Understanding UL®
Safety Standards for Medical Beds

Basic American™

What does UL Stand For?

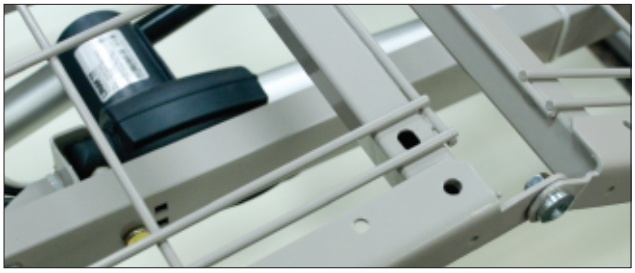
UL stands for "Underwriters Laboratories". Underwriters Laboratories® is an independent product safety certification organization that has been testing products and writing safety standards for more than a century. UL evaluates more than 19,000 types of products, components, materials and systems annually with 21 billion UL marks appearing on 72,000 manufacturers' products each year.

What does UL listed Mean?

When a device is UL-listed, this means that UL has tested the device, and it meets their requirements for safety – i.e., fire or shock hazard. In the last 20 years, the UL Safety Standard for Medical Beds has evolved from UL544 to UL2601 to UL60601. UL60601-1 is the General Requirements for Safety for Medical Electrical Equipment, which also concurs with IEC601-2-38.

What UL 60601 Requirements are There for Medical Beds and Why Do They Matter?

- No scissor or crush pinch points within 200mm (Approx 7.9") of bed perimeter
  The absence of pinch points reduces the risk of resident injury when a resident is lying on the bed, during articulation of the bed, or during transfer of a resident to or from the bed. Basic American beds are designed with recessed bed frames to comply with this requirement.



- Tip Stability Testing
  Bed stability, critical in long term care settings, is a strong focus due to the high concern with resident movement and placement in a bed. The Zenith9000, as all Basic American beds, was tested, loaded at the perimeter with casters turned to worst-case position, placed on an incline to test for stability, and passed.

- Load Capacity Testing
  A bed's safe work load is tested at higher standards than those listed to ensure that the weight capacity claimed is worst-case scenario. The Zenith9000 has a certified 600-pound rating and was tested at twice that weight for UL approval. It is the superior frame on all Basic American beds that keeps our beds strong and long lasting.

- Rolling clearance of 20mm (approx. 0.79") minimum for transport
  Rolling clearance of 20mm, which allows beds to travel easily over thresholds, is appropriate for long term care facilities in cases of emergency or routine transport.

- All Electronics have IPX4 Splash-proof Rating
  Because bed systems are subject to resident incidents and constant cleaning, it is critical that all electrical components withstand normal wear and maintenance. All Basic American beds have been tested to ensure utmost safety for residents and staff.

For more information on UL and FDA Guidelines for Medical Beds, Basic American encourages you to review the FDA's Hospital Bed Safety page at http://www.fda.gov.

Basic American™

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