



**Watlow Hannibal
A Division of Watlow**

#6 Industrial Loop Rd. (P.O. Box 975)
Hannibal, MO 63401
Phone 573.221.2816 Fax 573.221.3723

Humidity Conditioning Requirements of Commercial Electric Cooking Appliances per UL[®] 197

The ninth edition of UL[®] Standard 197 “Commercial Electric Cooking Appliances” includes a new requirement for a three-day humidity conditioning for appliances that have one or more sheathed heating elements. This conditioning must be completed prior to performing the leakage current test on the appliance. The requirement becomes effective on March 26, 2007 and is defined in paragraph 46.8.

There are two exceptions to this requirement. The first states the entire appliance does not need to be conditioned if the elements are removable. The elements alone may be conditioned and then re-installed in the appliance prior to the leakage current test. The second exception states, “The conditioning is not required if all of the sheathed heating elements in the appliance comply with the requirements of the resistance to moisture test of UL[®] 1030.”

Watlow Hannibal has recently taken steps so that this conditioning process does not need to be performed on existing WATROD heating elements, FIREBAR[®] heating elements, and MULTICOIL heating elements. Our standard element offering can be recognized under the UL[®] 499 standard. It is acceptable for UL[®] 197, but does not comply with the UL[®] 1030 resistance to moisture test. However, as of August 8, 2004, Watlow Hannibal can offer an element recognized under UL[®] 499 and comply with the UL[®] 1030 resistance to moisture test. This is possible only when certain end seals are used.

If you are concerned about compliance with UL[®] 197 and need a heating element that complies with the UL[®] 1030 resistance to moisture test, please talk to your Watlow sales engineers for details.

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