



ALL CABLES ARE NOT THE SAME...

Approved Cables Initiative: Prysmian's support

The Approved Cables Initiative (ACI) is supported by Prysmian, and reports examples of sub-standard cable and failures in UK market surveillance. The ACI works alongside the Health and Safety Executive and Trading Standards to support existing legislation, but forms the main body in spearheading and tackling issues around sub-standard cables since 2010.

In recent years, the work done by the ACI has been significant and extensive, preventing a vast amount of cable from being installed that could have been defective or faulty, and might have endangered life and property. In May 2010, the ACI were behind the recall of 11 million metres of Atlas Kablo's cable from the UK market. Additionally, two of the company's product certification licenses were suspended by the British Approvals Service for Cables (BASEC). Alerted by the ACI, the Turkish Standards Institution also suspended an Atlas Kablo's certification license. This helped prevent further sub-standard cables being imported into the UK.

In 2011, further discoveries were made of electric cable from China which failed to comply with British Standards for cable. The ACI acted quickly on this issue and made Amazon, the provider who was selling the cable, aware of the problem. In 2013, the ACI's activities included lobbying the Prime Minister, who personally pledged to investigate the issue of substandard cable at a European level.

In 2014, the ACI took to the high street to address unsafe cables on sale in branches of the British retailer, Wilko. The power cable was not from a recognised manufacturer and failed to meet the current BS EN 50525 cable standard. In testing, the cable and flex, which originated from China, failed several safety tests. Once aware of the issues, Wilko withdrew the range and retested the rest of its cable products. In recent months, the ACI has been issuing advice to contractors and installers regarding halogen-free cables, to help them specify cables that will protect the safety of their customers.

Today at the All Cables Are Not the Same Roadshow, we at Prysmian, as supporters of the ACI, wish to demonstrate the importance of specifying and installing cable that meets or exceeds required British and European safety standards. Since the UK does not currently have the regulations to prevent sub-standard cables entering the country, it is important that those in the electrical industry remain vigilant and check that cable used meets these important standards.

Prysmian aims to stamp out faulty cable from the UK market entirely. Prysmian would like to remind its guests of criteria to check for cable that is bought and sold, to ensure that cable is safe to use:

- marked with the manufacturer's name and factory identifier, so they can be traced.
- has the correct British Standard or European Standard number.
- has third party approval by BASEC, HAR or LPCB.
- marking has the correct number of cores and cross sectional area.
- is marked with the correct voltage rating.
- is correctly packaged with the manufacturer's traceability information.
- has the correct national cable code.
- has the year of its manufacture written on it.
- is checked against the delivery note and is the same as the order placed.

Today as the focus of our event, we hope to demonstrate that there is disparity between the performance of good and bad cable, especially in the event of fire. Poor quality cables with substandard materials can emit



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toxic fumes in a fire, creating difficulty in evacuating the building. Faulty cables can come from anywhere; in recent years sub-standard products have been discovered in Australia, the US, South Korea, the UK, the Middle East, Hong Kong and Europe.

Issues with cable contribute hugely to the health and safety of individuals who live or work in the buildings in which they are installed. In 2012/13, electrical systems accounted for 4,200 fires, 450 injuries and 8 deaths. Prysmian's hope is that the circumstances which brought about these unfortunate events will be prevented by the continued work of the ACI. Additionally, added vigilance by individuals and companies within the electrical industry will save huge amounts of time and money, as cable that is discovered as faulty has to be removed, with reputation damage and inconvenience to everyone involved.

Prysmian is proud to offer fire resistant solutions for life safety and firefighting systems which exceed the standard and enhanced requirements expected in the UK and the rest of Europe. In this way, when Prysmian is specified and installed, all involved can be assured that they are using the highest quality, and will be providing the best protection to life and property in the event of fire.

June 2010	Multi-million metres of defective cable exposed
August 2010	ACI encourages electrical supply industry to stay vigilant against faulty cable
January 2011	ACI calls on electrical distributors not to compound the faulty cable problem
21st February 2011	ACI receives international recognition for work
27th April 2011	ACI reveals defective cable found in DIY stores
13th May 2011	BBC's Fake Britain exposes defective cable
15th August 2011	CCA cables present new concern for installers
November 2011	ACI delivers winter warning on arctic grade cable
December 2011	Dangerous Chinese cable found on Amazon website
January 2012	ACI warns on miss-selling Cat 5e cable products
February 2012	ACI warns of cable suppliers using ACI-approved trademark without permission.
February 2012	Faulty fuse wire recalled
June 2012	ACI lobbies Parliament to change legislation on unsafe cable products
July 2012	Norman Lamb MP speaks about ACI issues.
July 2012	ACI issues warning about quality problem with armoured cable.



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September 2012	Defective data cable recalled from educational facility in Isle of Man.
February 2013	ACI exposes sales of defective Turkish cable in Homebase, three years after recall.
March 2013	David Cameron personally pledges to investigate the issue of substandard cabling.
June 2013	ACI supports calls to fine manufacturers who delay in issuing cable recalls.
March 2014	ACI informs Wilko of sub-standard cables sold in branch and online
September 2014	ACI highlights issues with cuts to Trading Standards budget
November 2014	ACI reports that Woolworth Australia faces huge bill for sale of faulty electrical cable
September 2015	ACI supports 'Does it Comply?' campaign
October 2015	ACI advises distributors to re-test imported cable
October 2015	ACI advises electrical industry about Low Voltage Directive
November 2015	ACI raises awareness of misleading 'golden samples'
November 2015	Copper price continues to fuel cable theft

