

Why UL1008 Certified Transfer Switches Are More Important Than Ever

With an ever-growing need for emergency backup power systems in hospitals, healthcare facilities, data centers and other public facilities, it is critical to have transfer switches that ensure reliability and safety.

Underwriter Laboratories (UL) conduct rigorous independent research, analyze safety data and risks, and develop standards to help safe commercialization of technologies. The UL 1008 standard was first created in 1970 for transfer switch safety performance.

UL 1008 is one of the most rigorous safety standards for transfer switches in emergency power systems. To meet UL 1008 standard, transfer switches are tested as a complete assembly on performance endurance, safety and reliability by an independent testing and certification agency. They are evaluated in accordance with Articles 517- healthcare facilities, 702-optional standby systems of the NEC (ANSI/NFPA 70) and the NFPA for healthcare facilities (ANSI/NFPA 99). Today, most healthcare facilities and facilities that have legally required emergency power generally only accept UL 1008 transfer switches.

Performance of emergency power systems and their components, such as transfer switches, is so critical to safety that in NFPA's 2017 National Electrical Code® (NEC®) there is a new provision outlined in article 700.3(F) for emergency systems.

It states, "If the emergency system relies on a single alternate source of power, which will be disabled for maintenance or repair, the emergency system shall include permanent switching means to connect a portable or temporary alternate source of power, which shall be available for the duration of the maintenance or repair."

To meet the new provision, you can use a UL 1008 listed Ronk Series 4+ manual transfer switch when switching from a permanent source of power to an alternate source.

The new provision also states that: "The permanent switching means to connect a portable or temporary alternate source of power shall comply with the following:

- (1) Connection to the portable or temporary alternate source of power shall not require modification of the permanent system wiring.
- (2) Transfer of power between the normal power source and the emergency power source shall be in accordance with 700.12.
- (3) The connection point for the portable or temporary alternate source shall be marked with the phase rotation and system bonding requirements.
- (4) Mechanical or electrical interlocking shall prevent inadvertent interconnection of power sources.
- (5) The switching means shall include a contact point that shall annunciate at a location remote from the generator or at another facility monitoring system to indicate that the permanent emergency source is disconnected from the emergency system.

It shall be permissible to utilize manual switching to switch from the permanent source of power to the portable or temporary alternate source of power and to utilize the switching means for connection of a load bank."

For more information, contact Ronk to learn more about our Series 4+ Manual Transfer Switch and how it may meet your application need.

