UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES INC. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT DECISION

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Product Category (CCN): CRZH & CRZM
Standard Number: UL 2050
Standard Title: National Industrial Security Systems
Edition Date: November 5, 2010
Edition Number: 5
Section / Paragraph Reference: 6.16.2 & 6.16.3
Subject: Communication Infrastructure

DECISION:

The additional paragraphs 6.16.2 and 6.16.3 provide redundancy for the Government Contracting Monitoring Stations (GCMS) and National Industrial Monitoring Stations (NIMS) when using an automation system.

6.16.2 If the central station receives signals from monitored alarm systems that are transmitted with either a packet switched data network or a managed facilities based voice network the station shall utilize communication services that deliver geographically diverse signal pathways, if possible by:

a) Utilizing two independent internet service providers (ISP) or two independent managed facilities based voice network (MFVN) providers or;

b) Utilizing one internet service provider (ISP) or one managed facilities based voice network (MFVN) provider that provides contracted diverse signal pathways arranged so that the pathways are not likely to be affected by the same natural or man-made disasters or single point of failure.

6.16.3 If the central station utilizes managed facilities based voice network (MFVN) for voice telephone communication, the station shall utilize communication services that deliver geographically diverse signal pathways, if possible, by:

a) Utilizing two independent managed facilities based voice network (MFVN) providers or;

b) Utilizing one managed facilities based voice network (MFVN) provider that provides contracted diverse signal pathways arranged so that the pathways are not likely to be affected by the same natural or man-made disasters or single point of failure.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION:

The intent of the additional paragraphs added to section 6 of UL 2050 is to have the monitoring stations equipped with redundancy. This will assure, if at any time the computer system and phone equipment were to fail there is a backup system that will automatically be in place to continue processing signals.

UL has found that the current edition of UL 2050 is silent on the redundancy and maintain operation if a single point were to fail. UL is introducing this concept to reduce and/or eliminate any point the computer system/automation system will be without signal processing.
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