

QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTING

At Vulcan Utility Signs, quality assurance is a top concern. Every product that we produce is evaluated on both our Outside Test Deck, and in a state-of-the-art QUV Machine made by Q-Lab. The QUV Machine simulates years of long-term weathering effects on our products in a much shorter amount of time. Both testing processes function as a check and balance, ensuring that Vulcan products will withstand the unrelenting elements of their outdoor environments.

QUV Testing

We use our in-house QUV Accelerated Weathering Tester by Q-Lab to evaluate all components of a product, including inks, adhesives, and substrates. As the name implies, the tester “accelerates” the test, providing data long before outdoor samples yield results. This enables us to evaluate the outdoor durability of products and introduce them into the market sooner, rather than later.

QUV testing is the industry standard for outdoor weather testing. We operate our tester in conformance with ASTM G.53. Each period of UV light exposure in the unit is followed by a period of moisture to simulate the effects of dew. Our QUV has been a part of our R&D/Quality Assurance Program for over 35 years.



[QUV ACCELERATED WEATHERING TESTER | Q-LAB](#)



[QUV THE WORLD'S MOST WIDELY USED WEATHERING SYSTEM](#)

Outdoor Testing

Our Outdoor Test Deck is located on the Vulcan campus. This testing process acts as a check and balance for the QUV testing process. We evaluate every product component in both the QUV machine and on our Outdoor Test Deck against a control sample. The Test Deck faces South at a 45° angle, which some say simulates twice the exposure to a vertically mounted sign.

Our Test Deck is at Latitude 30 degree 25 minutes or 9 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. 95% of the US is north of us and consequently does not get the same amount of UV sunlight. Our humid weather adds to the damaging effect of UV Sunlight.

Periodically we send samples to Q-Lab to include on their test decks located in Arizona and south Florida. The results are then compared with our test results.