

White Paper

The need for effective labelling.



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As a manufacturer, we understand the value of effective labelling both within our own organisational processes and those of our customers. As such, we ensure that where possible, all our products are produced with either an incorporated label and/or packaging labels.

While cable labelling is widely practiced today, it is time-consuming. Some installers - particularly those who pull the cable but are not responsible for maintaining the network - do not consider it to be their responsibility.

To effectively explain the advantages and disadvantages of labelling, it might first be prudent to understand why we label in the first place. **If we don't understand why we are labelling the elements of our network, how do we know that we are labelling correctly?**

The purpose of a label is open to interpretation. It can simply identify what is in the packaging, the risks associated with the content or the instructions of how to use or apply the content to best effect. In the Telecommunications industry, labelling not only clarifies the points made above, but also to identify services from source (Comms) to destination (TO or Comms), networks both critical and non critical, customer/end user etc.

The key purpose of using cable labels is to make it as easy as possible to know the location of the other end of the cable. In addition, labelling a cable can tell you its length, type and so on as well as what is connected to each end of it.

In any workplace, change is a common occurrence. Things like new equipment, movement of said equipment and any change in wiring is not always visible unless it is properly documented. If it is properly labelled, a labelling system can help in solving and detecting exactly where any problems may occur.

Without proper labels, a company can lose valuable time and assets trying to discover where and what the problem is, before they can work on fixing it, and without warranty protection and long-term maintenance of information, telecom, A/V and/or security networking systems the loss can be immense.

Whilst the standards do not necessarily identify what type of label should be used, they do clarify where labels should be employed and what is expected of the label.



BSEN 50174 5.2.5 Labelling

The labelling of the installation shall be in accordance with the installation specification.

Labelling shall be implemented in such a manner that, for the anticipated lifetime of the cabling, the labels are accessible, legible and, where necessary, able to be modified.

BSEN 50173 5.7 Labelling

Here are the main benefits of clearly labelling infrastructure components:

- Simpler troubleshooting and maintenance procedures, which saves repair and movement requirements (both time and costs)
- Reduced cost of ownership when combined with comprehensive identification as well as dynamic management and administration systems
- More effective audit compliance and quality assurance, in terms of manufacturer and installer warranties

A well-executed network infrastructure labelling system and cable-management administration system are essential to a properly installed structured cabling system. They help to simplify troubleshooting, lower the long-term cost of ownership, and ensure quality assurance and audit compliance with manufacturer and installer warranty terms.



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