

Test Work Conducted on ASTA Approved Products fitted with Cables

This document gives guidance on the test work necessary on any non-rewirable product submitted for ASTA Approval, to be fitted with an flexible cord additional to those already approved.

For details on the acceptability of cords/cables see ASTA Guidance Document No. 6

What Can Change in a Cable?

There are many factors that can change in a cable which depend upon the materials used, the cable manufacturing processes and the manufacturer's design specification. Although each cable within a given group may fall within the same product classification under the appropriate product standard, (i.e. BS6500 Table 15, 2 x 0.75mm²) or scheme designation, (i.e. 2 x 0.75mm², H05VVH2-F,) each individual cable will have different physical and dimensional properties due to its composition and manufacture.

What Tests Are Done By ASTA?

The test work that ASTA conducts does not assess the compliance of the cable fitted to the product, this is undertaken by the Certification Body that has Approved the cables

The test work verifies that the product can satisfactorily retain a flexible cable. In particular, that the safety of use of the product is not impaired under normal operating conditions. The tests specified in the relevant product standards, assess the cable retention properties of the product and the ability of the cord entry mechanism to withstand flexing operations applied to the cable. Due to the variations in cables it is essential that the cord retention mechanism of any non-rewirable product is verified against the relevant product standard with every cord variation that is to be approved.

What Is Considered To Be A Cable Variant?

Any of the following changes to a cable will require the Approved product's cable retention properties to be assessed by test;

A change in the.....

- cable conductor cross-sectional area (i.e. a change from 1.00mm² to 0.75mm²)
- number of cable conductor strand number (i.e. a change from 21 strands per conductor to 42 strands per conductor. Note: This includes a change from the use of Class 5 conductors to Class 6 conductors.)
- cable conductors (i.e. a change from 3 core to 2 core)
- cable conductor alignment (i.e. a change from circular to parallel)

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What Is Considered To Be A Cable Variant? (Continued)

- cable insulation/sheath material (i.e. a change from PVC to rubber)
- cable compliance properties (i.e. a change from BS6500, Table 15 to BS6500, Table 16)
- outer sheath properties (i.e. a change from smooth to ribbed)
- cable manufacturer/supplier (i.e. a change from manufacturer A to B)

Further information can be obtained directly from ASTA Certification Services at the address below.
