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ULC Investigation Indicates Failures of Certain Lifesaver and Nighthawk CO Detectors

ULC Certified CO Detectors Meet Canadian Requirements

Scarborough, Ontario, March 19, 1999 - Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC), the independent, not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization, announced today that recent tests of CO detector samples conducted in its laboratories reaffirm that ULC certified CO detectors meet the Canadian National Standard and will respond to the presence of CO. ULC's tests indicate that certain models of "Lifesaver" and Nighthawk carbon monoxide (CO) detectors manufactured by Kidde Safety, Mebane, North Carolina, and certified by ULC's U.S. affiliate, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), to Canadian and U.S. Standards, may fail to operate as required to the presence of CO.

ULC urges consumers to contact Kidde Safety directly at **1-888-543-3346**, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EST, for information on returning affected "Lifesaver" or Nighthawk CO detectors to the manufacturer for testing and replacement.

Based on tests conducted by ULC and UL, a significant number of field samples of the "Lifesaver" 9C01 detector, manufactured between June 1997 and January 1998, failed to respond at any concentration of CO and should not be relied upon to sound an alarm. A date code is provided on the back of the unit, contained within the first six digits of a 15-digit number printed across the top of a barcode label (for example, if the first six numbers read: 181297, the date is December 18, 1997).

Additional operational tests conducted by ULC and UL indicate that all Nighthawk CO detectors manufactured by Kidde Safety between November 8, 1998 and March 9, 1999 may not be properly calibrated and may not respond as required to certain levels of CO. According to ULC, the Nighthawk CO detectors failed to operate within the required limits of either the Canadian or U.S. Standards. The affected Nighthawk units can be identified by the phrase "Carbon Monoxide Alarm" on the front of the product. Consumers can identify the date of production by looking at the date code on the back of the detector.

ULC has notified the Canadian fire safety community regarding these particular CO detectors and has shared its technical data with them. Similarly, UL has notified the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and Kidde Safety.

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ULC is continuing to collect CO detector samples from other manufacturers and from the Canadian marketplace for further testing and evaluation. If ULC's results indicate that any CO detectors certified by ULC fail to comply with the requirements, product-specific information will be provided to the public.

ULC strongly urges consumers to continue using CO detectors certified by ULC, citing that CO detectors are important life-safety devices that have and will continue to save lives from CO poisoning.