

## PLAYING WITH FIRE – UL CERTIFICATION OF SAFETY

The ITRON smart meters that BC Hydro and FortisBC are mandated to put on our homes have not been certified safe by either CSA (Canadian Standards Association) or UL (Underwriters Laboratory). All other electrical equipment on or in homes must be. Now, suddenly, ITRON wants to assure us that their meters are not the fire hazards that we believe them to be, based on the many fires and failures that have occurred in British Columbia and elsewhere. They have submitted them to UL for certification. [https://www.itron.com/na/resourcesAndSupport/Documents/Itron\\_Meters\\_and\\_ULCertification.pdf](https://www.itron.com/na/resourcesAndSupport/Documents/Itron_Meters_and_ULCertification.pdf)

Are they trying to fool us into thinking this means these electrical meters are safe?

Smart meters that were certified "safe" by UL under the new standard (2735), specifically designed for smart meters, caused fires in Saskatchewan and Texas. Saskatchewan recalled these very same meters.

- Sensus meters in Saskatchewan <http://www.metering.com/smart-meter-fires-ul-confirms-sensus-meters-comply-with-safety-standards/>
- Landis & Gyr meters in Texas <http://www.metering.com/news/landisgyr-secures-ul-green-light-for-smart-meters/>

Since UL certified these meters as safe, it raises the question: what does "safe" mean to UL? More to the point, what don't we expect it to mean? A tendency to burst into flame because of design flaws would be at the top of the list.

**“... design flaws in smart meter units have been known to cause serious fire hazards and spotty performance. This has caused a lot of concern for utilities and manufacturers of smart meters.”**

<http://www.metlabs.com/blog/meters/new-ul-2735-electric-utility-meter-standard-ensures-safety-and-performance/>

Why does this new UL standard fail in its mandate to protect home and business owners from design flaws in the Itron smart meter?

### **UL 2735 standard does not address:**

- Remote disconnect switches found responsible for fires and failures in Saskatchewan and Oregon;
- Lithium metal batteries that can explode when exposed to heat or moisture;
- Installing smart meters into meter bases connected to household wiring designed to operate with non-smart meters. Testimony in legal proceedings included evidence that ITRON and Landis & Gyr meters do not fit properly into older bases, causing arcing and fires. [http://www.stopsmartmetersbc.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Reed\\_Answering\\_Brief-1.pdf](http://www.stopsmartmetersbc.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Reed_Answering_Brief-1.pdf) (pg. 18 identifies Landis & Gyr)

UL has not yet certified Itron smart meters as safe, but if/when they do, design flaws in the meter that the standard doesn't address make it crystal clear that we can't depend on that assurance of safety. Simply put, UL certification of the Itron smart meter cannot be trusted to protect us.

This could be your home: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah3nNo89-NU>

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