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Raintight Applications - EMT Compression Connectors and Couplings

Appleton Electric, O-Z/Gedney, ETP and many other manufacturers have been marketing compression-type EMT fittings for many years, dating back to the 1950's and earlier. Many of these fittings were UL Listed as Raintight and Concretetight, in addition to standard electrical and mechanical ratings for EMT products.

UL (Underwriters Laboratories) was requested in early 1999 to determine if production samples of various UL Listed Raintight Compression EMT Fittings were effectively excluding water in typical wet locations, as required by the Raintight UL Listing. A program was initiated to evaluate all UL Listed Raintight EMT products on the market. UL found that a large percentage of these fittings did not effectively exclude rain, despite the UL Raintight listing.

A meeting of an Ad Hoc Group for Fittings for Cable and Conduit was held in late 1999 to discuss revisions to UL's Follow-Up Testing Program for products Listed in accordance with UL Standard 514B. A market sample survey of Raintight EMT Fittings was also proposed. The market sample survey commenced in June-2001, and New Follow-Up procedures were issued in July 2001.

Various manufacturers samples gathered in the sample survey were tested using the new UL Follow-Up testing program. Of all products tested to UL's new, more stringent procedures, a 38% failure rate was recorded. Based upon this evaluation, UL rescinded all manufacturers Raintight listings on EMT fittings, effective March 15, 2002. Standard ETP Compression Connectors and Couplings retained all other UL Listings and ratings.

UL Listed Raintight EMT Compression Connectors and Couplings now being offered under the ETP brand have successfully passed UL's testing and listing process, and have the right to be marked "Raintight". These fittings are being provided with additional sealing rings to effectively exclude water, as well as ridges on the fittings external surface used to easily identify Raintight products from other non-Raintight EMT fittings on the market.

Look for the "Raintight" markings on ETP's carton label, and the UL mark on the fitting.

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