



**March 7, 2017**

**To:** Subscribers to UL's Certification Services under  
Control Units and Accessories for Fire Alarm Systems, UL864  
Smoke Detectors for Fire Alarm Systems, UL 268

**Subject: UL 268 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Standard for Smoke Detectors and UL 864 Certification Decision**

UL has announced an Industry File Review for compliance to the 7th edition of UL 268, Standard for Smoke Detectors. The new and revised requirements are extensive and will have a major impact on all currently Listed smoke detectors. It is anticipated that all current Listed detectors will need to be re-designed to meet the new requirements.

Manufacturers of Fire Alarm Control Panels (FACP) are not included in the formal Industry File Review but will be impacted by the UL 268 Industry File Review. No immediate action is needed from manufacturers of fire alarm control panels. The effective date for the UL 268 IFR is May 29, 2020. After that date, manufacturers of smoke detectors will no longer be able to produce and label 6th edition smoke detectors. All of the smoke detectors in your compatibility lists are compliant to the 6th edition of UL 268 so managing your smoke detector inventory is something that needs to be planned and managed.

Currently there is a transition phase for certifications to UL 864. UL implemented our new Continuing Certification process for the transition from the 9th to 10th edition of UL 864. The effective date for the transition to the 10th edition is December 3, 2018. Manufacturers are able to maintain their 9th edition certifications beyond that date if desired, but when they want to make modifications, or add new devices, the certification guidelines are that the entire system will need to comply with the 10th edition.

Since there is an overlap of dates for the Fire Alarm Control Panel effective date of Dec 3, 2018 and compliance to the UL 268 IFR of May 29, 2020 a concern has been raised about managing and planning smoke detector inventory and backward compatibility for 9<sup>th</sup> edition systems specifically for intelligent addressable circuits (SLC).

To alleviate the concerns, UL will permit manufacturers to upgrade their 9<sup>th</sup> edition systems to add new 7<sup>th</sup> edition UL 268 smoke detectors, after the effective date of Dec. 3, 2018 without requiring that the system to be upgraded to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of UL 864. Prior to the effective date manufacturers are already capable of adding new compatible devices and to maintain the 9<sup>th</sup> edition certification.

Note that this exception only applies when it is to add a 7<sup>th</sup> edition smoke detector and no other revisions. For all other changes to systems the certification requirement will be that the panel will need to meet the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of UL 864 (only after Dec 3 2018).

Only Panel software revisions that are needed to upgrade a new 7<sup>th</sup> edition detector will be acceptable. UL has made this decision to simplify planning and to promote the new 7<sup>th</sup> edition smoke detectors.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or the Continuing Certification approach, please contact Dan Kaiser at (847) 664-2074 or [Daniel.J.Kaiser@ul.com](mailto:Daniel.J.Kaiser@ul.com).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel J. Kaiser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

**DANIEL J KAISER**  
Staff Engineer  
Building and Life Safety Technology