



# CITY OF RIVERSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

### INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN: 2022-031

APPROVED BY: C. Kodat, Fire Marshal, 1/1/2023

## KITCHEN HOOD FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS UL 300 COMPLIANCE

**Equipment:** Kitchen Hood Fire Protection Systems

**Issue:** UL300 Compliance

With the trend of using vegetable oils instead of animal fats in deep fryers and its associated fire hazards, the State Fire Marshal has been working diligently with the fire service, the restaurant industry, and numerous other stakeholders to develop regulations to address the issue. The result was the adoption of UL 300 in the 2019 California Fire Code.

The 2022 California Fire Code § 904.13 requires all commercial cooking systems (existing or new) of the dry-chemical or wet-chemical type comply with new UL 300 standards. There is a code exception for public school kitchens that have stoves without deep-fat fryers.

**What is UL 300?** UL 300 is the industry accepted standard for “Fire Testing of Fire Extinguishing Systems for Protection of Commercial Cooking Equipment”. Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is an independent, not-for-profit product-safety testing and certification organization.

#### **How do I know if a system meets UL 300 standards?**

A reasonable place to start is to first look for the UL 300 label on the system’s extinguishing chemical tank or cabinet. Another indicator of a UL 300 system is the type of discharge nozzle. All UL 300 compliant systems use a wet extinguishing agent. Wet system nozzles are narrow  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” to 1” in diameter and are typically covered with red, orange, or yellow plastic caps to keep them clean. Wet chemical nozzles will be located directly over each cooking surface. Discharge nozzles for a dry chemical system (not UL compliant) are fairly large, 2” in diameter and may cover more than one cooking appliance. A service record tag is required and is normally attached to the manual pull box for the system. The tag will list past service dates, service schedules, as well as the name and phone number of the service provider.

**Does my hood system need to be connected to my existing firm alarm system or only need to have a local alarm when activated?**

The 2022 California Fire Code § 904.3.5 states that only where a building fire alarm system is installed, automatic fire-extinguishing systems (hood system included) shall be monitored by the building fire alarm system in accordance with NFPA 72.

**Remember; California Fire Code 904.13.5.2 Maintenance requires automatic fire extinguishing systems be serviced at least every 6 months and after activation.**

