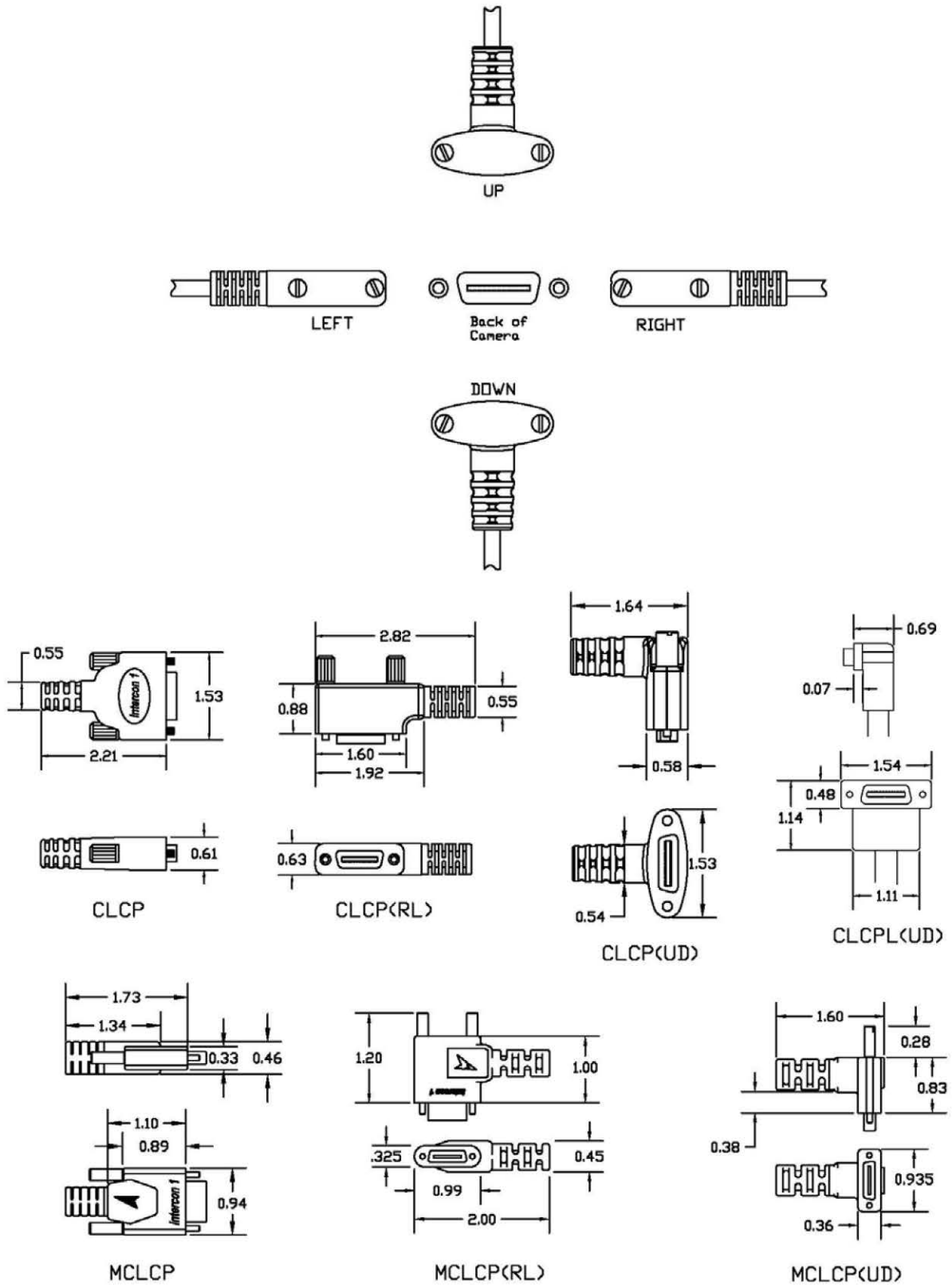


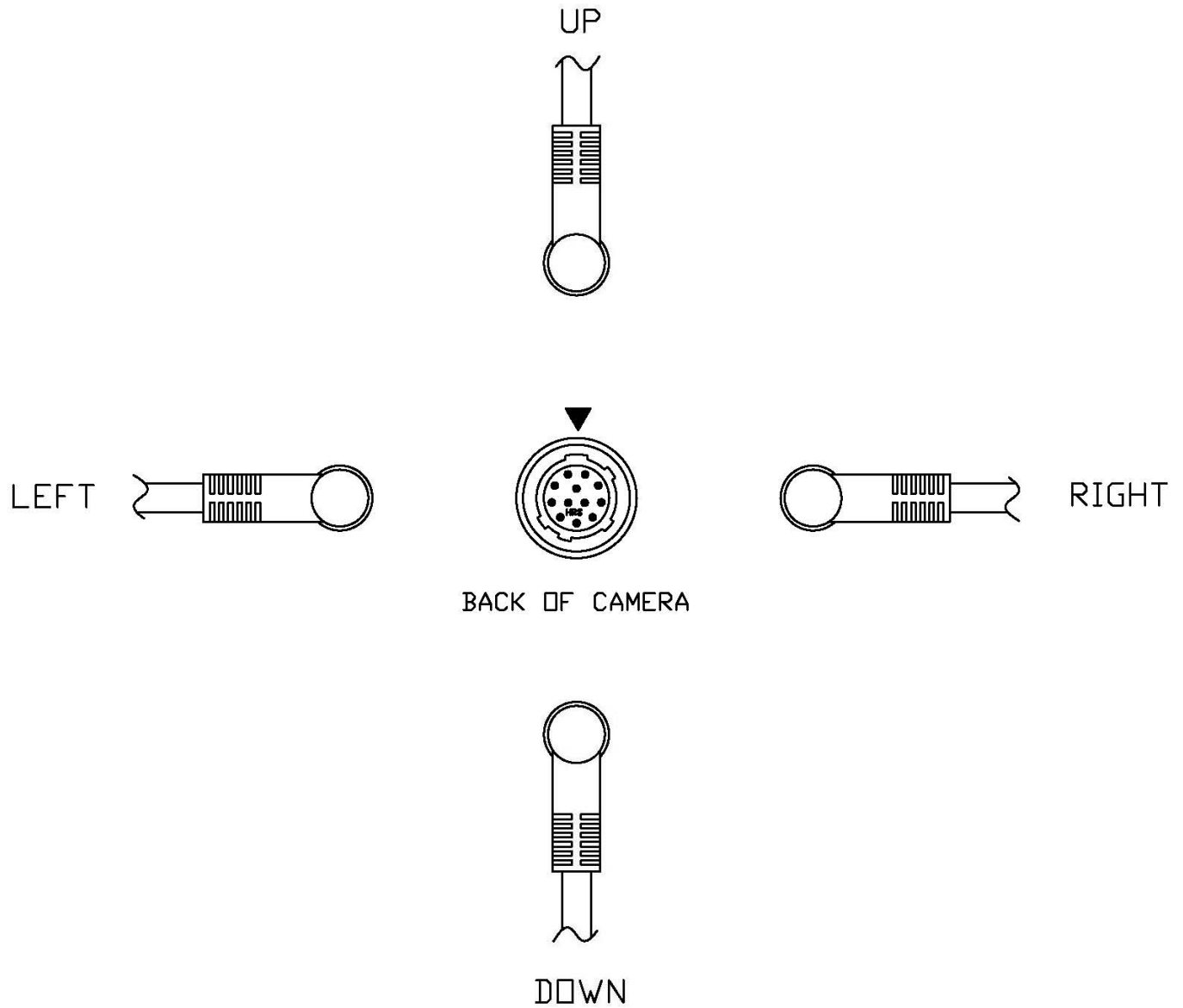
Reference Section

Camera Link overmold information



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Circular connector orientation



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Conductors

There are many components in a cable that are important to consider when specifying a cable. Besides the outer jacket, there are: conductors, insulations, fillers, binders, identification, and shields. While some cables are designed for specific applications, others may give acceptable performance for general use. To determine durability and flex-life of a cable, it is important to understand cable construction. If you are unsure please consult our customer service professionals. This way, you may avoid repetitive and unnecessary cable replacements. Here are some basic features to keep in mind.

Conductors

Conductors come in various gages and construction. Although there are many materials used in conductors, copper and aluminum are the two most common. Copper has better conductivity, but in larger gages it becomes less cost effective to use. Stranded construction is most commonly used because of its better flexibility.

Insulations

Insulations come in many different materials. Many will work in most applications while others are specific to the environment it will be used in. Be sure to reference the typical insulation characteristics in this catalog.

Fillers

Fillers are generally used for adding strength, creating and maintaining a sequence within the cable, and filling gaps for a more uniform round appearance.

Types of fillers

- **Cotton or Rayon** is most commonly used because of the relatively low cost.
- **Paper** is mainly used in power cables because of the ability to get it in flame and moisture resistant properties.
- **Polypropylene** is fairly common with its ability to mold to the shape of gap to be filled.
- **Solid Plastic** is sometimes used because it can be extruded in any shape or diameter.
- **Kevlar** is usually used when strength is important. It has an excellent longitudinal strength but can be expensive to use. This is normally used in fiber optic applications.

Binders

Binders are generally used to bundle specific conductors or isolate certain conductors and shields. The most common used material is nylon and textile.

Types of binders

- **Nylon/textile** is usually used when flexibility of a cable is required. These can be braided or wrapped.
- **Tapes** are generally a type of plastic like polyester or polypropylene.

Identification

Identification can be used to identify: manufacturer, cable type, UL/CSA certification, temp, volt, or fire rating, as well as others. Most companies refer to this information as the 'legend'. The five most used methods in identification are explained below.

Types of identification

- **ID Threads** – Each manufacturing company has identification threads which can be placed inside the cable should the need arise to identify the manufacturer.
- **Surface Ink** - This is when the information is inked on the surface of the jacket.
- **Sequential Printing** – This method prints an ascending numerical number usually every foot.
- **Indent Printing** – An impression of the information is put on the cable jacket.
- **Embossed Legend** – This is when the manufacturer will have raised lettering on the jacket. This is not common as this procedure is a more expensive operation.

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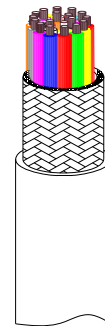
Shielding

Shielding provides an efficient way to manage electromagnetic interference. When a shielded cable is present in an ambient electromagnetic field, interference current is induced in the shield. The incident energy is partially reflected from the shield and partially absorbed by the shield, and a small amount penetrates through the shield into the cable. The small amount of energy that makes it all the way through the shield generates an interference voltage in the signal carrying conductors of the cable. The smaller the interference voltage, the better the shield is working. In addition to shielding effectiveness, electronic cable shields must satisfy a long list of electrical, mechanical, chemical, and cost requirements. As a result, a diversified line of shield designs has evolved in the wire and cable industry.

There are three general types of common shielding.

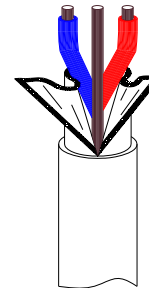
Braided

Braided is the most common method of shielding. It is comprised of interweaving layers of individual metal strands over cable or insulated conductors. Its consistent coverage remains so as the cable is flexed. The braiding material is normally a metal such as copper or aluminum but can also be other types of material plated with a conductive material. Typical wire size used is 32 to 40 AWG. Braid coverage can range from 70% to 95%. Generally more coverage equals better shielding. This type of shielding is ideal for minimizing low frequency interference and has a lower DC resistance than that of foil shielding. General uses for this type of shielding are low speed communication, good mechanical strength, or when increased flex life is needed. Drawbacks of the braided shield include high manufacturing costs due to the relatively slow speed at which the shield-braiding machinery forms the braid. Braided shields are usually bulkier, heavier and in some cases it may be harder to terminate because the braid has to be either combed out and pig tailed or combed out equally around the OD of the cable.



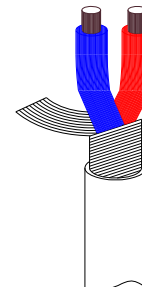
Foil

Foil can be constructed in single layer aluminum, conductive nylon, or two layers of aluminum with polyester backing. These types of shields are generally used for individually shielding multi-pair data cables. Foil shielding is the only commonly available shield that can give you 100% coverage. Although it is cheap, it severely limits flexibility and indeed breaks down under repeated flexing. Drain wires are normally used with this type of shield to make termination easier. Although this cable is generally more flexible than braided, it has a much shorter flex life because of its thin mechanical strength and the possibility of separation. Twisting of the conductor pairs with foil shielding can reduce cross talk, which provides the best electrical isolation between adjacent pairs.



Spiral/Serve

Spiral/Serve consists of 32 to 40 AWG copper strands (bare or tinned) in a helical shape around the cable or insulated conductors in a flat ribbon configuration. This type of shielding can give you up to 97 percent coverage. The advantage of this type of shielding is its superior flexibility, flex life, and ease of termination. Although it does not have the tensile strength of braid, the benefits are less copper, much faster to manufacturer, and can give you a smaller cable diameter. Generally spiral shields are not used above audio frequencies because of coil effect produced by the inductance or retractile cables.



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Fire / Flame Tests and Ratings

<http://www.intercon-1.com>

Customers of wire and cable should be aware of the latest regulations and the products that meet these standards. Many tests have been developed to measure the flame resistance of wire and cable products. Flame resistance of a cable is frequently defined as the ability to stop burning once the source of heat is removed. Here is a brief summary of the most widely used North American fire tests and ratings.

Vertical Tray Flame Test

UL 1581 / IEEE 383

This test is performed on cables attached to a 1ft wide and 8 ft tall vertical metal ladder tray. The source of combustion is a 10 inch ribbon burner with an air/propane mixture which will supply approximately 70,000 BTU's per hour. The flame is applied for 20 minutes, 24 inches from the bottom of the cable. This rating requires the cable to self-extinguish prior to reaching the top of the tray.

CSA FT-4

This test is a later generation of the IEEE 383 test and is generally considered more stringent. To pass this test the resulting char distance must not be greater than 1.5 meters.

IEEE 1202

The IEEE 1202 flame test is the newest version of the original IEEE 383 Flame Test. It is practically identical to the CSA FT-4 test

UL 1685

The UL 1685 is fundamentally the UL 1581 test with smoke emission requirements. A cable passing this test can be given a 'Limited Smoke listing'.

ICEA T-29-520

This is another variation of the UL 1581 / IEEE 383 except the BTU value is 210,000 instead of 70,000 and cable spacing increases.

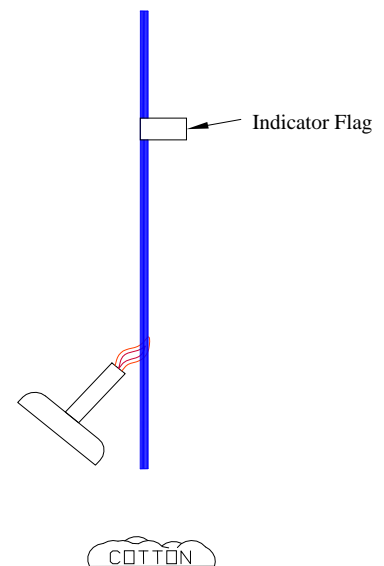
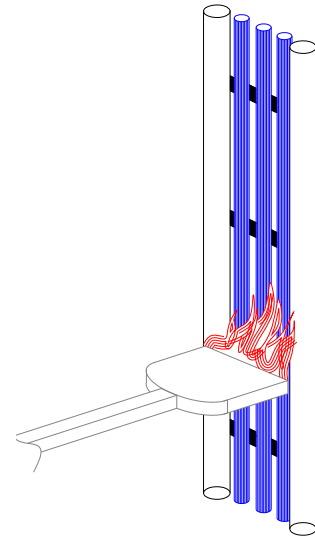
Vertical-Wire Flame Test

UL 1581 VW-1

This was the first flame test developed for studying flame spread on wire and cable. The test is performed with a 24 inch wire or cable and a Tirrill burner. Two clamps hold the single sample vertically. The burner is mounted at a 20° angle and the inner flame can touch the samples surface. Flame is applied for 15 seconds and is then reapplied 4 more times each time the wire ceases to burn. If the sample does not burn longer than 60 seconds after any application, or if less than 25% of the indicator flag burns, or the cotton batting is ignited during the test, the cable passes. A "tray rated" cable must meet this test as well.

CSA FT-1

This is the Canadian version of the VW-1 test.



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Flex Testing

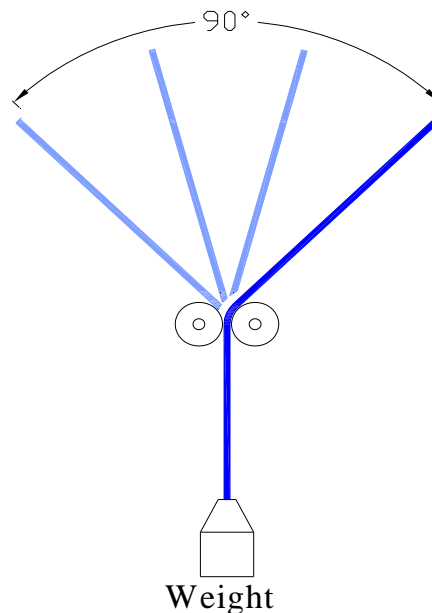
Reliability Tests for 4 basic kinds of flexing

High performance cable should be considered when specifying a cable for automation. Conductors under constant motion can break due to heat generated from friction. Just because a cable is very flexible does not mean it will have a long life. In some cases, a more rigid outer cable jacket allows the conductors to move more freely inside resulting in less friction. The outer jacket not only needs to withstand constant flexing but provide protection against mechanical abrasion and environmental conditions like: chemical, moisture, and temperature. If the cables components have been designed for increased flexibility, jacket material can be determined respective to these environmental conditions.

There are four basic types of flexing that most cables experience, they are: Bending, Rolling, Torsional, and Variable. These tests are basic guidelines to help with cable design associated to its function. Many cable manufactures have specific testing for their products. These examples are meant for a general understanding of basic flex testing

Bend

Bend flexing is when the cable is flexed back and forth in one general place. This can come from many applications. Motion cameras are a very popular in this type of flexing. The cable is usually stationary while just behind the camera the cable will flex at the same place every time. This type of test is commonly referred to as "Tick Tock test" and "Flex test".



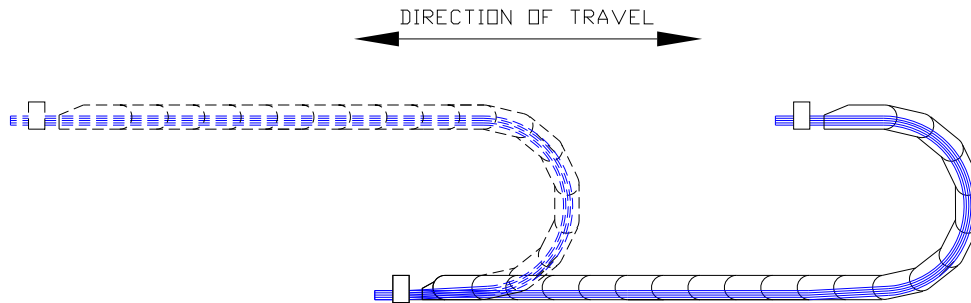
Bend testing guidelines

The cable is affixed to a pendulum type device and weighted. The amount of weight and size of the bend radii is dependant on the size of cable and its inner conductors. Every conductor is monitored and in the event of a failure, the test automatically stops. The cable is then flexed back and forth and counted until there is a failure within the cable.

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Roll

Roll flexing is most common in automated equipment. The cable is harnessed in a flexible cable track and moved in a linear direction. This type of application will usually have an abrasion resistant jacket because of the constant rubbing against other wires, cables as well as the cable track itself. It is important to specify the correct cable to the bend radius of the cable track. A larger radius on the cable track can result in longer cable life. We offer customized flex testing services.

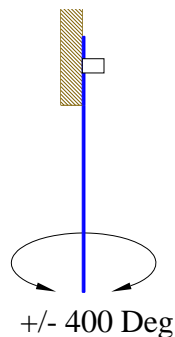


Roll testing guidelines

The cable is installed and anchored within the cable track. Every conductor is monitored and in the event of failure, the test will stop. The cable track will be operated back and forth and counted until there is a failure within the cable.

Torsional

Torsional flexing is when a cable twists around its axis'. This is common to robotic applications and hand held devices with a cord. It is one of the more demanding mechanical stresses. The strain created by the twisting motion is different than that of a bend or roll flex. Because of this, standard high flex cables may not be suitable for these applications. For maximum performance, a cable designed specifically for torsion should be utilized. We offer customized flex testing services.



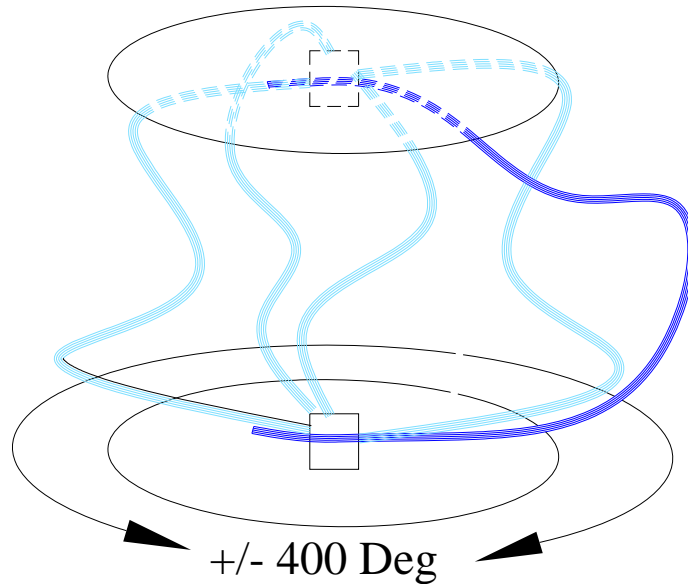
Torsional testing guidelines

The cable is anchored to a surface and then twisted 400 degrees in each direction from its relaxed state. Test requirements may change slightly for cable design and function. Some alterations may include: adding weight, length of cable, or amount of twist. Every conductor is monitored and in the event of failure the test will stop.

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Variable

Variable flexing is when the cable is fixed in two positions and has the freedom to bend and move in any direction. This is usually found in robotic applications. With this freedom of movement, cable selection is critical.



Variable testing guidelines

The cable is anchored in two separate places and then one end is rotated up to 400 degrees in each direction from its relaxed state. Test requirements may change slightly for specific cable design. Some alterations may include: length of cable or amount of twist. Every conductor is monitored and in the event of failure the test will stop.

General guidelines

Consider the applications voltage, current, bend radius, physical location, environmental conditions, and flex cycle when choosing a cable. This can increase the life cycle which results in less downtime and longer maintenance intervals.

When troubleshooting a deteriorated cable, there are a few general things to look for.

Twisted Cable Jacket- The outside jacket generally starts to twist when the internal conductors have begun to unwind due to improper cable selection, installation, or shielding

Outer Jacket Wear- Many times this is due to incorrect cable selection or installation. If the cable can contact any other surface while in motion, it will give opportunity for abrasion wear.

General Cable Failure- This happens most often because of harsh environmental conditions. The introduction to hazards like: moisture, welding spatter, oils, chemicals, temperature, and sunlight can degrade a cable assembly prematurely if it is not specified for the correct conditions.

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Installation Data for High-Flex Cable in a Cable Track

When selecting cable for cable track the following criteria should be taken into consideration:

Environmental Conditions

Different materials are designed for different environmental conditions. The following list is some of the most common environmental conditions to be considered:

- Abrasives
- Acids
- Alcohols
- Alkali'
- Cold/Hot Temperatures
- Flame
- Indoor/Outdoor use
- Moisture
- Petroleum Products/Gasoline
- Oxidation
- Oils
- Ozone
- Sunlight

Other Factors to Consider

- Traveling Speed and Distance
- Frequency of Operation
- Minimum Bend Radius
- Shielding

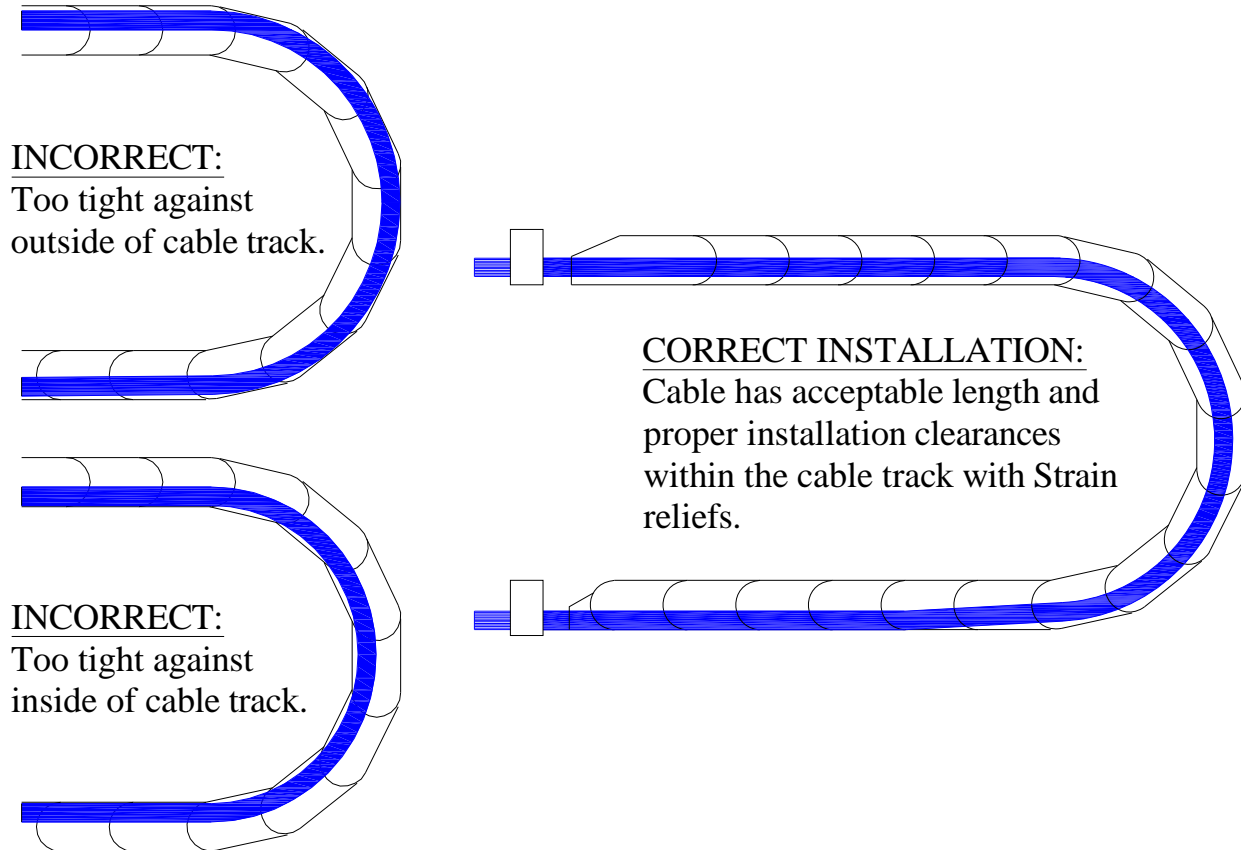
Successful installation will greatly increase by following these guidelines:

1. Do not exceed the recommended minimum bend radius of the cable. This is based on a general application at a normal operating temperature. Many times a larger bend radius than the minimum will increase the service life of the cable.
2. Prepare the cable for torsion-free installation without twists, bends or kinks. Always unwind the cable from the outside layer of the reel or spool. Never pull a cable from a coil. Lay out the cable or hang it for 24 hours prior to installation. This will relax any remaining stresses resulting from production, transit, or storage. If the cable cannot be unstressed and still maintains a 'coil memory', shake it out by grasping the cable at its middle and vigorously shake the cable as you move to each end.
3. Once the cable is ready, wrap each end of the cable with non-residue producing identification tape and indicate the top of each cable end. Maintain this alignment throughout installation. This reduces the possibility of twist in the cable during installation.
4. Evaluate the weight and size of each cable. The cables, by weight, must be evenly distributed in the track. Place the heavier cables toward the outside of the track and the lighter ones toward the center. For a cable track that is side mounted, always place the larger cables toward the outside and the smaller cables toward the inside of the track.

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5. Place the cables in the track in a 'working position' and loosely side by side. As a rule, allow at least 10% more of the cables diameter within the internal dimensions of the cable track. Do not weave the cables between or around other cables in the track. If spacers are provided in the track, separate the larger cables from smaller cables.

Important - Cables must not push tightly against the inner or outer curve of the track and never fasten cables to the track or each other.



6. Locate the proper attachment points for saddle clamps and affix at both ends of the cable track. Do not over tighten. The purpose for saddle clamps is to distribute the pressure evenly over a larger area of the jacket which reduces the possibility of crushing the conductors.
7. After the cable is installed, it should be cycled through several flex operations. During these initial flex operations observe cable movement and check for freedom from binding, rubbing, and pulling. It is critical that all cables move with complete freedom, throughout the cable track.

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