

UNDERSTANDING UL

A symbol of printing performance



• WHO IS UL?

Underwriter Laboratory (UL) is an independent American laboratory dedicated to run safety tests on all kind of products. The UL symbol is quite often visible on warning and nameplates labels attached to electric and electronic devices: batteries, telephones, computers, household appliances, etc. The printed logo means that the components used for the labelling (printing material, adhesive and printing ink) passed the UL tests with success.

The nameplates display important technical and/or legal information in terms of safety, conditions of usage, regulations compliancy and origins which require they remain legible and fixed to the product through its life cycle.



• WHAT IS THE UL 969 STANDARD?



Under the standard ANSI/UL 969, UL has created a portfolio of tests to evaluate the performance of the label (adhesion capacity and material resistance) and the durability of the printed message (resistances to multiple external stresses) in both indoor and outdoor use conditions. Typical tests include exposure to extreme temperature and high humidity levels, immersion in water, sunlight (UV), and exposure to several aggressive liquids (oil, solvents, petrol). These tests provide a good indication to the end-users regarding the overall performance of their final labelling application.

• ARMOR RIBBONS AND UL

A UL approval is not granted to a Thermal Transfer ink ribbon alone, so below is an overview of the approvals ARMOR ribbons have obtained with some of the biggest label manufacturers' materials. To find more details about which precise material is approved with the ARMOR ribbon, click on the "link to UL"

Many other manufacturers have tested ARMOR ribbons with their materials, to find out more, log on the UL On-line Certifications Directory; in the "UL Category Code" enter PGJ12 (which will restrict your search to Marking & Labeling Systems - Printing Materials) and then in "Keyword" type in ARMOR or a specific ARMOR grade name.

	3M	DE LA RUE	FASSON EUROPE	FASSON USA	FLEXCON	FUQING XIE YU	HERMA GMBH	JMD FRANCE	LINTEC GRAPHICS UK	LINTEC CORP JAPAN	PLASTO	POLYONICS	PPI IRELAND	UPM RAFLATAC	XIAMEN SHINNY JOHNSON
Link to UL	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here	Click here
APR 6		✓	✓								✓				
APX FH						✓									✓
AXR 7+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	
AXR 8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓		✓	
AXR 9						✓		✓					✓		
APR 600			✓	✓	✓										
APX 650					✓										
AXR 600	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓	
AXR 800			✓	✓	✓										
AXR 900								✓							