Approved Cables Initiative

Presentation to Institute of Fire Safety Managers

Thursday 26th June 2014
Today

- Introduction to the ACI
- Recent highlights
- Problems with cable
- Education and communication
- Lobbying
- Getting in touch
Approved Cables Initiative (ACI) 
Established 2010 to educate and inform the electrical supply industry of sub-standard, defective and unsafe cable.

During its time many millions of metres of defective cable has been removed from the market place.

ACI is the first initiative of its kind and has Trading Standards and Health & Safety Executive support.
Sub-standard cable is not just a UK problem it is a worldwide concern.

France, China, South Korea, the Middle East and Australia all reported issues with sub-standard cable locally last year.

Many of these countries however have better legislation for managing and control their import:

*From August, the importation, entry, selling and/or display of non-complaint cables and low voltage electrical wire into the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is prohibited and only compliant products, having the necessary ESMA Certificate of Conformity, will be allowed into the country.*
Our industry supporters
The latest perpetrator is UK high street retailer Wilko (Wilkinson). In March eleven branded loose electrical cable products were removed from its 370 stores.

Examples of sub-standard cabling found in the UK and removed from circulation include armoured cables, house wiring, arctic grade flex, flexible cords, fire-performance cables, CCA Cat5e cable products.
Non-compliant armoured cables

Fake fire resistant cables

Non-approved BS6004 cable showing the effects of over heating

Non-compliant PVC flexible cables

Chinese flexible cable showing cracking of sheath and insulation

Faulty cable

Non-standard, non-approved lighting cable

Non-compliant PVC arctic grade flex

Top cable – CCA Cable advertised and sold as CAT 5e
Problems with cable?

• We had an incident where a Clerk of Works in Harrogate was concerned about a standard on a cable; we checked and involved TS who investigated the distributor who was importing cable for the Middle East market

• We are checking cable found by members of the public, contractors, installers, sales staff etc

• The Government places the onus on the industry to conduct surveillance in the market place

• Your SOC officers may need our assistance - ACI can provide a service to check cable

• Cable ties – we have lodged an amendment to Wiring Regulations that “wiring on escape routes shall be supported such that they will not be liable to premature collapse in the event of a fire”.
How sub-standard cable arrives in the UK

- UK based Distributors ordering overseas manufacturers to produce under sized cable to be sold in UK
- Misselling of data cable, where Cat5e may be requested but low cost Copper Clad Aluminium (CCA) is supplied and installed
- Inferior cable product is bought from overseas and sold unmarked making it untraceable in the UK
- Misuse of Trademarks to trick the unsuspecting
- “Short selling" of cable (less than the invoice/delivery note stated length).
Education and communication

• Our education and communication programme has extended to all possible stakeholder groups

• We advise the cable supply industry and member associations, legislative organisations, MPs, MEPs, other industry sectors (construction/insurance) - our PR programme ensures we communicate timely and efficiently with our key audiences

• We are working to develop a closer relationship with distributors – to help them better understand the consequences of their actions

• We create and communicate knowledge of suspect products – managing our own testing of suspect cable.
ACI had initial lobbying success in 2012, but UK Government is less keen to accept the need for legislation to manage the sub-standard cable issue.
Guiding the ACI to existing channels of operation – Trading Standards and Health & Safety Executive - the Government has encouraged the cable supply industry to look at self regulation to protect its self from defective and sub-standard cable.

ACI continues to press for legislative policy change to enforce product specifications and British Standards enabling better control over cable imports at the point or place of entry.

We have been in dialogue with Ministers again this month regarding the sub-standard cable issue.
Next steps

• We will continue with our education and communication programme
• We will agree our lobbying strategy for the next 18 months and continue to move it forward
• We will take our work into the public arena, highlighting the health and safety issues around sub-standard cable
• We will ensure lobbying and PR activities dovetail to deliver an effective and cohesive programme this year
• We will keep you updated on our work www.aci.org.uk
Questions

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