

To: 3P Customers and Business Partners

Your Ref.	Your Date	Our Ref. 6239@PV	Our Date 2011.01.25
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3P Newsletter No. 1/2011

Category 5e Communication Cable Requirements

In January 2008 a 3P Newsletter was circulated that contained a survey of Category 5e cable requirements. This survey of Category 5e cable requirements has now been updated and is attached as file "Category 5e Communication Cable Requirements".

Since the document was originally issued new editions of the standards have been published which has caused a few performance changes. However, for most parameters the technical requirements are the same as before.

You could well become frustrated to find so many small differences between the standards families. Even when a limit equation is the same then many times starting frequency or measured cable length is different. This certainly does not make life easier for neither producers nor users (or test houses who need to cover all requirements). In many cases there are valid technical explanations for the difference in requirements. One fundamental reason is coming from the cabling cultures in different regions, i.e. unscreened versus screened. Screened and unscreened cables do have different characteristic performance forcing for instance some differences for the same category. Having made this point I can also conclude that a number of the differences are not significant from a users point of view. I will be one supporter of widest possible alignment of requirements in future standardisation.

Fortunately most differences are marginal and will not make any significant change in performance for major cable parameters.

The document and all future similar documents will contain a list of applicable standards, including drafts. Not all such drafts are available to the market as they may be working group documents still under development. However, the requirements are listed by 3P if we consider

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that the new requirements are mature even if not yet published.

Also included in the document is the overall 3P requirements, which 3P qualified cables therefore complies with. 3P requirements are fundamentally the worst case of limits from all the standards. The only exceptions will apply for requirements we know will be going out in the next edition of the standard in question.

The attached document is of course subject to change according to modified or changed requirements incorporated into new drafts that may be developed.

3P must make reservation for printing errors or mistakes in the written requirements. Correctness of limits of the different parameters must of course always be checked in the relevant specifications.

Please do not hesitate to inform 3P if you find any incorrect information. The document will then be updated accordingly.

Yours sincerely,
3P Third Party Testing

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Poul Villien". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located below the typed name.

Poul Villien