Non compliant cable: Kaydour conundrum

‘Kaydour’ branded armoured cables were multi-core PVC sheathed XLPE insulated steel wire armoured cable, in a range of conductor sizes. They claimed to comply with BS 5467, the all important cable for low voltage power distribution.

However, the British Approvals Service for Cables (BASEC) independent testing indicated a number of serious faults including excessive conductor resistance and excessive armour resistance.

The cables were identified by the brand name Kaydour printed on the cable sheath - these cables were not BASEC approved.

Conductors were up to two standard sizes smaller than that marked on the cable sheaths. This could easily have resulted in overloading and overheating the insulation in use. The armour resistance could have also resulted in ineffective earthing. The cables originated from India and have been sold in the UK through at least one supplier.

It is not known if all cable with the Kaydour marking is suspect however any contractors or installers who are aware that these cables have been installed in premises should test installations immediately for capacity, performance and safety. If safety concerns are raised, it is recommended that the affected cables are removed and replaced by approved cables.

Prysmian would like to highlight the problems of substandard cable associated with its import into the UK market. In many cases it is illegal to install this product, but perfectly legal to import and sell it. We encourage end users to check purchase documentation, design specifications and test their installation to ensure that the applied loading and earthing are acceptable. Findings should then be recorded in documentation.