notice. Accordingly, the agency is issuing this notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 657(g)(2), Secretary of Labor’s Order No. 8-2020 (85 FR 58393; Sept. 18, 2020), and 29 CFR 1910.7.

Signed at Washington, DC, on April 10, 2024.

James S. Frederick,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

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