CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATION

Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 EN 50575. The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) refers to the CE marking of cables.

„High-voltage cables and lines, control and communication cables - cables and lines for general use in construction works relating to the fire behavior requirements EN 50575“

This regulation has existed for over 15 years, but has not imposed any requirements on copper and fiber optic cables so far. Of course, we are familiar with the CE marking that is used for active devices and components such as power strips, cameras and Ethernet switches.
The testing standards for all EU member states were now ratified and announced in the official journal of the EU (305/2011) in February 2016. The regulation itself entered into force on July 1, 2016, but it is granted coexistence until July 1, 2017. During this period, untested products can continue to be sold and installed - meanwhile, manufacturers are required to test the cables and classify them according to the new standard.
Until July 1, 2017, all products affected by the new regulation must then be checked and marked accordingly. The major change in the specifications is the replacement of the fire protection class IEC 60332 by a series of Euro classes (A_{ca} - F_{ca}). Where A_{ca} is the strongest and F_{ca} is the weakest flame retardant.
The E_{ca} and $B2_{ca}$ classes have come into focus because they contain most of the changes in terminology and the specification requirements.

CLASS	A_{ca}	$B1_{ca}$	$B2_{ca}$	C_{ca}	D_{ca}	E_{ca}	F_{ca}
EN ISO 1716 COMBUSTION HEAT	⬢						
EN 50399 HEAT RELEASE & SMOKE PRODUCTION		⬢	⬢	⬢	⬢		
EN 60332-1-2 VERTICAL FLAME PROPAGATION		⬢	⬢	⬢	⬢	⬢	⬢
EN 61034-2 SMOKE DENSITY		⬢	⬢	⬢	⬢		
EN 60754-2 ACIDITY		⬢	⬢	⬢	⬢		

The E_{ca} class corresponds to the existing IEC 60332-1. The class with the currently higher requirements for fire performance IEC 60332-3 lies between the new Euro classes $B2_{ca}$ and C_{ca}. However, it leans more towards the C_{ca}class. The task of the cable industry now is to rework the respective cables and has the goal of meeting the requirements of these new classes.

The Construction Products Regulation refers „only“ to the „permanently laid/installed infrastructure“, thus it does not contain any connection components or patch cables and also any compact modules. However, it covers all prefabricated solutions, such as fiber optic/copper trunk cables, which are considered to be „permanently installed“. These are dependent, however, on the mass cable certification on which the assembly was built.

A requirement of the new Euro classes: - Manufacturers of cabling systems are responsible for deciding whether to test the cables themselves or to commission an external company to verify compliance with the standards. This is listed in detail in EN 50575. Finally, a „notified body“ must be commissioned to approve test results. Products cannot be labeled in accordance with the Euro class or be regarded as compliant without the certifying body‘s confirmation of the test results.

But how does a certifying body become a „notified body“? If a certifying body wants to apply for „notified body“ status, this process usually takes two to three weeks. After receiving „no-

tified body“ status, it is able to evaluate the customer‘s test data (manufacturers, cabling system vendors, distributors) and subsequently issue a report and a certificate. It is expected that this certification process will take another two to three weeks.

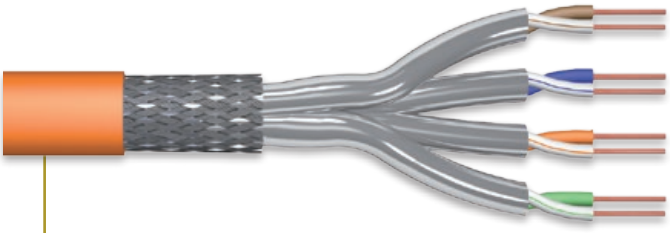
What is the impact of the Construction Products Regulation on you - our customers - and DIGITUS® Professional?

The introduction of this regulation is a significant development and needs to be clearly understood by all actors involved in the structured cabling market. These changes to the product design as well as the correct marking and packaging should be mandatorily effected and must be observed by the distributors. It is to be expected that the requirements of the new specifications will be understood by market participants within the coexistence period of the regulation. We are well-prepared for the introduction of the new cable classes and will distribute the E_{ca} and D_{ca} class cables from Q2 2017 as planned.

New regulation CE directive for „permanently installed communication cables“

On July 1, 2017, there will be a radical change in the cabling industry. The change was already adopted on July 1, 2016, but there is a grace period of 12 months. During this time, communication cables without CE marking can be sold. This period is referred to as coexistence.
CE markings must be affixed on copper and fiber optic installation cables according to law. CE marking does not necessarily have to be carried out on the cable, but nevertheless in the form of a sticker on the packaging materials such as the cardboard box and the cable drum. CE marking on patch cables is not necessary, since patch cables are not regarded as „permanently laid“ cables.

The new EN 50575 standard includes power, telecommunication and signal cables for general use in construction works. Precisely for this reason, the installation cables currently used are, for example: **Copper Cat. 7 S/FTP AWG23/1 – Fiber optic I-DQ (ZN) BH 4 G 50/125µ OM4** are impacted by the regulation because these are „permanently“ installed in the building.
The good news in this context is that the product management of DIGITUS® Professional has already begun to declare the cables according to legislation and the new EN 50575 standard. Thus, from the end of Q1 | 2017, future deliveries of goods are already guaranteed with CE marking and Euro classification in accordance with EN 50575.



CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATION (EU) NO. 305/2011 EN 50575

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In this context, one also speaks of accompanying documents, the so-called DoP (Declaration of Performance) documents. If a cable has CE marking, then the product also has a valid DoP. The DoP confirms the performance for the respective product and the fire properties. An installation cable with CE marking without an associated DoP is not compliant! With the introduction of CE marking for laying cables, the European Union has allowed the products to be compared with regard to fire properties, since the cables are classified, documented and certified by „notified bodies“ - accredited testing bodies.