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Featured Expert of the Month - Greg Smith



Greg is a Sr. Field Evaluation Inspector at TÜV Rheinland with over 25 years of experience in the electrical industry. He started his career in 1993 doing laboratory testing and field evaluations under the tutelage of a renowned expert. Since then, Greg has become an industry expert himself, with knowledge of over 100 product standards and a wide variety of equipment categories. Greg is also very active in the electrical industry, having served as a past president of the NC Chapter International Association of Electrical

Inspectors. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for the NC Association of Electrical Contractors.

One of Greg's most interesting recent projects involved an automated car vending system. Customers purchase their vehicles online, then go to a designated Car Vending Machine, which uses an automated vehicle dispensing system. Customers drop an over-sized, commemorative coin into the Car Vending Machine, activating the vending process. A lift within the tower brings the vehicle down, carrying it down a hallway and delivering it into a bay. After signing a few papers, the customer simply drives the car out of the bay and home. The challenges for this inspection included review of a European designed electrical system, a rechargeable robotic delivery platform, and testing of the elaborate safety system. Standards applied were UL508A, UL73, NFPA79 and UL2202.

Another recent project required a preliminary and final inspection of a custom window louver system which was eventually installed in a new residence for a former Vice President of the United States. During the preliminary inspection, there were a number of deficiencies in the control panel which took some time to resolve, including a review of some custom motors used. The final inspection was a challenge, partially due to the large number of workers on the site, and to the difficulty in accessing the control panels. Standards applied were UL508A, UL325.

Some of the problems Greg has found over the years that may be of interest to our inspector friends include: incorrect motor circuit and branch protection; incorrect or incomplete nameplate information; supplementary protection where branch protection is needed; grounding issues; conductor sizing; incorrect terminations and routing; and, incorrect component selection—often wrong type, non-approved or wrong for the application.

In addition to his work in the electrical product safety business, Greg is a lifelong piano player, singer and songwriter, and plays several other instruments. He also teaches piano, and is involved in a music nonprofit which provides instruments and instruction to students of all ages who never had the right opportunity. Greg is fluent in Spanish and has traveled extensively in Europe, Central and South America.

GREG'S ADVICE TO CUSTOMERS: "Electrical safety professionals are often taken for granted – If we do our jobs right, nothing (bad) happens. Electricity is invisible and it can kill you. Always ask a professional."

Top Product Safety Recalls



[Outlet Converters Recalled by Ningbo Litesun Electric with Home Depot Due to Shock and Fire Hazards](#)



[Suunto Recalls Wireless Tank Transmitter and Tank POD Due to Injury Hazard](#)



[Skip Hop Recalls Nightlight Soothers Due to Shock Hazard](#)



[Saber Grills Recalls Grills and LP Regulators Due to Fire and Burn Hazards](#)



[Fiat Chrysler Recalls 1.3M Vehicles for Airbag, Fire Risks](#)



[Frontier Wood Chippers Recalled by John Deere Due to Injury Hazard](#)



[Polaris Recalls ACE 325 Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles Due to Fire and Burn Hazards](#)



Impact Hazard



Fire/Burn Hazard



Shock Hazard

MORE ABOUT FIELD EVALUATION SERVICES



Click or Scan to find out more about Field Evaluation Services as well as helpful links to Federal regulations and OSHA requirements.

Electrical and Workplace Incidents



[Foreman Didn't Follow Protocol Before Detroit Explosion, Manager Says](#)

[Transformer Explosion, Fire Briefly Knocks Out Power \(Blacksburg, VA\)](#)

[Sonoma Calls to Dispatchers Linked PG&E Power Lines to Fires \(CA\)](#)

[Barrier Technology Employee Dies After Being Pinned by Machinery \(St Cloud, MN\)](#)

[Man Suspected of Being Drunk Burned During Electrical Explosion at Montana Substation \(El Paso, TX\)](#)

[Wrongful Death Lawsuit Filed Against Landlord for North Hill Fire Deaths Settled; Related Lawsuit Pending \(Akron, OH\)](#)



[Transformer Explosion Sparks Electrical Fire Near Plant in St. James Parish: Report \(New Orleans, LA\)](#)

[Contractor Suffers Serious Burns From Explosion In Brooklyn Park Home Depot \(Alexandria, MN\)](#)

[Upper East Side Manhole Fire Disrupts Morning Traffic: FDNY, Witnesses \(NY\)](#)

[Transformer Fire Caused Power Loss at Shell Convent Plant](#)

[Wacker Chemical Plant Sees Third Incident in Two Weeks \(Charleston, TN\)](#)

[Employee Electrocuted at Duplin County Butterball plant while replacing a Light \(Duplin Co, NC\)](#)



[Construction Worker Struck by Lightning, Resuscitated in Lenoir Co \(Kinston, NC\)](#)

[Multiple Employee Injuries Land Manufacturer on OSHA's Severe Violator List \(Chicago, IL\)](#)

[Amtrak Worker Shocked While Repairing Rail Lines \(New Haven, CT\)](#)

[Single Workplace Hit with 61 OSHA Violations Including Electrical PPE \(Syracuse, NY\)](#)

[Worker Injured in Electrical Line Accident \(Sarasota, FL\)](#)

[Electrical Worker Shocked in Fort Myers Publix Store \(Ft Myers, FL\)](#)

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