



NEWS

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CAPA VALIDATOR SELECTED BY U.S. DOT FOR VEHICLE LIGHT SAFETY TESTING

Washington, DC – The Validator of the CAPA Certification Program, Intertek, a global leader in testing, inspection and certification, has been approved by the U.S. DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, for enforcement testing to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 108 which covers headlamps, tail lamps, brake lights, reflective devices and associated equipment. Intertek has been the CAPA Validator since 1991.

“Full compliance with FMVSS 108 is a critical component of the CAPA 301 Lighting Certification Standard. Intertek's selection as an enforcement mechanism for the U.S. DOT is evidence that their testing is of the highest quality,” said Jack Gillis, Executive Director, CAPA. “When we began the lighting certification program in 2002, it was the testing conducted by Intertek that revealed a significant number of aftermarket lights did not comply with the FMVSS 108 requirements. That is one reason why CAPA Certification of lighting is so critically important,” said Gillis.

To ensure the safety of automotive lighting products, FMVSS 108 contains stringent requirements for photometric (light intensity), mechanical (vibration) and environmental (corrosion, moisture, and dust) performance. Enforcement testing is critical in order to ensure that both car company brand and aftermarket automotive lighting products meet the performance requirements prescribed in FMVSS 108.

Like CAPA, the U.S. DOT will now be depending on Intertek to conduct testing against the government standard for automotive lighting products sold in the marketplace. The reports will be submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to determine compliance with FMVSS 108.

“When the CAPA 301 Lighting Standard was issued in April 2002, it was imperative that Certified lights not only meet all of CAPA's fit, material and

performance standards, but that they fully comply with FMVSS 108,” said Gillis. Government safety standards are critical and when it comes to aftermarket lighting, the best way to ensure full compliance is by insisting on CAPA Certified parts. Many insurance companies and repairers have determined that the best way to protect their customers from unsafe lighting is to insist on CAPA Certification.

Gillis adds, “As CAPA’s Validator, Intertek continues to work closely with the lighting manufacturers in the CAPA program to ensure that their Certified parts are compliant to U.S. laws.” DOT’s approval of Intertek assures both the CAPA participating manufacturers, and those demanding safe lighting products, that the very best technical advice is being made available. Look for the CAPA seal, only lights that are CAPA Certified have the CAPA seal placed on the light.

The Certified Automotive Parts Association, founded in 1987, is the nation’s only independent, non-profit, third party crash parts quality certification organization. CAPA certification identifies, for both consumers and the industry, those parts that meet our high standards for quality, fit, form, finish, material content, corrosion resistance, and safety performance. For more information see www.CAPAcertified.org.

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