

Register of colours of manufacturers' identification threads for electric cables and cords

Eighth edition

Registre des couleurs des fils pour les câbles et
les cordons électriques, destinés à identifier les
fabricants de ceux-ci

Farbenregister der Fabrik-Kennfäden für
elektrische Leitungen und Schnuren

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Aluminium Federation
 Association of Consulting Engineers
 Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances
 British Approvals Service for Cables
 British Cable Makers Confederation
 British Plastics Federation
 British Railways Board
 British Steel Industry
 British Telecommunications plc
 Department of the Environment (Property Services Agency)
 Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, CA Division)
 ERA Technology Ltd.
 Electricity Supply Industry in England and Wales
 Engineering Equipment and Materials Users' Association
 Institution of Electrical Engineers
 London Regional Transport

The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the document, through subcommittees and panels:

Association of Manufacturers Allied to the Electrical and Electronic Industry (BEAMA Ltd.)
 Association of Supervisory and Executive Engineers
 British Electrical Systems Association (BEAMA Ltd.)
 British Non-ferrous Metals Federation
 Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
 Electrical Contractors' Association
 Electrical Installation Equipment Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA Ltd.)
 Engineering Industries Association
 GAMBICA (BEAMA Ltd.)
 Lighting Industry Federation Ltd.
 National Association of Lift Makers
 Portable Electric Tool Manufacturers' Association
 Transmission and Distribution Association (BEAMA Ltd.)

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0 Introduction

This Published Document is the eighth edition, being a revision of PD 2379 : 1982, which is withdrawn.

The administration of the scheme for allocating distinctive combinations of coloured identification threads to manufacturers of electric cables was transferred from the Ministry of Defence to the British Standards Institution in 1950. The earlier editions of the register were published in mimeographed form between 1950 and 1956, when the fourth edition appeared as a Published Document under the present reference number, PD 2379. The fifth edition, published in 1962, was brought up to date and the allocations made by the Canadian Standards Association to Canadian firms were included.

In the sixth edition, published in 1977, an endeavour was made to indicate the former title where takeovers or mergers had occurred. This policy has been continued in this eighth edition which includes all new allocations and changes made up to 1 January 1990.

As in the sixth edition, appendix A details the approval thread of BASEC (British Approvals Service for Cables), the common marking thread of CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) and the morse-coded approval thread of the IECEE (IEC System for Conformity Testing to Standards for Safety of Electrical Equipment).

1 Extent of scheme

The scheme covers firms with factories in Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Kenya, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom and Zambia. It is known that some of the colour combinations allocated under the present scheme have also been adopted by manufacturers with factories outside the area covered. There can therefore be no certain identification of a manufacturer from a sample, unless it is known that the cable was made in a country covered by the scheme. International discussions have taken place in an attempt to resolve this difficulty, but an agreed scheme had not been developed up to the date of publication of this edition of the register.

It will be realized that identification by coloured threads is not the only method of identifying the name of the manufacturer within a cable. Several other systems are also in general use, including printed tapes, printing on the core or sheath and indenting or embossing of the core or sheath.

2 Correspondence and applications for new allocations

Applications for new allocations of identification colours should be made to the national standardization bodies in the participating countries, according to the situation of the factory concerned. The addresses of these bodies are given in the alphabetical list on pages 3 to 12. In the case of United Kingdom factories, application should be made to BSI, 2 Park Street, London, W1A 2BS. Reference to the number of this document, PD 2379, will assist in dealing with correspondence connected with this register.

3 Standard colours

Up to the fifth edition, the colours adopted for identification threads were cross-referenced to the British Colour Council's 'Dictionary of Colour Standards'. This council is, however, no longer in existence and it has been decided that it is not necessary to define the colours within close limits, but to leave it in the hands of manufacturers to ensure that the colours are easily distinguishable from each other.

The colours used are as follows and in the lists they appear in alphabetical order.

Black, blue, brown, green, grey¹⁾, mauve, orange, purple²⁾, red, white and yellow.

4 Material

Each identification thread consists of 1, 2, 3 or 4 coloured strands, twisted together or laid parallel, the colours for each individual manufacturer being as listed.

Any suitable material may be used provided that it is not soluble in acetone and will retain the colourings without fading.

¹⁾In Canada, this colour is known as 'slate'.

²⁾Used only in Canada.

5 Alphabetical list of firms by country

5.1 Australia

The following colour combinations have been allocated through the Standards Association of Australia, Standards House, 80 Arthur Street, North Sydney, NSW 2059, Australia.

*Austral Standard Cables Pty Ltd (now MM Cables)	Blue, brown, green
Australian Insulated Cables Pty Ltd	Grey, orange, red
A F Bambach Pty Ltd	Red, white, yellow
*Bly's Industries Pty Ltd (now MM Cables)	Black, red, yellow
Burton Electrical Manufacturing Company	Blue, brown, white
*Cable Makers Australia Pty Ltd (Queensland) (now M M Cables)	Black, black, orange
*Cable Makers Australia Pty Ltd (WA) (now MM Cables)	Black, orange, orange
*Camelec Ltd (integrated into Pirelli Ericsson Cables Ltd ca 1978)	Black, green, grey
*Conqueror Cables Pty Ltd (integrated into Pirelli Ericsson Cables Ltd ca 1978)	Brown, green, white
Electra-Cables (Aust) Pty Ltd	Brown, green, grey, red
G W Engineering Pty Ltd (formerly Sphinx Engineering Pty Ltd)	Black, green, white
Hartland Manufacturing Co	Brown, white, yellow
J C Ludowici & Son, Ltd	Blue, brown, yellow
*Metal Manufacturers Pty Ltd (now MM Cables)	Blue, white, yellow
MM Cables (formerly Cable Makers Australia Pty Ltd (NSW))	Black, orange
Olex Cables Pty Ltd	Red, yellow
Pirelli Cables Australia Ltd (formerly Pirelli Ericsson Cables Ltd)	Black, green, grey
Regal Braiding Pty Ltd	Black, brown, yellow
Spinaway Cables (formerly Spinaway Industries Pty Ltd)	Blue, brown, red
Standards Association of Australia	Green, orange, red, yellow
Wiring Assemblies	Orange, red, white

* An asterisk preceding a company name indicates that the company has ceased trading under this name. However, to avoid the possibility of confusion, it is intended not to re-allocate the colour combinations for a long period.

5.2 Canada

For cables made in Canada the standard manufacturer's identification marking is by means of threads in which a purple coloured strand indicates Canadian manufacture. This enables cables of Canadian manufacture to be distinguished from cables made in the USA, where purple threads are not used for this purpose. The only use of a colour similar to purple in the allocations to the other participating countries is the single mauve thread allocated to a firm in the United Kingdom. Mauve has purposely not been used in combination with any other colour in two-ply, three-ply or four-ply threads allocated to countries other than Canada.

The following colour combinations have been allocated by the Canadian Standards Association, 178 Rexdale Boulevard, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada, M9W 1R3.

Alcan Canada Products (a division of Aluminium Company of Canada Ltd) (Bracebridge Plant)	Blue, purple, red, white
Aluminium Company of Canada Ltd (Shawinigan, Que)	Blue, purple, red
Boston Insulated Wire & Cable Co Ltd	Blue, purple
Cable Tech Wire Co Ltd	Blue, green, purple
Canada Wire & Cable Co Ltd (Fergus, Ont)	Purple, red, red
Canada Wire & Cable Co Ltd (Leaside, Ont)	Purple, red
Canada Wire & Cable Co Ltd (Orangeville, Ont)	Purple, red, white
Canada Wire & Cable Co Ltd (Vancouver, BC)	Brown, purple, red
Canada Wire & Cable Co Ltd (Weyburn, Sask)	Black, brown, purple
Canada Wire & Cable Co Ltd (Winnipeg, Man)	Grey, purple, red
Canadian General Electric Co Ltd	Black, purple
Canwirco (Belleville) (formerly Fabricon Manufacturing Ltd)	Black, black, purple
*Dieplast Co Ltd	Green, purple, white
General Wire & Cable Co Ltd	Green, purple, red
Industrial Wire & Cable Co Ltd	Black, purple, white
ITT Wire & Cable (Phillips) (formerly Royal Electric Co (Quebec) Ltd)	Black, blue, purple
Les Câbles Industriels (Quebec, Que)	Black, green, purple
Leviton Manufacturing of Canada Ltd	Purple, white, white
Lica Wire Ltd, Hamilton, Ontario	Brown, brown, purple
Nawico (Lachine, Que)	Blue, blue, purple
Northern Telecom Ltd (Montreal - Toronto Blvd Plant, Lachine)	Orange, purple
Northern Telecom Ltd (Nova Scotia)	Black, orange, purple
Phillips Cables Ltd (Brockville, Ont)	Brown, purple, white
Phillips Cables Ltd (Dartmouth, NS) (formerly Phillips Electrical Co Ltd (Woodside))	Green, purple
Phillips Cables Ltd (Scarborough, Ont) (formerly Triangle Conduit & Cable (Canada) Ltd)	Brown, purple
Phillips Cables Ltd (Vancouver, BC)	Blue, purple, white
Pirelli Cables Ltd (Guelph, Ont) (formerly Federal Wire & Cable Co Ltd)	Purple, white
Pirelli Cables Ltd (St Louis Street plant)	Grey, purple
Pirelli Cables Ltd (Surrey, BC)	Grey, grey, purple

* An asterisk preceding a company name indicates that the company has ceased trading under this name. However, to avoid the possibility of confusion, it is intended not to re-allocate the colour combinations for a long period.

5.3 India

The following colour combinations have been allocated through the Indian Standards Institution, Manak Bhavan, 9 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 1, India.

Aksh India Pvt, New Delhi
 Alfa Rubber Company
 Allied Cables & Industries, New Delhi
 Aluminium Industries Ltd
 Ashoka Cable Works, New Delhi
 Asian Cables Corporation Ltd
 Bat-Bro Engineering & General Manufacturers
 Biren Mfg Co (Cables) Pvt Ltd
 Bombay Cable Company Pvt Ltd
 Brijbasi Insulated Cable Company
 Cable Corporation of India Ltd
 Choudhari Metal Industries (P) Ltd
 Darina Cable Industries
 Dawson Electric Industries, Delhi
 Delton Cable Industries Pvt Ltd
 (formerly Delton Cable Company)
 Deluxe Electrical Industries, New Delhi
 Devidayal Electronics & Wires Ltd
 (formerly Devidayal Cable Industries (Pvt) Ltd)
 Diamond Rubber Works Pvt Ltd
 Doorwani Cables Pvt Ltd
 Ericsson's Telephone Sales Corporation
 Evershine Electrical Works
 Fixwell Cables (P) Ltd, New Delhi
 Fort Gloster Industries Ltd
 Goodwill Rubber (India), New Delhi
 Grandlay Electricals (India) Ltd
 (formerly Grandlay Electrical Ltd)
 Henley Cables India Ltd
 Himalaya Cable Industries, New Delhi
 Hindustan Cables Ltd
 Hindustan Cables Ltd, Delhi
 Hindustan Insulations (P) Ltd
 Home Appliances, New Delhi
 Indian Cable & Wire Industries
 Indian Cable Co Ltd
 Indian Cable Industries
 Indian Communication Cable Co
 Indian Telephone Industries Ltd
 Indian Traders Private Ltd
 Jai Bharat Industries, New Delhi
 Janta Wire Works, Shahdara, Delhi
 JK Cable Industries, Noida
 Kay Tee Cables, New Delhi
 Krishna Electrical Industries Pvt Ltd, Morena

Brown, orange, white, yellow
 Brown, grey
 Blue, green, white, yellow
 Green, orange, white
 Black, brown, orange, red
 Green, grey, orange
 Black, blue, grey, yellow
 Black, brown, green, red
 Black, blue, green, grey
 Black, blue, green, red
 Black, blue, red, yellow
 Black, brown, green, orange
 Black, blue, orange, red
 Blue, green, orange, white
 Blue, grey, red

Brown, green, orange, white
 Green, grey, yellow

Black, blue, brown, white
 Black, grey, orange, white
 A single grey thread
 Black, blue, grey, orange
 Blue, green, grey, yellow
 Brown, orange, yellow
 Brown, green, orange, red
 Brown, orange, white

Brown, grey, orange
 Black, brown, red, yellow
 Blue, grey, yellow
 Black, brown, white, yellow
 Black, brown, green, grey
 Black, brown, grey, orange
 Black, blue, brown, yellow
 Blue, red
 Black, blue, white, yellow
 Black, brown, red, white
 Black, blue, green
 Grey, orange, yellow
 Blue, green, grey, white
 Black, grey, red, yellow
 Black, green, red, yellow
 Black, brown, orange, yellow
 Black, orange, white, yellow

Krishna Electrical Industries, New Delhi	Black, grey, white, yellow
Kunol Bros Private Ltd, New Delhi	Blue, grey, orange, yellow
Laxman Singh Jariwala, New Delhi	Brown, orange, red, white
Maharaja Cables, New Delhi	Black, brown, grey, yellow
Mehendra Electricals Ltd	Black, grey, yellow
Mentor Cables Corporation	Black, blue, grey, white
Meryfur Industries	Black, blue, red, white
Mody Cable Industries	Black, blue, green, white
Motherson, Noida	Black, brown, grey, white
Moti Electric Industries (P) Ltd	Black, blue, orange, white
Nar-Sa Electricals (India), New Delhi	Blue, green, orange, yellow
National Insulated Cable Co Ltd	Blue, orange, yellow
Omega Cables Ltd	Grey, orange, white
(formerly Omega Insulated Cable Co (India) Ltd)	
Paramount Cable Corporation, New Delhi	Black, brown, green, white
Perfect Cablers and Engineers (P) Ltd, Delhi	Blue, grey, red, yellow
Posts & Telegraphs Workshops, Alipore	Black, blue
Posts & Telegraphs Workshops, Bombay	Grey, red
Posts & Telegraphs Workshops, Jabalpur	A single blue thread
Power Cable Pvt Ltd	Brown, grey, yellow
Pritain Electric Company, Delhi	Black, grey, red, white
PVC Wires & Cables Pvt Ltd	Grey, red, white
Radiant Engineering Co	Black, brown, green, yellow
Radio & Electricals Manufacturing Co Ltd	Black, green, orange
Rajasthan Cable Industries Pvt Ltd	Black, blue, brown, orange
Reliance Engineers, 84, 85 Bangalore	Blue, green, red, yellow
Reliance Engineers Pvt, Bangalore	Brown, orange, red, yellow
Sachdeva Industries, Shahdara, Delhi	Black, red, white, yellow
Servel Sales Pvt Ltd, New Delhi	Brown, green, grey, yellow
Servel India Pvt Ltd, New Delhi	Brown, red, white, yellow
S.K. Insulated Cable MFG, New Delhi	Black, brown, orange, white
Skytone Electricals (India)	Orange, red, yellow
Special Cables Pvt Ltd, New Delhi	Blue, grey, white, yellow
Standard Cables Pvt, Bangalore	Blue, grey, red, white
Sterlite Cables Ltd	Black, orange, red
(formerly Shamsheer Sterling Cable Corporation Ltd)	
Sunhome Cable Industries, Chandigarh	Black, orange, red, yellow
Surya Cables	Black, brown, grey, red
Swastik Rubber Products Ltd	Brown, grey, red
Telekom Cable Industries, Delhi	Black, grey, orange, yellow
Traco Cables Co Ltd	Black, blue, brown, grey
Unique Industries	Black, blue, green, orange
Unique Telecabs Pvt Ltd, New Delhi	Brown, green, grey, white
Universal Cables Ltd	Black, blue, grey, red
Universal Cables Manufacturing Co	Black, blue, green, yellow
Universal Traders, Gokulpur, Delhi	Blue, green, orange, red
U P Cable Co Pvt Ltd (formerly U P Cable Co)	Black, blue, brown, red
Victor Cables Corporation (Delhi)	Brown, orange, red
Vinyl Cable Industries	Black, blue, orange, yellow