

Uniprise® Solutions

## Tech Tips

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### Passing the Test

Third-party tested and independently verified are terms used to describe the credibility of stated cable and apparatus performance. But confusion exists about these terms used to describe different testing processes.

#### **Third-party tested vs. third-party verified - what's the difference?**

The term third party means that anyone other than the manufacturer or customer has evaluated the product. Technically, anyone with the right test equipment can test a cable, component or a solution. However, the preferred practice is to use recognized testing laboratories such as ETL or UL. Both ETL and UL are Nationally Recognized Test Laboratories (NRTLs).

There is, however, a very big difference between third-party tested and third-party verified. In third-party testing, the manufacturer selects a single sample of the cabling and/or component to be tested. The manufacturer also selects the size of the test sample and the specifications for which the product will be tested.

Third-party verification is a more rigorous process, including randomly selected samples by the testing organization, a plant inspection and ongoing testing for the life of the product. Performance results for both third-party testing and verification are reported to the level required by the standard, not to the manufacturer's product performance claims.

#### **Total Solutions Verification**

CommScope submits its Uniprise solutions (cable and connectivity) to ETL for an even more thorough evaluation. We call our version "Total Solutions Verification", or TSV™ Program, and this process is more stringent than third-party or standards verification testing. Results are reported to Uniprise performance claims, which is above and beyond the minimum industry standard requirement.

TSV attempts to simulate real-world, worse-case situations by testing solutions from among three different product batches, in multiple permanent link and channel configurations in two different run lengths.

Number of Configurations Tested for a Single Solution	Tested To Be Added to TSV Program		On-going Testing Quarterly
	Initial	Final	
Permanent Link Configuration	2	2	2
	+	+	+
Channel Configuration	3	3	3
	x	x	x
Number of Samples per Configuration	3	3	3
	x	x	x
Configuration Length (Long & Short)	2	2	2
Number of Configurations Tested	30	30	30
<b>Total Number of Configurations Tested</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>30</b>

To better understand the differences among these processes, please view the comparison chart below.

Feature	Third-party testing	Third-party verification	TSV
Outside testing by ETL or UL?	✓	✓	✓
Random sample selected by third-party?	✗	✓	✓
On-site plant inspection by certified inspector?	✗	✓	✓
Testing includes solutions?	✗	✗	✓
Testing includes 2 & 3 connector permanent link configurations?	✗	✗	✓
Testing includes 3, 4, & 6 connector channel configurations?	✗	✗	✓
Testing includes both short (at least 30m) and long (at least 90m) runs?	✗	✗	✓
Quarterly, ongoing tests for life of product?	✗	✓*	✓
Results reported are to advertised claims (vs. to standard)?	✗	✗	✓
Multiple configurations of each test (at least 3)?	✗	✗	✓
Certificates of Conformance issued?	✗	✓	✓

\* Subject to product availability.



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