

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We are working with the supply chain and legislative bodies to communicate, investigate, eradicate and educate on the issues, problems and consequences of installing non-approved product.

We are in discussion with Members of Parliament to start the process of introducing legislation to outlaw these dangerous products.

We have contacted Trading Standards, the Health and Safety Executive, the Association of British Insurers, Fire Authorities and the Police.

Ultimately we are seeking a change of legislation. Equally important, we are talking to people like you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP.

One of the key deliverables of this initiative is to name and shame the unscrupulous UK based traders of dangerous, non-approved or counterfeit cable products. We are constantly obtaining cable samples from the marketplace and conducting independent tests to see if they meet UK standards. Policing non-approved product involves all the supply chain. Keep records of all the cable you buy and if you discover cable that you think could be faulty please notify us immediately. (We are ensuring a fast response on testing cycle and feedback.) Or if you are just interested in supporting the initiative for the benefit of our industry please get in touch.

The ACI is determined to succeed in its objective and will continue to work with the supply chain, Industry and Regulatory Bodies to address the issue and together remove the dangers of non-approved and counterfeit cables.



APPROVED CABLES INITIATIVE



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www.aci.org.uk

Contact: e-mail : info@aci.org.uk

Tel/fax: +44 (0)20 8946 6978

Mobile: +44 (0)7973 636688

WWW.ACI.ORG.UK

CABLING A SAFER BRITAIN. THE APPROVED CABLES INITIATIVE.

The Approved Cables Initiative (ACI) has been instigated by a collection of industry bodies and their members who have come together with a common goal:

To reduce and ultimately eliminate non-approved cable product from the UK market place.

The initiative is co-ordinated by the British Cables Association (BCA) and involves organisations across the cable supply chain including manufacturers, regulators, approval bodies and organisations representing installers and end users.

The wide level of support demonstrates how important this campaign is, as it affects all sectors of the electrical supply industry and has galvanised opinion on this topic.

OBJECTIVE

The distribution of non-approved, counterfeit and unsafe products throughout the UK is creating major risks for the industry and the UK community.

These products directly undermine UK & European Approval Standards. It is the objective of the ACI to ensure that all cables used in the UK are safe, fit-for-purpose and correctly marked as fully compliant with the required specifications, standards and necessary approvals. To meet our objective we aim to:

- Reduce the amount of non-approved cable in the market
- Eradicate unsafe cable from the supply chain

- Stop deliberate sub-standard manufacturing of cable and ensure all manufacturers fully comply with UK standards and regulations
- Push for more effective legislation, including proper marking of cable
- Report to the authorities and take action against manufacturers who fail to mark cable correctly
- Investigate and provide assistance across the electrical supply industry

STANDARDS & APPROVALS

Cables made to British, European or International standards should operate as specified. This provides the purchaser and user with the confidence that a product is safe to use.

Reputable manufacturers not only manufacture and test to these standards but also put their products through 3rd party testing and approval procedures.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT PROBLEMS?

There is significant evidence that cable is entering the UK which does not meet these standards. These non-approved and counterfeit cables are dangerous and damage the reputation of the electrical sector.

Recent investigations into the industry have revealed that standards are being eroded and safety compromised. Examples of the findings were:

1. Manufacturers not following UK guidelines, and products entering the supply chain through cable distributors and wholesalers who rarely test - or are able to test - the cables they supply.
2. Some traders deliberately specify cables to be manufactured below the required standards and without markings.
3. Approved product is being substituted with non-approved product and then installed, often where it cannot be seen.
4. Cables being supplied with undersized conductors.

Some users do not know, or cannot recognise, the signs of non-approved or substandard product which include: poor quality copper, smaller/incorrect diameter copper, shorter lengths of cable, thin insulation, poor quality insulation sheaths, poor fire performance, no marking, incorrect marking and/or counterfeit marking.

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM OF NON-APPROVED CABLE?

It is estimated that 20% of cable in the UK market is either non-approved or counterfeit. This cable is potentially dangerous. Parliamentary Questions and Data supplied by the Department of Communities & Local Government show that in 2007, 27% of all electrical fires in homes and businesses across England were attributable to faulty wires and cables.

WHO TAKES THE BLAME?

Don't make the mistake of thinking that, until we've stamped out faulty cable, it's someone else's problem. There is legislation already in place that can be used against you if you distribute or install non-approved product:

Health & Safety at Work Act Electricity at Work Regulations

POTENTIAL SANCTIONS INCLUDE:

Unlimited Fine
2 Years Imprisonment

Corporate Manslaughter Act Consumer protection legislation

POTENTIAL SANCTIONS INCLUDE:

YOU – Life imprisonment, unlimited fine, disqualification as a Director
YOUR COMPANY – Unlimited fine levied on company, loss of reputation



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