

There's so much talk in the industry right now about cabling standards and changes. We've put together the five key facts you need to know.

What is CPR?

CPR is the Construction Products Regulation, which harmonises the classifications of construction materials across Europe. For data and voice cabling specific rules were implemented in July 2016, requiring manufacturers to label all boxes of cables with its classification and provide a Declaration of Performance certificate to prove its compliance.

Why did this happen?

The classifications for data and voice cabling looks at their reaction to fire, specifically a range of levels for flame spread and heat release, smoke production, acidity and flaming droplets. A harmonised system of classification ensures everyone in the supply chain, installers, designers and end users can make an informed choice about what cabling to use.

How does this apply in the UK?

CPR applies across the board to all cables including data or voice which will be permanently installed in both existing and new buildings. The UK has set a new classification for cabling in the Amendment to the British Standard, BS6701 A1:2017. This came into force in November 2017 and is a higher threshold than previously used. By raising the standard, BS6701 A1:2017 will undoubtedly increase timeframes for people to safely evacuate in the event of a fire.

BS6701 A1:2017 – what does this mean?

BS6701 A1:2017 is the standard which represents current good practice for cabling and has specified a CCA, S1b,d2,a2 Euroclass as the minimum throughout the UK. This is a higher standard than we have previously seen. However, whilst this is not currently law, it is widely anticipated to become so when the 18th Edition of the UK Electrical Wiring Regulations become law some time in July 2018.

What does it mean for customers?

Many cabling manufacturers are expecting an uplift in costs to cover redesign and testing costs. New cabling is likely to increase in physical size due to an increase thickness in sheathing, which will have a knock-on effect to other items associated with the installation.