

# WHAT IS **UL 2703A**?



UL 2703A governs both polymeric and metallic attachments by providing manufacturers of flashing products with a standardized testing criteria that ensures that their products protect the roof from water penetration.

The new standard was developed by a technical committee comprised of roofing manufacturers, regulatory professionals, PV mounting manufacturers, and other solar experts to codify the performance requirements of new flashing technologies

## **WHY IS UL 2703A IMPORTANT?**

For decades, the solar industry relied on metal flashing beneath roof shingles to prevent water damage. While effective in principle, this method posed myriad installation challenges. When attaching traditional flashing, an installer could unintentionally pry up roofing nails underneath or adjacent to the overlapping shingles. These inadvertently loosened or removed nails often left an area of the rooftop prone to water penetration. Another common threat to roof integrity were missed pilot holes, often backfilled with sealant.

To address these issues, one method racking manufacturers now offer is polymeric or one-piece attachments integrated with butyl or other sealant-based flashing systems, improving installation protections and bolstering an attachment's water protection factor. UL 2703A aims to be a prescriptive rubric for evaluating the waterproofing performance of rooftops solar attachment flashing.

## **WHAT UL 2703A DOES FOR YOU:**

1. Prevents roof and structure damage due to water penetration.
2. Standardizes testing to ensure a more durable, higher quality attachment flashing on your roof.
3. Testing ensures high quality sealant materials.

## **WHAT UL 2703A COMPLIANT PRODUCTS DOES UNIRAC HAVE?**

At Unirac, customers matter. **The largest UL 2703A compliant product portfolio** on the Solar Racking Market today. Because roof integrity and water protection are of the utmost importance, Unirac has certified the most combination of roof materials and roof slopes for 2703A attachments and flashings.

Unirac attests that **Solarmount® Butyl**, **Stronghold® Butyl**, **SFM™ Butyl** are UL 2703A compliant. These products can be utilized on both **Low Pitch Slopes** (less than 2:12) and **Steep Pitch Slopes** (2:12 and greater). Additionally, Unirac has certifications for most roofing substrates in solar racking, including asphalt shingle, rolled comp, EPDM, TPO, polyethylene, polypropylene, ABS, and metal roofs (including galvalume, painted steel, and galvanized).

## WHAT DOES UL 2703A TEST FOR:

The UL 2703A standard requires roof flashings and attachments to undergo water penetration resistance testing. Polymeric Flashings are rigorously tested for **Aging, UV Resistance, and Elasticity.**

## TEST METHODS INCLUDE

### POLYMERIC/BUTYL FLASHING & ATTACHMENTS FOR BOTH STEEP AND LOW SLOPE PITCHES

- Atmospheric Ozone Resistance
- Water Immersion
- Elongation and Tensile Strength
- Tear Resistance
- Impact
- High-Temperature

\*Additional testing for low slope roofs includes Water Penetration

## HOW DOES UL 2703A AFFECT STAKEHOLDERS:

UL 2703A is a gamechanger that will be implemented by multiple entities in the near future. Many stakeholders in the renewable energy marketplace will be affected.

### INSTALLERS AND SALES TEAMS

UL 2703A is an agreed upon standard for the waterproofing performance of attachments. This certification will grant both Installers and Sales Team members the additional security of knowing that certified products and roof penetrations will not leak. Certified flashings and attachments will further reduce call-backs from homeowners due to compromised roof integrity. Likewise, if an installer uses a mounting system with UL 2703 compliant attachments, they will likely ensure a smoother and less time-consuming permitting process.

### FINANCE COMPANIES

Most solar finance companies that offer loans for solar projects require that all components of the PV system are part of their Approved Vendor List (AVL). This guarantees that the components for installation have been vetted as high quality, reliable, and long-lasting products.

With UL 2703A, these companies now have a uniform standard by which to evaluate roof protection.

### AHJS

(AUTHORITIES HAVING JURISDICTION)

These regional regulators will have to decide when to adopt UL 2703A.

Those AHJs that adopt 2703A certification offer the structures in their jurisdictions an added level of protection from water damage caused by roof leaks.