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See last page for biographical details



The IT cabling infrastructure
division of
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The IT cabling consultants

e-Ready Building Limited
Next generation IT infrastructures

STANDARDISATION HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

by
Mike Gilmore, FIA Technical Director
for Networking+ (July 2009)

June 2009 saw the publication of 2nd editions of the BS EN 50174-1 and BS EN 50174-2 standards which cover the specification and quality assurance of all telecommunication cabling installations and the installation planning and practices inside buildings respectively. These standards are part of a package intended for use by customers (or their consultants) and installers of all types of telecommunications cabling infrastructures but the 2009 versions of BS EN 50174-1 and BS EN 50174-2 are already having an impact outside their primary application base.

For example the Fibre optic Industry Association is rebuilding the On-Line Assistance package for its Approved Installer Scheme and the UK primary standard, BS 6701, is also undergoing revision to simplify its relationship with the new BS EN 50174 standards.

It is said that "as one door closes - another opens" and the European committee responsible for the EN 50174 series has now begun work on the revision of EN 50174-3 which covers installation planning and practices outside buildings. The most obvious changes will be the restructure of the existing document (EN 50174-3:2003) to match the format of the other two standards. These obvious changes will not hide the more fundamental technical updates that will define new, additional, requirements and recommendations for general installations between buildings - irrelevant of where those buildings are or what they are (data centres, operator sites, buildings on a university or commercial campus). All pathways between buildings are included (underground, aerial etc) and the existing contents covering segregation between IT cabling and a variety of external services are to be both maintained and extended.

FIA members can monitor the development of the new work via the Standards Forum area of the FIA web-site. Published standards can be purchased direct from the FIA web-site at www.fia-online.co.uk.

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The Cabling Partnership is a division of e-Ready Building Limited
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Biography

As the Technical and Standards Director of the UK Fibreoptic Industry Association, Mike is heavily involved in the development of training and competence standards for the fibre installation industry and sets down policy in this area. In addition he chairs the audit and arbitration committees for the FIA. His book "Fibre optic cabling; theory design and installation practice" published in 1991 remains a reference for both experts and entrants into this field.

Mike also initiated the establishment of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Advisory Board (TIA-B) along with the relevant directors of its other host organisations CMA and ECA-ITEC.

In the UK, Mike is Chairman of TCT7, the BSI Technical Committee responsible for the three panels on telecommunication cabling. He also chairs two of these panels (TCT7/-/1 and TCT7/-/3) and is Secretary of TCT7/-/2. TCT7/-/1 and TCT7/-/2 act to assist development of European and international standards for the design and installation of telecommunications cabling respectively. TCT7/-/2 also manages the implementation of these standards in the UK, where necessary producing supporting national standards.

Mike is involved in CENELEC TC215 - as Convenor of Working Group 1 and Secretary of Working Group 2. These committees are responsible for the development of an integrated series of standards for the design and installation of telecommunications cabling in a range of premises. In 2008 he led the ETSI STF362 on energy efficiency in broadband deployment resulting in the ETSI TS 105174 series documents, allowing Mike to assist in a new TC215 activity covering data centre facilities and infrastructures (monitored in the UK by BSI TCT7/-/3).

At international level, Mike is Convenor of the Cabling Implementation Task Group (CITG) within ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3. This group is responsible for the strategic management of the international standards covering the specification, QA, installation, administration, operation, maintenance and repair of generic cabling. This work supports all the cabling design standards produced by ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3 including ISO/IEC 11801, ISO/IEC 15018, ISO/IEC 24764 and ISO/IEC 24702 for industrial premises produced by ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3 IPTG (also convened by Mike Gilmore).

Mike is a regular speaker at seminars and conferences in all five continents. He has provided the keynote address and opening presentation in many conferences in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands. His seminars, providing regular updates on the progression of cabling standards are particularly well attended and are operating in the UK and continental Europe.



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