TELIT Cabling Newsletter©

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Customer Cabling and Cablers-Under rated!

The modern Telecommunications Industry is full of buzz words and a lot of political rhetoric about innovation, "the internet of things" and the bright future for Australia and jobs, with all the technological advances available. But what is the reality? And what about cabling?

The NBN can be a catalyst for growth and help to breakdown the digital divide, particularly between metro and regional communities, but is plagued with political intervention on technologies and likely to provide a second rate service in many areas. This will hold back some potential development and as the NBNCo uses a contractor or "delivery partners" staffing model, it lacks a viable technical workforce of its own. So there are some planning, training and recruitment issues developing, as the rollout accelerates.

There will be a skills shortage if the NBN training and skill needs projections are accurate and an option for top up of skills usually overlooked, are our registered cablers – some 68k strong. They could work both sides of the boundary with very little retraining and top up available workforce resources.

There seems to be little or no recognition of the importance of customer cabling and cablers. Telcos and other Retail Service Providers (RSPs) seem to be concentrating on retail promotion of their products and becoming marketers ignoring their utility and community service roles.

The best technologies are useless if the last few metres of cabling are not up to standard and this can be dangerous particularly where alarms and personal security are involved. The ACMA are stepping up their compliance activities this year and cabling standards need to be improved in several areas, based on available audit outcomes.

Over the years TITAB, with our industry partners, have worked to lift CPR registration compliance, technical standards, promoted training on OH&S and risk awareness in a changing work environment. We will continue to promote customer cabling as an important part of the telecommunications industry. And we want to see the NBN used as a viable community service with our cablers recognised as a key part of the overall equation.

Whatever the technology being used there will be a need for many customers to upgrade their cabling to get maximum advantage from the NBN. The wholesale (NBNCo) and retail sectors (Telstra etc) need to co-operate on training needs and the use of existing skilled resources in the interests of all Australians!

[Advertisement]

ACMA TCA1 Compliance Forms – Reminder to Use

Despite many reminders, some cablers still do not provide customers with the ACMA TCA1 Compliance Form. These are *mandatory* for all cabling work except for a couple of very minor replacement actions, as defined by ACMA. (eg replacing damaged socket/ jumpers/records). ***New versions are now clearly labelled as Compliance Forms and are just as essential as compliance forms for other utilities.***

The Cabling Provider Rules (CPR) specify their use on the ACMA Website and in Appendix C of the *ACMA Pathways to ACMA Cabling Provider Rules - Cabling Registration.* Cablers must abide by "Tech Standard 9 - the Wiring Rules" and issue a TCA1 to certify the installation is compliant. This is also protection for the cabler, in case someone does non-compliant work later.

A TCA2 (non -mandatory) can also be issued to indicate poor legacy cabling and this is a safeguard for the good guys. TITAB can provide, at cost, made-up TCA1 pads with duplicate "carbonated" copies. A TCA1 can also be incorporated into an Invoice format. TCA1 Forms are also on the ACMA website for downloading.

As we have advised in the past, there can be litigation or insurance issues with non-compliance when commercial disagreements arise and it pays to do it right at the outset!

ACMA Audits and Inspections for 2016-2017

At a recent Registrar Co-Ordinating Committee meeting the ACMA compliance group outlined the Priority Compliance Areas (PCAs) for 2016-2017. This was after earlier seeking input from registrars and other interest groups.

As a result they are implementing a customer cabling compliance program under this PCA. The purpose of this program will be to obtain intelligence about the compliance standing of customer cabling installation and act on instances of non-compliance.

The ACMA proposes to instigate a tailored 'cabling work program' for its Field Officers, who will:

- Gauge the level of 'customer cabling' compliance in multi dwelling and single premises constructions in both domestic and industrial sites
- Ascertain 'administrative' compliance (i.e check of relevant cabling registrations, the provision of TCA1 forms)

TITAB certainly welcome an improved compliance system in the Telecommunications sector.

The Countdown is on: nbn Announces Second Satellite Launch

The countdown is on for the launch of **nbn's** second satellite **Sky Muster™II**, that is scheduled to blast into space on October 5, 2016.

Taking off from the French Guiana Space Centre in South America, it is set to orbit at an altitude of close to 36,000 km and is one of the world's largest communications satellites, weighing in at 6,400kgs.

Sky Muster™ II will provide additional data capacity to support the delivery of this world-leading satellite broadband service to those who need it most.

The technology will help bridge Australia's digital divide for around 400,000 homes and businesses in regional and remote Australia by providing them with better access to distance online education, healthcare services, and the ability for our outback businesses to run more efficient operations.

Satellite FAQ

How does a Satellite launch work?

About 30 minutes after the rocket carrying Sky Muster™ is launched, the nose cone of the rocket opens up and releases the satellite into a Geostationary orbit. Sky Muster then needs to deploy its solar panels to get power from the sun and charge the onboard batteries.

The main chemical thruster at the bottom of Sky Muster™ then needs to be fired to lift it from the Geostationary Transfer orbit drop off point, into its final orbital position 36,000 km above Australia.

How long before users can expect to start receiving service over the satellite?

Once Sky Muster™ is in its orbital position above Australia, it will need to undergo several months' tests to make sure it is functioning correctly. It will then need to integrate with the ground stations and commission the 101 spot beams. A spot beam is a focussed satellite signal that is specially concentrated in power so that it covers a specific geographic area on earth.

End to end final testing will then take place possibly in late 2016.

TITAB Resources

TITAB have now updated their Resource library to encompass competencies from the ICT release 3.0 package. A full list of those products are on the TITAB website at www.titab.com.au. Enquiries can be directed to Paul Cheong on 03 9631 0800.

Ladder Summit- The Next Generation of Height Safety

Height Safety Leaders, Branach, held a Ladder Safety Summit to look at the issues of safety at heights and developments for cablers and telecommunication specialists.

Leading contractor, Downer has been in discussions with Branach about the risks involved with working at heights and partnering to develop a safer system. Both Branach and Downer were keen to discuss the issues involved in cabling and installation in height safety as well as demonstrate the next generation of height safety equipment.

The Ladder Safety Summit provided an opportunity to gather key contributors to the safety game. With Vision Stream providing the momentum on the project, HSE and Zero harm managers from Vision Stream, Telstra, Downer, ComCare, NBN, Ausnet and Optus made up the forum on ladder safety. Some of these companies travelled from interstate to learn about the developments in height safety.

Mike Walsh, company director of Branach led the way with an insight into the current state of play. From the good old days to current work practice to next generation products. One of the aspects of his presentation focused on how big the problem really is, when it comes to falls from ladders. Some of the statistics included:

In the eight years from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2011, ***37 workers died*** *following a fall from a ladder, reported Safework Australia in Oct 2013.*

The statistics from falls from heights are seriously alarming. The trauma impacts primarily on the height worker and their family but then has a butterfly effect. The fellow employees at the workplace and the company itself will feel the effect with full force. Falls from heights are at best a badly sprained ankle and at worst a death.

Once the extent of the problem was scoped then a brief look at international efforts to address these problems was presented. Countries such as Japan and the EU have made significant changes to standards to work practice for height safety. These both included addressing common issues of ladders tipping, slipping out, sideways force, stability, levelling, point of attachment and fall control. These factors are the main causes of accidents from ladders which need to be eliminated.

Matt Reeves, the Lead Engineer at Branach then went on to explain the background behind the next generation in height safety. The **Modular Height Safety System with Fall Control**, comprises of one base extension ladder with a closed height of 2.4. Now here is where the innovation comes in. 3 modular sections can be added to the base section. The sections snap in with a spigot socket joint, that is easy to use, durable and strong. Thus giving it an optimal height of 7.6 meters.

The incredible leap in thinking and design has come about by incorporating fall control into the equation. This system now offers flexibility, stability and levelling with integrated fall control. The benefits for technicians and the level of safety now afforded to them is beyond reproach. Matt Reeves then showed video of the rigorist testing that went into the product. The continuous feedback sort from both Downer and Vision Stream to ensure the system would work with the technicians performing this work day in and day out was also obviously a key part of this project. The result is a system that has a very practical application.

This was followed by a live demonstration at a purpose built training facility, Chisholm Tafe. The ladder was deployed and extended with the modular sections, Matt Reeves then proceeded to demonstrate a number of falls from the ladder while using the fall control system. If there were any doubts about the validity of the system, they were now dispelled. It is safe to say that those who attended the Ladder Summit went away with a new appreciation of what a ladder is in 2016 and the risks that can now be eliminated.

If you would like a copy of the presentation or more information on the **Modular Height Safety System with Fall Control** please contact janetwalsh@branach.com.au **or go to www.branach.com.au**

How to Mitigate Against Insurance Risks

(This article was written by Paul Stathis CEO BICSI Sth Pacific Ltd & BRCA)

All cabling designers and installers have various insurance policies to mitigate against risks they encounter, but what about mitigating against risks from insurance companies themselves?

The risk is exposure to subrogation – a legal right that enables insurance companies to claim back monies they've paid on an insurance claim from parties somehow connected to what's insured.

The risk is complex, but the solution is simple – compliance. Let's explain with an example:

You're a contractor who installed cabling in an office, including running it through a fire-rated wall as instructed in the consultant's specification. It's all done in compliance with the specification, local cabling standards and regulations and Building Code, and gets signed off by the consulting engineer.

So far, so good.

Five years later, another contractor runs additional cabling through your correctly sealed firewall penetration, drilling holes through it and stuffing fire pillows around the new cables.

A year later, a small fire that wasn't contained by the compromised firewall engulfs the building. The insurance company dutifully pays the $10 million insurance claim, but then seeks to recoup the monies paid using subrogation.

From the Fire Brigade's report, the insurer discovers the firewall was compromised through the penetration you made six years earlier and deems you and the consultant to have contributed to the extensive fire damage, allocating 30% 'proportionate liability' to you and 20% liability to the consultant. After all, you put the penetration in the firewall in the first place, even though it was done correctly.

Ask anyone in the fire or insurance industries and they will confirm this is a very real and common situation. So how do you protect yourself from having to pay millions for something you weren't responsible for?

The answer: compliance. But not just doing the works in compliance with codes and regulations, but documenting it correctly to validate that you were compliant.

The TCA1 and TCA2 (Telecommunications Cabling Advice) forms are your 'get-out-of-jail' cards. Completing, submitting and retaining these forms is mandated by the ACMA as proof of your compliant work, but equally important, they show what and when you did and didn't do, so you can distance yourself from cabling carried out by someone else.

So if there's a significant issue somewhere you've done work, like a fire or injury that gets insurance companies involved – even years later – you have the documentation to defend yourself from being held accountable for someone else's shoddy work.

The risk of subrogation should also alert you about the products you install – do they have a legitimate ACMA RCM?

We only have to think back to the recent Infinity electrical cable scandal and the apartment fire in Melbourne's Docklands to realise the serious impact of selecting (knowingly or unknowingly) non-compliant products. Not only will the authorities chase you for non-compliance, but the insurance companies will hunt you down and never stop until they make you pay for the damages. Don't risk it – ensure you're compliant to the regulations.

Contact Information

Training Products

To order TITAB products go to www.titab.com.au or call TITAB on 03 9631 0800

Training Package Information

www.training.gov.au

nbn ™

www.nbnco.com.au

Communications Alliance

www.commsalliance.com.au

Wiring Rules AS/CA SOO9:2013

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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Telstra high load passage

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Registered Cablers Website

www.registeredcablers.com.au

Smartwired

www.smartwiredhouse.com.au

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