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Coaxial Cable and Master Antenna TV (MATV)

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Telecommunications - Really the "Fourth Utility"!

Telecommunications is really a "Fourth Utility" and a crucial part of infrastructure, along with Gas, Water and Electricity. Yet telecommunications stands out as an area where the publicly accepted standards of regulator supervision fall far short of the other utilities.

In the electrical industry, contractors even have to display their contractor numbers on some advertising and work vehicles. That practice would force a lot of the untrained, unregistered, Sub and Sub-Sub contractors we have into compliance.

Telecommunications is a national responsibility, while the others are state and territory, but that is no excuse for such a difference. The Telecommunications carriers have rules to abide by and are subject to a lot of public scrutiny. But even so, there are still a lot of issues with carriers that need a review and some re-regulation. Cabling and equipment spaces in commercial buildings, and processes for provision of Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS), for example.

But the fragmentation of providers and work roles in Customer Premises and the sheer diversity of customers provide a fertile field for poor outcomes and misinformation to customers and can hide the dimension of poor cabler practices. Telecommunications customers expect audits, inspections and completion of compliance certificates for the other three utilities and are often unaware that telecommunications is so poorly monitored.

TITAB has consistently represented to ACMA and government agencies, the need for "policing" the Cabling Provider Rules (CPR) Registration System - and pre-2000, the "AUSTEL Licence" system. If cabling is registered, they should be reasonably trained and able to do the job for customers, safely for them and those working on the network. That should be a starting point!

Inspections and audits should be the second string to the bow. Recently, ACMA conducted a Priority Compliance Area (PCA) exercise. The report contains some damning evidence again of widespread non-compliance with CPR Registration requirements; breaches of some mandated and non-mandated technical standards; non-completion for the customer of the Mandatory Compliance Certificates (ACMA TCA1) and some other minor matters.

It again highlighted the failure of the "soft" regulatory approach to inspections and audits in recent years. TITAB wants another dedicated ACMA budget to facilitate inspections and audits, similar to that which prevailed in the past, even under the conservative approach of the Howard Government when Senator Alston was the Communications Minister.

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Fire Protection Australia-Passive Fire Protection Guides

Fire Protection Association Australia (FPA) is a partner organisation in the Registered Cabling website Consortium and a member of the Cabling Advisory Group (CAG) managed by the ADTIA. FPA recently reported to CAG that they had produced two guides that will be of interest to many of our members.



These provide detailed advice on good work practices where some other sources, such as Australian Standards and Legislation, often lack detail. Sometimes, cabling need to disturb blocks in openings, and other fire protection measures inside buildings, and need to be aware of the fire protection requirements. In particular, the "chimney effect" in tall buildings can be catastrophic if some of these guidelines are ignored.

The FPA Australia Board has recently decided to allow access to full copies of these documents to non-FPA members. To obtain full copies you will need to email technical@fpaa.com.au, advising which documents you need, your company and individual details, and what your interest in the document is.

The FPA Australia Good Practice Guides covering Passive Fire Protection are:

- **GPG -06 Fire Resistance:** This provides guidance and information on the general requirements for fire resisting construction under the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and why it is required.
- **GPG-07 Protection of openings for service penetrations in fire resisting building elements:** This provides guidance and information on requirements of the BCA for the protection of openings for service penetrations in fire resisting buildings.

Some of the Trade Services and Systems that typically penetrate fire resisting building elements are:

- Phone, data, security communications and surveillance systems
- Electrical services
- Security and surveillance camera systems
- Fire detection and alarm system

Security & Integrate shows in Melb and Sydney

TITAB is a partner in the Registered Cabling website (RCWS) consortium and will once again have representation in the two events - Security show in Melb 25-27 July and the Integrate show in Sydney from 22-24 August. It will be a good opportunity for cabling to attend by looking at future technologies and trends!

CPR registration-upgrades, re-applications and address changes



TITAB advises members of impending CPR Registration expiry dates and accordingly we need to have current addresses and contact points. We also occasionally get queries on endorsement upgrades and on reapplications, where registrations have expired. There are guidelines from ACMA that we use to process re-applications and any endorsement/specialist competency upgrades can be processed at cost. (i.e. reissue of cards)

By updating any changes you won't miss out on our newsletters which have the latest industry news. It also enables us to post out renewals and registration cards in a timely manner.

You can update your details via phone on **03 9631 0800** or by email at: **info@titab.com.au**.

Telecommunications Training Package-Review underway!

CITT has a project with Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) updating the ICT Information and Communications Technology Training Package as part of the VET continuous improvement policy. Industry Workshops have been notified in other publications and the final outcomes of the review are not expected to be radical; more likely limited to editorial modernisation.

TITAB is now also working with key national Telstra HQ staff on network related training modernisation, to ensure that RTOs are able to provide up to date competency based training on the carrier network and on Vendor supplied equipment.

Technology changes are sometimes not passed on through the fragmented, multi state/territory VET structures and processes. TITAB maintains a list of RTOs delivering accredited telecommunications training and will help Telstra, Vendors and RTOs, with liaison and building communication channels.

Mandated ACMA Technical Standards

Cablers are reminded of the importance of technical standards. In particular, the ACMA has mandated AS/CA S008:2010 Requirements for Customer Cabling Products and AS/CA S009:2013 Installation requirements for customer cabling (Wiring Rules).

These standards can both be downloaded from the Communications Alliance Website or via a link from the www.titab.com.au website. These should be a key part of training programs, but unfortunately are often not given enough attention.

The NBN and You - Cabling requirements

(This article was written by the ACMA and is directed at customers. However, cablers may find information contained in the article useful.)



For existing services and equipment to work on an NBN connection, you may need to buy new equipment or have new in-premises cabling installed at your expense.

If you have a medical, security or fire alarm that operates over your current landline connection, contact your service provider and let them know you are connecting to the NBN. Your service provider should be able to advise you how to ensure these services continue to operate over a new NBN connection.

Not everyone will require new equipment or new in-premises cabling, so it is important to ask your service provider the right questions. If it applies to you, we suggest you ask:

- Will my monitored medical alarm continue to work on the NBN?
- Will my security alarm continue to work on the NBN?
- Will my fire alarm continue to work on the NBN?
- Will my lift phone continue to work on the NBN?
- Will my EFTPOS machine continue to work on the NBN?
- Do I need new in-premises cabling?

You may need additional in-premises cabling work if:

- You want to use telephone sockets ('phone points') previously installed in multiple locations in your premises (for example the lounge or bedroom).
- You want to use wired connection to connect any of your in-premises devices such as TVs, gaming consoles or media streaming devices (for example, a blu-ray player or Apple TV).

Your service provider should be able to advise you if alterations to the existing telephone and data cabling in your premises are necessary to connect your chosen services.

Any work that needs to be done to connect the existing telephone and data cabling in your premises to the NBN must be carried out by a registered cabler. The services of a registered cabler are likely to involve additional costs to you.

In some situations your service provider can arrange a registered cabler to come to your premises and do this work. If the service provider does not provide this service, you'll need to contact a registered cabler directly.

If you engage a registered cabler directly to undertake any work, you should:

- ask to see the cabler's registration card
- clearly describe the services and/or equipment that you wish to have connected to your NBN service
- ask the cabler for a completion form (TCA1 form) when the job is finished.



A registered cabler must provide you with a TCA1 form at the completion of any cabling work. By providing a TCA1 form, a registered cabler is stating that the completed cabling work complies with the Wiring Rules. The Wiring Rules set out the minimum requirements for cabling installations to ensure that network integrity and the health and safety of end-users, other cablers and carrier personnel is protected.

TCA1 orders - 50% discount

TITAB have had a huge demand for the mandatory TCA1 products. This offer is for a limited time, so if you want to place an order ring the TITAB office on (03) 9631 0800 so that a **special order form** can be sent to you. Otherwise, if you are receiving this newsletter by mail there is an order form with the cover letter

Compliance form - telecommunications customer cabling (TCA1)

Available from: 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2011

Guidelines for the use of TCA1 Form

Version 4.0 of the Telecommunications Customer Cabling (TCA1) Form requires that a Telecommunications Customer Cabling (TCA1) Form be completed after each installation of cabling for a customer. It is a legal requirement for the cabler or the service provider to complete the form and provide it to the customer.

The following are general guidelines developed by the ACMA:

1. The form is the responsibility of the cabler completing the work. However, the cabler may delegate completion of the form to the customer. The cabler must also ensure the form is signed by the customer.
2. The form is a public document and should be held in a secure location. It should not be used for any other purpose.
3. The form is a public document and should be held in a secure location. It should not be used for any other purpose.

The form is provided to the cabler from completing a TCA1 form for most work jobs it does. The cabler must ensure the form is completed and submitted to the customer work under Wiring Rules and all other Cabling Provider Rules and apply.

TCA1 Form

A TCA1 Form has also been designed by ACMA for voluntary use in other customer and cabling projects that are not subject to the TCA1 form requirements.

Requirements

The cabler completing the form must sign the TCA1 Form and provide it to the customer. Technical support information should be obtained from 03 9631 0800.

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Coaxial Cable and Master Antenna TV (MATV)

(We acknowledge Stephen Harrison of the ACMA for the following advice.)



At TITAB we often get enquiries on a range of technical matters and as a registry we have limited resources, so where we do not have the answer readily available, we refer members to websites or industry contacts. MATV coaxial cable is often of concern to cablers. Network boundary? Do I need an endorsement/ACMA specialist cabling competency?

ACMA have confirmed that “.....the co-axial cables associated with an MATV system are not telecommunications customer cabling as they do not connect to a telecommunications network. As such a person is not required to be a registered cabler to work on this cabling. Similarly, a person is not required to be a registered cabler to work on free-to-air television antenna systems.”

Also, with an MATV system “.....that distributes Foxtel or Optus pay TV then only people working on behalf of Foxtel or Optus are permitted to work on such systems. As these systems form part of Foxtel's or Optus' network, people working on this cabling on behalf of Foxtel or Optus are not required to hold a cabling registration.”

The reference below is extracted from [AS/CA S009:2013](#) – which is being updated but no change to this part is expected.

“Installation requirements for Customer Cabling,

1.1 Application

This Standard applies to the installation and maintenance of fixed or concealed cabling or equipment that is connected, or is intended to be connected, to a telecommunications network, including any cord or cordage, or that part of any cord or cordage, that is connected as fixed or concealed cabling.

Standard does not apply to—

(a) any electrical power cabling whose primary function is the distribution of AC mains supply, and which is connected to an AC mains supply, but which may also carry telecommunications signals as a secondary function as long as the telecommunications signals originate from the power network or are injected into the power cabling via a compliant interface device;

(b) any cabling used for the connection or distribution of broadcasting services, as defined in the Broadcasting Services Act 1992, that are supplied to the end-user by means of transmission through free air to a receiving radio, television or satellite antenna whether or not such cabling is connected to receiving equipment that is connected to a carrier's or carriage service provider's telecommunications network (e.g. via an Ethernet port); and

(c) any cabling on the carrier's side of the network boundary whether or not such cabling is located in customer premises, e.g. lead-in cabling.

Note 1: Cabling described in Item (a) is subject to AS/NZS 3000.

Note 2: Cabling described in Item (b) is effectively exempted from technical regulation under the Telecommunications Act 1997 and is therefore out of the scope of AS/CA S009.”

Contact Information

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Training Package Information

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Wiring Rules AS/CA S009:2013

ACMA

www.acma.gov.au

1300 850 115

info@acma.gov.au

Standards Australia

www.standards.org.au

Underground Cable Locations

www.1100.com.au

A2A and Network Boundary Issues

www.telstra.com.au/smartcommunity/mybuilder.html

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Email : high.loads.telstra@team.telstra.com

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Registered Cablers Website

www.registeredcablers.com.au

Smartwired

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