CALMONT Wire & Cable

Glossary of Terms Used in the Wire & Cable Industry

A	Ampere
Abrasion Resistance	A measure of the ability of a wire, wire covering or material to resist surface wear or damage by mechanical means.
Accelerated Aging Test	Test of insulation to measure its compliance with temperature ratings.
Alternating Current (AC)	Alternating Current
Ampere	The unit expressing the rate of flow of an electrical current.
Anneal	To heat and then gradually cool in order to relieve mechanical stresses. Annealing copper makes it softer and less brittle.
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
Attenuation	Applied to coaxial cables, the signal loss in a cable, expressed in decibels, dB.
AWG	American Wire Gauge. The standard system used for designating wire diameter. Also referred to as the Brown and Sharp (B & S) wire gauge.
AWM	Underwriters Laboratories designation for Appliance Wiring Material.
Balanced Line	A cable having two conductors which carry voltages opposite in polarity but equal in magnitude with respect to ground.
Bare Conductor	A conductor not covered with insulating material.
Baud	Unit of data transmission speed. One Baud is one bit per second.
Binder	Spirally served tape or thread used for holding assembled cable components in place.
Bond Strength	Amount of adhesion between bonded surfaces.
Braid	Woven bare metallic or tinned copper wire used as shielding for wires and cables.
Braid Angle	The angle between the axis of the cable and axis of the braid.
Braid Ends	The number of wires used on one carrier on a braider.
Breakdown Voltage	The voltage at which the insulation between two conductors will break down or arc over.
B & S Gauge	Brown & Sharp Gauge, a wire diameter standard the same as AWG.
Bunched Stranding	A group of strands twisted together in a random manner in the same direction and done in one operation with no regard to geometric position of the strands.
C	Celsius. A temperature rating system where water freezes at zero degrees and boils at one hundred degrees.
Cable	A combination of conductors insulated from one another (multiple-conductor cable).
Cable Core	The portion of an insulated cable under the protective covering or coverings.
Cable Filler	The material used in multiple-conductor cables to occupy the interstices in a cable to make the finished cable round.
Cabling	Twisting together two or more insulated conductors by machine to form a cable.
Cabling Factor	Used in formulas for calculating the overall diameter of cable. D=fd where D=cable diameter, f=factor, and d=diameter of one conductor.
Capacitance	The ability of a cable to hold an electric charge. Its value is usually stated in Picofarads/foot.
Cellular Insulation	Insulation that has had an agent used to produce cells or "bubbles". Used to reduce the dielectric constant of the solid insulation.
Characteristic Impedance	Characteristic impedance of a cable is the ratio of an applied voltage and current. The value is expressed in Ohms.
Circular Mil Area (CMA)	The square of a conductor diameter in mils, or thousandths of an inch. Example a 30 AWG conductor has a diameter of 10 mils and a CMA of 100. Used to determine conductor sizes.