Cybersecurity for connected lighting control products

UL helps manufacturers prepare for DLC's cybersecurity requirements for network lighting controls

The lighting controls industry is still in the early stages of adoption regarding comprehensive security measures among lighting control products, leaving vulnerabilities open for attackers looking to compromise privacy, access corporate systems and damage a manufacturer's reputation.

Many U.S. and Canadian utilities rely on the Design Lights Consortium (DLC) to provide reduced risk qualification programs and navigate cybersecurity protocols for utility rebates.

> The DLC's Qualified Products List (QPL) is a roster of lighting control systems eligible for utility rebates. Currently meeting cybersecurity criteria is not a requirement, but that changes in October 2021 when any system without a rating will be removed from the list.

UL announces new UL DLC QPL Cybersecurity Qualification solution

We have developed a solution for acceptance in the upcoming DLC cybersecurity requirement. It is a rapid, low-cost evaluation process in the form of an initial product assessment and letter of attestation, followed by annual renewal through UL.

Testing is based on a risk assessment of components in the controls system. Based on a baseline approach and industry best practices for IoT security, this solution qualifies the system and any other systems that also contain qualified components. Added benefits include:

- Easy intake and reporting process
- Considers known areas of risk within the system functionality
- Keeps product security up to date through annual reassessment
- Significant cost savings from DLC by having one letter of attestation qualify multiple systems using the qualified component

Benefits of UL DLC QPL Cybersecurity Qualification solution

When you work with us to learn about vulnerabilities, you can identify security risks best practices related to the following areas:

- Access control
- Industry privacy best practices
- Product security maintenance
- No default passwords
- Secure update mechanism
- Secure reset and connections

The letter of attestation from UL will be accepted as confirmation from the DLC for their cybersecurity requirement, which creates a unique marketing message for prospects considering your system. Our affordable and quick approach to qualifying cybersecurity products with security controls has advantages to multiple segments of the lighting market, including services and utilities, manufacturers and lighting system users.

Benefits

For services and utilities:

- Ensure your connected lighting system is verified against cybersecurity best practices
- Minimize system vulnerability to common cyber risks
- Make product security more transparent and accessible to buyers and end users
- Stay ahead of regulatory developments and potential security liability
- Meet DLC requirements for connected lighting cybersecurity
- Be listed on the Lighting Control DLC Qualified Product List

For manufacturers:

- Avoid common mistakes that make your products vulnerable to cyber threats
- Get ahead of the market before lighting controls become a hacking target and area of concern
- Gain user confidence and competitive market advantage by having your product's security capabilities evaluated by an independent third party
- Assure continued compliance and best practices through our annual review
- Access our technical expertise and cybersecurity advisory services
- Attain the DLC "mark" for cybersecurity on your DLC Lighting Control QPL product which opens your product for utility incentives and perceived higher quality

For lighting systems users:

- Ensure minimum security capabilities are met in your connected lighting control product
- Minimize the risk that your connected lighting products and systems are the point of entry for software attack
- Verify that a UL qualified security expert has checked the product's security posture to ensure cybersecurity industry best practices
- Ensure minimum security capabilities are met in your connected lighting control product year after year

Contact us at AppliancesLighting.EU@ul.com for a quote and to review what is needed to start assessment of your product. We can efficiently help you meet the upcoming DLC cybersecurity requirement.

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