

TIP SHEET

IS YOUR SURGE PROTECTIVE DEVICE SPECIFICATION UP TO DATE?

BY STEVE HANSEN, SENIOR FIELD ENGINEER

Does your company have a specification for surge protective devices (formerly called TVSS) for new electrical equipment? If so, have you recently checked your specification to see if it is up to date?

Major changes in NEC 2008 and in UL 1449 Standard for Surge Protective Devices have rendered obsolete many existing end user surge specifications. In addition to changes to the preceding standards, the NEMA LS 1 standard, which many surge protective device specifications reference, has been rescinded.

The latest significant changes to UL 1449 went into effect Sept. 29, 2009. These changes include the addition of Type designations (Types 1, 2, 3, and 4), the introduction of the nominal discharge current rating, and replacement of the suppressed voltage rating with the voltage protection rating.



For more information on surge protection, or for a copy of a general surge protective device specification, contact your Mersen representative.

So, what should your surge protective device specification include? As a starting point consider the UL marking requirements. UL views these important enough to require they be shown on the product label. You should consider including them in your specification.

These include the following:

- Surge protective device Type (Type 1, 2, 3, or 4)
- Voltage rating
- Nominal discharge current
- Maximum continuous operating voltage
- Voltage protection rating
- Short circuit current rating
- Enclosure type
- UL Mark

You should also consider specifying:

- Required modes of protection
- Single surge rating and how it is to be determined
- Integral or external mounting of surge protective devices

Options to consider could include:

- Diagnostics - LEDs and or NO/NC dry contacts
- Filtering
- Isolating switch