



Introduction to the Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) Program

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OSHA – NRTL Program

NRTL Program Summary

- OSHA currently requires that 38 different types of products or equipment used in the workplace be "approved" (i.e., tested and certified) by third-party organizations called Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTLs), including:
 - Electrical products and equipment (the largest category)
 - Fire detecting and extinguishing equipment
 - Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) utilization equipment (commercial and industrial)
 - Equipment to be used in hazardous locations
- NRTLs collectively test and certify over 600 different types of equipment

Examples of Equipment Requiring NRTL Approval



What is an NRTL?

- Third Party Testing and Certification Bodies
- “Recognized” by OSHA as meeting the requirements of 29CFR1910.7
- OSHA’s recognition is not a government license, or a delegation or grant of government authority, or an accreditation,
- Recognition is an acknowledgment that an organization has necessary qualifications to perform safety testing and certification of the specific products covered within its scope of recognition.
- OSHA can accept products “properly certified” by the NRTL.

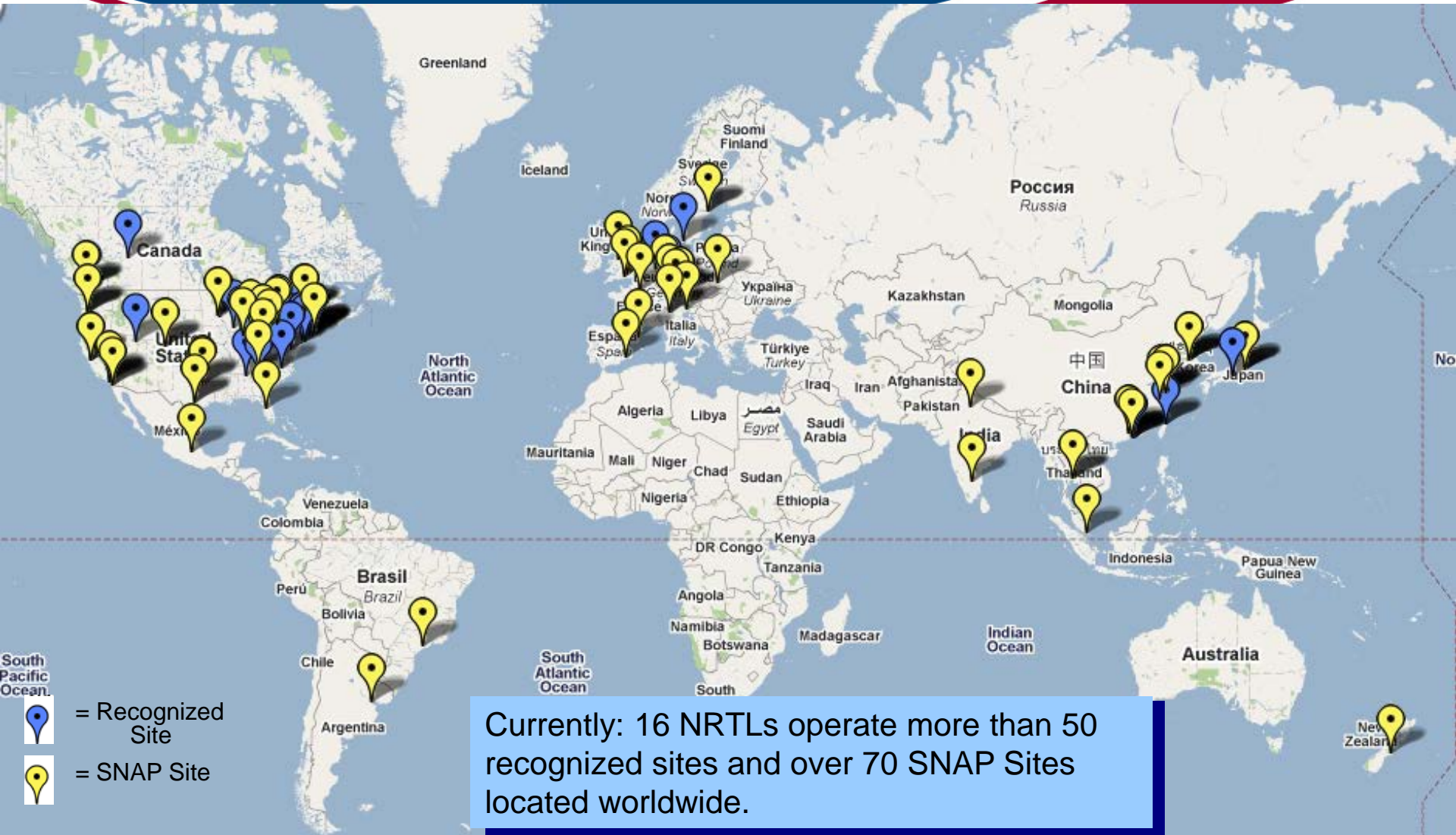
History of the Program

- When first adopted, OSHA regulations gave two examples of approval organizations: UL & FM.
- As a result of a successful lawsuit brought by a private laboratory, OSHA was ordered by a court in 1983 to remove the specific references to UL and FM.
- In 1988, OSHA revised its regulations and established the NRTL Program

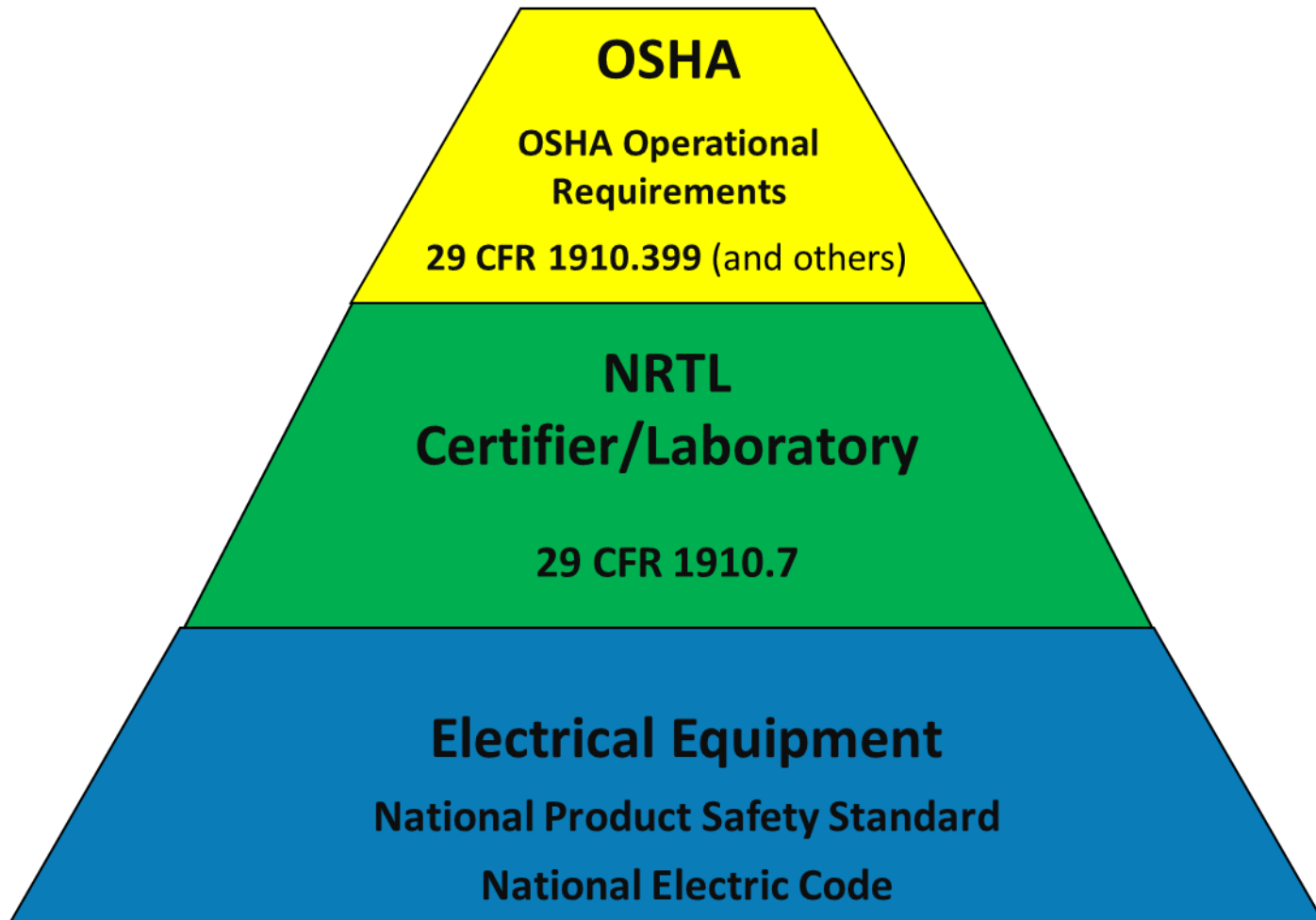
Growth

- The first NRTL was recognized in May 1989
- 2 NRTLs and 5 sites in 1989
- 16 NRTLs and approx. 30 sites in 1999
- 16 NRTLs and approx 125 sites in 2012
- Currently experiencing a surge in new applications.

NRTL Locations



**Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory Program (NRTL)
Conformity Assessment System**



OSHA's Role in the NRTL Program

- Administer the Program
 - Establish & collect fees for application processing and audits
- Review & Process Applications
 - Initial Applications
 - Expansion Applications
 - Renewals
- Conduct Audits of NRTL Sites

Laboratory's Role in the NRTL Program

- Evaluate and test products to appropriate consensus safety standards
- Authorize manufacturer to apply certification mark
- Conduct factory inspections for all certified products
- Provide assurance that these products are safe for use in the U.S. workplace.

Typical NRTL Certification Marks

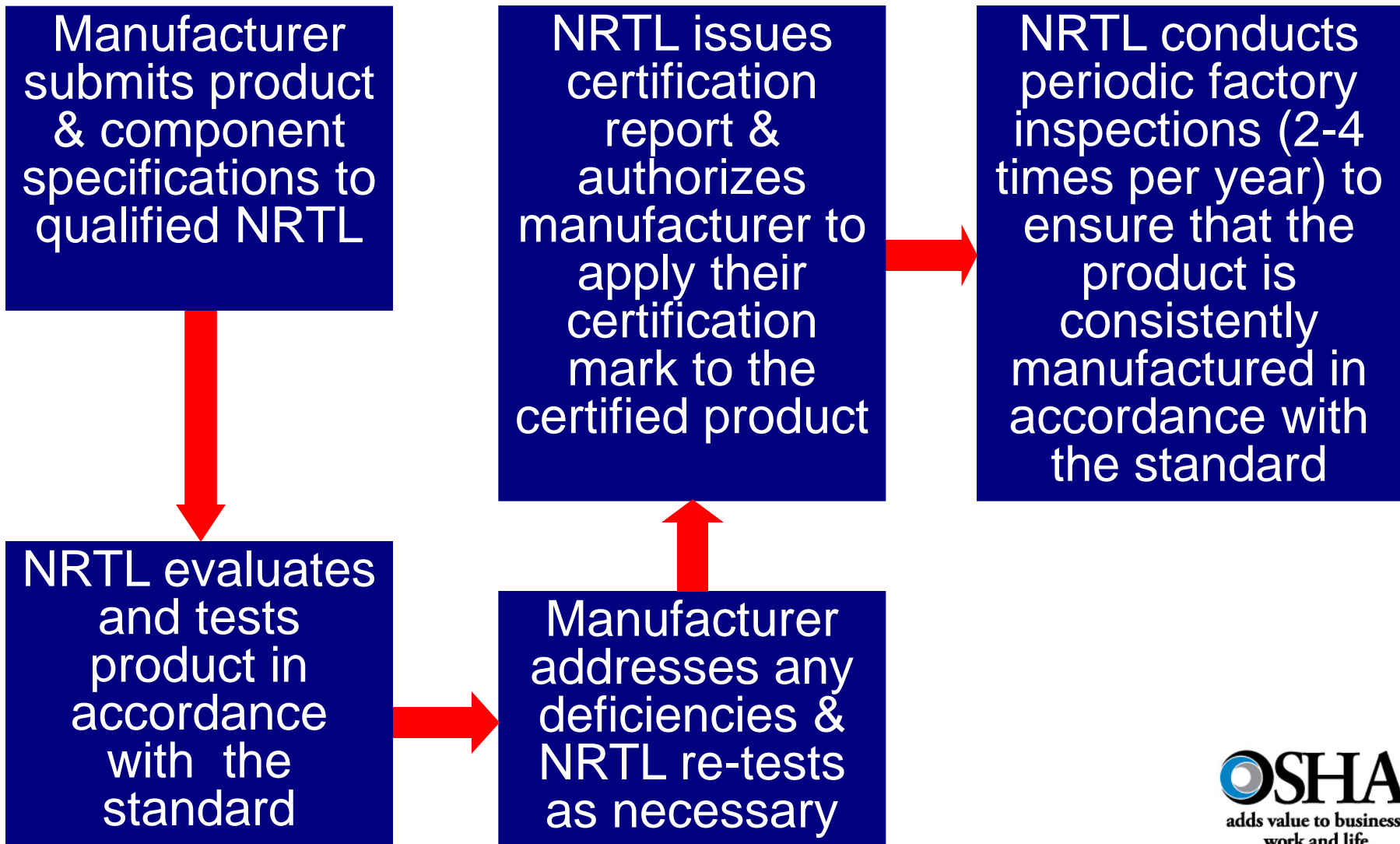


National Significance

NRTL Program is relied upon by:

- OSHA Compliance Officers
- All OSHA State-Plan States
- Many state and local electrical code enforcement authorities
- Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
- Phone companies for their own equipment certification requirements
- Foreign testing organizations under a private international test data exchanges protocol (IEC-CB scheme)
- Other government and private accreditation organizations.
- National Retailers

The Certification Process from a Manufacturer's Perspective



More Information

**To obtain more information about the NRTL
Program:**

Visit:

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/>

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/1910refs.html>

Or Call 202-693-1911

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