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# UL 1261

## **STANDARD FOR SAFETY**

### Electric Water Heaters for Pools and Tubs

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UL Standard for Safety for Electric Water Heaters for Pools and Tubs, UL 1261

Sixth Edition, Dated September 2, 2016

**Summary of Topics**

***This revision of ANSI/UL 1261 is being issued to clarify button or coin cell batteries of lithium technologies requirements.***

The revised requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated July 14, 2017.

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**CONTENTS**

**INTRODUCTION**

1 Scope .....7  
 2 Glossary .....7  
 3 Safety Critical Functions .....8

**CONSTRUCTION**

4 Component Specifications .....9  
 4.1 General .....9  
 4.2 Quick-connect wire connectors .....10  
 4.3 Terminal blocks .....10  
 4.4 Wire connectors .....10  
 4.5 Boxes and raceways .....11  
 4.6 Overcurrent protection .....11  
 4.7 Switches .....11  
 4.8 Relays and contactors .....13  
 4.9 Transformers .....13  
 4.10 Printed wiring boards .....13  
 4.11 Temperature sensing thermistor devices .....14  
 4.12 Button or coin cell batteries of lithium technologies .....14  
 5 Frame and Enclosure .....14  
 5.1 General .....14  
 5.2 Protection of combustible materials outside the enclosure .....15  
 5.3 Ventilating openings .....15  
 5.4 Thickness of enclosure materials .....16  
 5.5 Openings .....17  
 5.6 Accessibility of uninsulated live parts .....19  
 5.7 Button or coin cell batteries of lithium technologies .....23  
 6 Metal in Contact With Water .....23  
 7 Field-Wiring Connections .....24  
 7.1 General .....24  
 7.2 Leads and terminals .....25  
 8 Field Wiring Compartments .....27  
 9 Leakage Current Collectors .....28  
 10 Equipment Grounding .....29  
 11 Bonding For Grounding .....29  
 12 Live or Current-Carrying Parts .....30  
 12.1 General .....30  
 12.2 Current-carrying parts .....30  
 13 Enclosure of Live Parts and Wiring .....30  
 14 Internal Wiring .....31  
 14.1 General .....31  
 14.2 Wiring methods .....32  
 14.3 Splices and connections .....32  
 15 Heating Elements .....33  
 16 Electrical Insulation .....33  
 17 Thermal Insulation .....34  
 18 Overcurrent Protection .....34  
 18.1 General .....34

18.2	Receptacle, transformer, lampholder protection	34
19	Temperature Regulating Controls	35
19.1	General	35
19.2	Construction	35
20	Temperature-Limiting Controls	36
21	Electrical Spacings	38
22	Clearance and Creepage Distances	40
23	Protection Against Risk of Physical Injury	41
23.1	General	41
23.2	Maximum surface temperatures	41
23.3	Stability	41
24	Pressure Vessels and Parts Subject to Pressure	42
25	Units Intended for Outdoor Use	42
25.1	General	42
25.2	Enclosure	42
25.3	Corrosion resistance	43

## PERFORMANCE

26	Power Input	45
27	Normal Temperature	45
28	Water Temperature	48
29	Dielectric Voltage-Withstand	48
30	Abnormal Operation	49
31	Insulation Resistance as a Result of Moisture	49
32	Resistance to Rain	49
33	Hydrostatic Pressure	53
34	Metal Coating Thickness	53
35	Endurance of Temperature-Regulating and -Limiting Controls	55
36	Leakage Current in Water	55
37	Stability Test	58

## MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION-LINE TEST

38	Production-Line Dielectric Voltage-Withstand	58
38.1	General	58
38.2	Test equipment	59

## RATINGS

39	Details	60
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## MARKINGS

40	Details	61
40.1	Identification and electrical ratings	61
40.2	Temperatures for field-wiring conductors	62
40.3	Marking of field terminals	63
41	Permanence	63
41.1	General	63
41.2	Oven aging	64
41.3	Immersion	64
41.4	Standard atmosphere	64

41.5 Evaluation of adhesive labels .....64

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No Text on This Page

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

42 Installation .....65  
 43 Use Instructions .....66

**SUPPLEMENT SA - REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EVALUATION OF ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS**

**INTRODUCTION**

SA1 Scope .....SA1  
 SA2 General .....SA1  
 SA3 Glossary .....SA1

**CONSTRUCTION**

SA4 Components .....SA3  
     SA4.1 Capacitors .....SA3  
     SA4.2 Switch mode power supplies .....SA3  
 SA5 Identification of Safety Critical Circuit Functions .....SA3  
     SA5.1 General .....SA3  
     SA5.2 Protective electronic circuits .....SA4  
     SA5.3 Operating circuits that mitigate a dangerous malfunction of the appliance .....SA4  
 SA6 Evaluation of the Different Types of Electronic Circuits .....SA4  
 SA7 Circuits that Provide Safety Critical Functions .....SA4

**PERFORMANCE**

SA8 General Conditions for the Tests .....SA5  
     SA8.1 Details .....SA5  
     SA8.2 Intentionally weak parts .....SA5  
     SA8.3 Test results determined by overcurrent protection operation .....SA6  
 SA9 Low-Power Circuit Determination .....SA6  
 SA10 Abnormal Operation and Fault Tests .....SA8  
 SA11 Overload Protection (Transformer and Associated Circuits) Test .....SA9  
 SA12 Switch Mode Power Supply Overload Test .....SA10  
 SA13 Programmable Component Reduced Supply Voltage Test .....SA11  
 SA14 Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Requirements – Immunity .....SA11

**SUPPLEMENT SB - CONTROLS EVALUATED TO UL 508 AND UL 873**

**INTRODUCTION**

SB1 Scope .....SB1  
 SB2 General .....SB1

**CONSTRUCTION**

SB3 General .....SB1

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover permanently installed electric water heaters, rated 600 volts or less, for heating the water supplied through plumbing to separately heated public or private pools or tubs, in which swimming, wading, bathing, or partial or total immersion of persons, may be involved. Equipment covered may or may not be intended for use with external water circulating equipment, and is intended for installation in accordance with the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70.

1.2 These requirements do not cover household storage tank water heaters or other equipment covered by individual requirements.

### 2 Glossary

2.1 For the purpose of this standard the following definitions apply.

2.2 ACTUATION – Movement of the actuating member of the control by the user, by hand, by foot, or by any other human activity.

2.3 CONTROL, AUTOMATIC ACTION – A device in which the transmission and operation of at least one function is produced by initiation which is not the result of manual actuation.

2.4 CONTROL, LIMITING – A control intended to limit the operation of the heater to a water temperature of 70°C (158°F) under all conditions, including breakdown of any or all operating controls.

2.5 CONTROL, MANUAL – A device that requires direct human interaction to activate or test the control.

2.6 CONTROL, OPERATING – A device that starts or regulates the operation of an appliance during normal operation. The failure of an operational control generally causes the operation of a protective control. An example of an operating control is a temperature regulating control – a control that maintains the temperature of the spa water to a user-determined level.

2.7 CONTROL, PROTECTIVE – A device, the operation of which is intended to reduce the risk of electric shock, fire, or injury to persons during normal or abnormal operation of the appliance. During the evaluation of the protective control / circuit, the protective functions are verified under normal and single-fault conditions of the control.

2.8 CONTROL, TYPE 2 ACTION – The actuation of an automatic control (see 2.3) for which the manufacturing deviation and the drift of its operating value, operating time, or operating sequence have been declared and tested under the Standard for Automatic Electrical Controls – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 60730-1.

2.9 CONTROL, TYPE 2.D.H ACTION – This action is applicable to manual controls (see 2.5). The automatic action (i.e. tripping of the control) is independent of the manipulation or position of the manual reset/adjustment mechanism. The manipulation of the manual adjustment means will not allow for the reverse operation (resetting of a "tripped" control), even momentarily, while the excess or fault condition persists. This action is also referred to as trip-free action. The action of the control is such that the reverse operation (resetting) is possible if the manual reset mechanism is held in the reset position – i.e. the control will function as an automatic control if the reset button is held in the reset position. The control shall not reset automatically at any temperature above -35°C (-31°F) with the reset mechanism in the normal position.

2.10 CONTROL, TYPE 2.D.J ACTION – This action is applicable to manual controls (see 2.5). The automatic action (i.e. tripping of the control) is independent of the manipulation or position of the manual reset/adjustment mechanism. The manipulation of the manual adjustment means will not allow for the reverse operation (resetting of the control), even momentarily, while the excess or fault condition persists. This action is also referred to as trip-free action.

2.11 CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT – An environment that is relatively free from conductive contaminants, such as dust and carbon particles, and that is protected against humidity and condensation. A controlled environment may be provided by a hermetically sealed enclosure, encapsulation, or a conformal coating.

2.12 HOT TUB – A tub intended for partial or total immersion of persons in heated water.

2.13 LOW-VOLTAGE CIRCUITS – A low-voltage circuit is one involving a potential of not more than 30 volts rms (42.4 volts peak) supplied by a primary battery, by a standard Class 2 transformer, or by a combination of a transformer and a fixed impedance that, as a unit, complies with all of the performance requirements for a Class 2 transformer. A circuit derived from a source of supply at line voltage by connecting resistance in series with the supply as a means of limiting the voltage and current is not considered to be a low-voltage circuit.

2.14 OPERATING TEMPERATURE VALUE – Value of temperature at which the temperature sensing control operates on a rise or fall of the temperature.

2.15 SAFETY CRITICAL FUNCTION – Control, protection and monitoring functions which are being relied upon to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock or casualty hazards.

2.16 TEMPERATURE SETTING BY THE USER – Any selection of an operating temperature value by actuation performed by the user.

### 3 Safety Critical Functions

3.1 Any function involved in the control, protection, and monitoring of safety-related attributes of a unit whereby a loss/malfunction of its functionality would represent an unacceptable risk of fire, electric shock, or casualty hazards would be considered a Safety Critical Function.

3.2 Electronic circuits that manage a Safety Critical Function shall be:

- a) Reliable as defined as being able to maintain the Safety Critical Function in the event of single defined component faults and
- b) Not susceptible to electromagnetic environmental stresses encountered in the anticipated environments of the appliance.

3.3 Electronic circuits managing Safety Critical Functions shall comply with:

- a) Supplement SA; or
- b) The Standard for Automatic Electrical Controls – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 60730-1 and its Part 2s as specified in this standard. The function shall be considered Class B; or
- c) The Standard for Temperature-Indicating and -Regulating Equipment, UL 873, and the Standard for Tests for Safety-Related Controls Employing Solid-State Devices, UL 991, requirements specified in Supplement SB.

3.4 Functions specified in Table 3.1 represent the common safety critical circuit functions of units. It is not intended to represent all possible Safety Critical Functions.

**Table 3.1  
Safety Critical Functions**

Function (see 3.1)	Hazard	Location of parameters and tests
Temperature regulating control	Scalding	Section 19
Temperature limiting control	Scalding	Section 20

## CONSTRUCTION

### 4 Component Specifications

#### 4.1 General

4.1.1 Except as indicated in 4.1.2, a component of a product covered by this standard shall comply with the requirements for that component as indicated in this Section.

4.1.2 A component is not required to comply with a specific requirement that:

- a) Involves a feature or characteristic not required in the application of the component in the product covered by this standard,
- b) Is superseded by a requirement in this standard, or
- c) Is separately investigated when forming part of another component, provided the component is used within its established ratings and limitations.

4.1.3 A component shall be used in accordance with its rating established for the intended conditions of use.

4.1.4 Specific components are incomplete in construction features or restricted in performance capabilities. Such components are intended for use only under limited conditions, such as certain temperatures not exceeding specified limits, and shall be used only under those specific conditions.

4.1.5 Components shall be suitable for the intended use and installation environment. This suitability shall assume the following installation parameters.

- a) Outdoor, Pollution Degree III installations.
- b) Overvoltage Category II as specified in the Standard for Insulation Coordination Including Clearances and Creepage Distances for Electrical Equipment, UL 840.

4.1.6 Components not anticipated by the requirements of this Standard, not specifically covered by a component standard of Component Specifications, Section 4, and which pose a potential risk of electric shock, fire or casualty hazard shall be additionally investigated. Reference to other product standards is appropriate where those standards anticipate normal and abnormal use conditions consistent with the application of this Standard

## 4.2 Quick-connect wire connectors

4.2.1 Quick-connect type wire connectors shall be suitable for the wire size, type (solid or stranded), conductor material (copper or aluminum) and the number of conductors terminated. If insulated, they shall be rated for the voltage and temperature of the intended use. They shall be applied per the installation instructions of the wire connector manufacturer.

4.2.2 Quick-connect type wire connectors shall comply with the Standard for Electrical Quick-Connect Terminals, UL 310.

## 4.3 Terminal blocks

4.3.1 Terminal blocks shall comply with:

- a) The Standard for Terminal Blocks, UL 1059, or
- b) The Standard for Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear – Part 7-1: Ancillary Equipment – Terminal Blocks for Copper Conductors, UL 60947-7-1, or
- c) The Standard for Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear – Part 7-2: Ancillary Equipment – Protective Conductor Terminal Blocks for Copper Conductors, UL 60947-7-2, or
- d) The Standard for Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear – Part 7-3: Ancillary Equipment – Safety Requirements for Fuse Terminal Blocks, UL 60947-7-3.

4.3.2 The UL 60947-7-x Standards are used in conjunction with the Standard for Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear – Part 1: General Rules, UL 60947-1.

4.3.3 Terminal blocks shall be suitable for the number of conductors per termination, wire size, type (solid or stranded), conductor material (copper or aluminum), voltage and current of the intended use.

## 4.4 Wire connectors

4.4.1 Wire connectors shall be suitable for the wire size, type (solid or stranded), conductor material (copper or aluminum) and the number of conductors terminated. If insulated they shall be suitable for the voltage and current of the intended use. They shall be applied per the installation instructions of the wire connector manufacturer.

4.4.2 Wire connectors shall comply with the Standard for Wire Connectors, UL 486A-486B, or the Standard for Equipment Wiring Terminals for Use with Aluminum and/or Copper Conductors, UL 486E.

## 4.5 Boxes and raceways

4.5.1 Electrical boxes and the associated bushings and fittings, and raceways, of the types specified in Chapter 3, Wiring Methods and Materials, of the National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA 70, and that comply with the relevant UL standard (such as the Standard for Metallic Outlet Boxes, UL 514A, the Standard for Nonmetallic Outlet Boxes, Flush-Device Boxes, and Covers, UL 514C, the Standard for Cover Plates for Flush-Mounted Wiring Devices, UL 514D) are considered to comply with the requirements of this end product standard.

## 4.6 Overcurrent protection

4.6.1 Fuses shall comply with the Standard for Low-Voltage Fuses – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 248-1; and the applicable Part 2 (e.g. UL 248-5). Defined use fuses that comply with UL 248-1 and another applicable UL standard for fuses are considered to comply with this requirement.

4.6.2 Fuseholders shall comply with the Standard for Fuseholders – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 4248-1, and the applicable Part 2 (e.g. UL 4248-9).

4.6.3 Circuit breakers shall comply with the Standard for Molded-Case Circuit Breakers, Molded-Case Switches and Circuit-Breaker Enclosures, UL 489.

*Exception: Circuit breakers used in telecommunications circuitry that comply with the Standard for Circuit Breakers For Use in Communications Equipment, UL 489A, need not comply with the Standard for Molded-Case Circuit Breakers, Molded-Case Switches and Circuit-Breaker Enclosures, UL 489.*

4.6.4 Circuit breakers having integral ground fault circuit interrupter capability for protection against electrical shock shall additionally comply with the Standard for Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters, UL 943.

4.6.5 Supplementary protectors shall comply with the Standard for Supplementary Protectors for Use in Electrical Equipment, UL 1077.

## 4.7 Switches

4.7.1 Switches shall comply with one of the following, as applicable:

- a) The Standard for Switches for Appliances – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 61058-1;
- b) The Standard for General-Use Snap Switches, UL 20; or
- c) The Standard for Nonindustrial Photoelectric Switches for Lighting Control, UL 773A.

*Exception: Switching devices that comply with the applicable UL standard for specialty applications (e.g. transfer switch equipment), industrial use (e.g. contactors, relays, auxiliary devices), or are integral to another component (e.g. switched lampholder) need not comply.*

4.7.2 A clock-operated switch, in which the switching contacts are actuated by a clock-work, by a gear-train, by electrically-wound spring motors, by electric clock-type motors, or by equivalent arrangements shall comply with one of the following:

- a) The Standard for Clock-Operated Switches, UL 917; or

- b) The Standard for Automatic Electrical Controls – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 60730-1, and the Standard for Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Timers and Time Switches, UL 60730-2-7.

4.7.3 A timer or time switch, incorporating electronic timing circuits or switching circuits, with or without separable contacts, shall comply with the requirements for an operating control with Type 1 action for 6,000 cycles of operation, or as a manual control for 5,000 cycles of operation, in accordance with the following:

- a) The Standard for Solid-State Controls for Appliances, UL 244A; or
- b) The Standard for Automatic Electrical Controls – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 60730-1, and the Standard for Automatic Electrical Controls for Household and Similar Use; Part 2: Particular Requirements for Timers and Time Switches, UL 60730-2-7.

4.7.4 Switches that comply with the Standard for Switches for Appliances – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 61058-1, shall be rated as specified in 4.7.5 – 4.7.7.

4.7.5 Power switches shall be rated as follows:

- a) For a voltage not less than the rated voltage of the appliance;
- b) For a current not less than the rated current of the appliance;
- c) For Continuous Duty;
- d) With respect to load:
  - 1) Switches for motor-operated appliances: for resistance and motor load in accordance with the Standard for Switches for Appliances – Part 1: General Requirements, UL 61058-1, or Outline for Particular Requirements for Switches for Tools, UL 6059, if the switch would encounter this load in normal use; or
  - 2) Switches may be regarded as switches for a declared specific load in accordance with the UL 61058-1, or UL 6059, and may be classified based upon the load conditions encountered in the appliance under normal load.
- e) For ac if the appliance is rated for ac;
- f) For dc if the appliance is rated for dc.

4.7.6 Ratings and load classifications for switches other than power switches shall be based on the conditions encountered in the appliance under normal load.

4.7.7 Switches shall also be rated with respect to endurance as follows:

- a) Power switches: 6000 cycles;
- b) Power switches provided with series electronics shall be subject to an additional 1000 cycles of operation with the electronics bypassed;
- c) Switches other than power switches, such as speed selector switches, that may be switched under electrical load: 1000 cycles;