

Glossary

DIN — Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN). The German Standard for many products.

DIP COATING — An insulating coating applied to the conductor by passing the conductor through an applicator containing liquid insulating medium.

DIRECT BURIAL CABLE — A cable installed directly in the earth.

DIRECT CAPACITANCE — The capacitance measured directly from conductor to conductor through a single insulating layer.

DIRECTIONAL COUPLER — A passive device used in a cable system to divide or combine unidirectional RF power sources.

DIRECTION OF LAY — The lateral direction, designated as left-hand or right-hand, in which the wires of a conductor run over the top of the conductor as they recede from an observer looking along the axis of the conductor.

DISPERSION — The variation of the refractive index of an optical fiber with wavelength, causing light of different wavelengths to travel at different velocities in the fiber.

DISSIPATION FACTOR — Energy lost when voltage is applied across an insulation. The cotangent of the phase angle between voltage and current in a reactive component. Dissipation factor is quite sensitive to contamination and deterioration of insulation. Also known as power factor.

DISTORTION FACTOR — An undesired change in waveform as the signal passes through a device.

DISTRIBUTION CABLE — (1) In a CATV system, the transmission cable from the distribution amplifier to the drop cable, (2) In an electric power system, provides low voltage service to the customer.

DISTURBED CONDUCTOR — A conductor that receives energy generated by the field of another conductor or an external source such as a transformer.

DISTURBING CONDUCTOR — A conductor carrying energy whose field(s) create spurious energy in another conductor.

DOWNLOAD — The process of loading software into the nodes of a network from one node or device over the network media.

DRAIN WIRE — An uninsulated wire in contact with a shield throughout its length, used for terminating the shield.

DRAWING — In wire manufacture, pulling the metal through a die or series of dies to reduce diameter to a specified size.

DROP CABLE — In a CATV system, the transmission cable from the distribution cable to a dwelling.

DSR — Data Set Ready. One of the control signals on a standard RS-232-C connector. It indicates whether the data communications equipment is connected and ready to start handshaking control signals so that transmission can start.

DTR — Data Terminal Ready. An RS-232 modem interface control signal (sent from the DTE to the modem on pin 20) which indicates that the DTE is ready for data transmission and which requests that the modem be connected to the telephone circuit.

DUAL CABLE — A two-cable system in broadband LANs in which coaxial cables provides two physical paths for transmission, one for transmit and one for receive, instead of dividing the capacity of a single cable.

DUCT — An underground or overhead tube for carrying electrical conductors.

DUOFOIL® — Belden trademark for a shield in which metallic foil is applied to both sides of a supporting plastic film.

DUPLEX — Two way data transmission on a four-wire transmission cable.

DUPLEX CABLE — A cable composed of two insulated single conductor cables twisted together.

E

E — (1) Symbol for voltage. Usually used to represent direct voltage or the effective (root-mean-square) value of an alternating voltage, (2) A UL cable type. Elevator lighting and control cable.

EARTH — British terminology for zero-reference ground.

ECCENTRICITY — Like concentricity, a measure of the center of a conductor's location with respect to the circular cross section of the insulation. Expressed as a percentage of displacement of one circle within the other.

ECTFE — Ethylene chlorotrifluoroethylene. Halar is an Ausimont Co. trademark for this material. Used as an insulation or jacketing material.

EDDY CURRENT — Circulating currents induced in conducting materials by varying magnetic fields.

EIA — Electronic Industries Association. The U.S. national organization of electronic manufacturers. It is responsible for the development and maintenance of industry standards for the interface between data processing machines and data communications equipment.

ELASTOMER — Any material that will return to its original dimensions after being stretched or distorted.

ELECTROMAGNET — A device consisting of a ferromagnetic core and a coil that produces appreciable magnetic effects only when an electric current exists in the coil.

ELECTROMAGNETIC — Referring to the combined electric and magnetic fields caused by electron motion through conductors.

ELECTROMAGNETIC COUPLING — The transfer of energy by means of a varying magnetic field. Inductive coupling.

ELECTRO-MECHANICAL CABLES — Dual purpose composite cables made up of support strands capable of supporting predetermined loads together with communication, coaxial, or power as integral members of a finished cable.

ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE (E.M.F.) — Pressure or voltage. The force which causes current to flow in a circuit.

ELECTRON — An elementary particle containing the smallest negative electric charge; Charge = 0.16 attocoulomb. Diameter = 1 femtometer.

ELECTRON VOLT — A measure of the energy gained by an electron passing through an electric field produced by one volt.

ELECTRONIC WIRE AND CABLE — Wire or cable used in electronic applications.

ELECTRO-OSMOSIS — The movement of fluids through dielectrics because of electric current.

ELECTROSTATIC — Pertaining to static electricity, or electricity at rest. An electric charge, for example.

ELECTROSTATIC COUPLING — The transfer of energy by means of a varying electrostatic field. Capacitive coupling.

