



**STANDARD FOR OPTICAL FIBER
OUTSIDE PLANT MICRODUCT CABLES**

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INSULATED CABLE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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FOREWORD

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The user of this Standard is cautioned to observe any applicable health or safety regulations and rules relative to the manufacture and use of cable made in conformity with this Standard. This Standard hereafter assumes that only properly trained personnel using suitable equipment will perform manufacture, testing, installation, and maintenance of cables defined by this Standard.

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CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
PART 1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Scope.....	1
1.2	General	3
1.3	Units.....	3
1.4	Definitions	3
1.5	References	5
1.6	Information to be Supplied by the User	5
1.7	Modification of this Standard	5
1.8	Quality Assurance.....	5
1.9	Safety Considerations	5
PART 2	OPTICAL FIBERS	7
2.1	General	7
2.2	Optical Fiber Classes.....	7
2.3	Optical Fiber Requirements.....	7
2.4	Optical Fiber Coating and Requirements	7
PART 3	OPTICAL FIBER CORE UNITS	11
3.1	General	11
3.2	Loose Buffer Tubes	11
3.3	Optical Fiber Bundles	12
3.4	Optical Fiber Ribbons	12
3.5	Tight Buffers	13
PART 4	CABLE AND COMPONENT ASSEMBLY AND IDENTIFICATION	15
4.1	Cabling of Multi-Fiber and Composite Optical Cables	15
4.2	Identification of Fibers within a Unit.....	15
4.3	Identification of Units within a Cable.....	15
4.4	Strength Members	17
4.5	Assembly of Cables.....	17
4.6	Filling and Flooding Material.....	17

CONTENTS (cont.)

<u>SECTION</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
PART 5	COVERINGS	18
5.1	Binders.....	18
5.2	Core Wrap	18
5.3	Jackets	18
5.4	Jacket Repairs	19
5.5	Ripcords.....	19
PART 6	OTHER REQUIREMENTS	20
6.1	Identification and Date Markings	20
6.2	Optical Cable Identification and Other Markings	20
6.3	Length Marking	20
6.4	Cable Remarking.....	21
6.5	Packaging, Packing, and Package Marking.....	21
PART 7	TESTING, TEST METHODS, AND REQUIREMENTS	23
7.1	Testing	23
7.2	Extent of Testing.....	23
7.3	Standard Test Conditions	23
7.4	Electrical Testing of Conductive Materials	24
7.5	Construction, Color Code, and Identification.....	24
7.6	Environmental Stress Crack Resistance Test.....	24
7.7	Verification of Cable Length and Marking Accuracy	25
7.8	Weathering Test	25
7.9	Cable and Component Dimensions.....	26
7.10	Ribbon Dimensions	27
7.11	Ribbon Twist Test.....	28
7.12	Ribbon Residual Twist Test.....	28
7.13	Ribbon Separability Test	29
7.14	Ripcord Functional Test.....	30
7.15	Material Compatibility and Cable Aging Test	30
7.16	Tight Buffer Strippability Test	32

CONTENTS (cont.)

<u>SECTION</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
Part 7:	(Continued)	
7.17	Cable Low Temperature Bend Test	32
7.18	Compound Flow (Drip) Test for Filled Cable	33
7.19	Cable Temperature Cycling Test.....	34
7.20	Cable Aging Test	34
7.21	Cyclic Flexing Test.....	35
7.22	Water Penetration Test.....	35
7.23	Cable Impact Test.....	36
7.24	Cable Tensile Loading and Fiber Strain Test.....	36
7.25	Cable Compression Loading Test	38
7.26	Cable Twist Test	39
7.27	Mid Span Buffer Tube Storage	39
7.28	Oxidative Induction Time, OIT	40
7.29	Cable Kink Test	41
7.30	Buffer Tube Kink Test.....	41
PART 8	FINISHED CABLE OPTICAL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS	43
8.1	Optical Performance	43
8.2	Attenuation Coefficient.....	44
8.3	Multimode Optical Bandwidth	45
8.4	Optical Point Discontinuities	45
8.5	Cable Cutoff Wavelength (Single-Mode Fibers Only)	46
8.6	Polarization Mode Dispersion (Single-Mode Fibers Only)	46
PART 9	REFERENCES	48
<u>ANNEXES</u>		
Annex A (Informative)	Suggested Information for a Purchase Document.....	52
Annex B _(Normative)	1625 nm Cabled Fiber Performance Requirements	54
Annex C _(Informative)	Telecommunications Cable Standards.....	55

CONTENTS (cont.)

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
 <u>FIGURES</u>	
Figure 7.1 Ribbon dimensional parameters.....	27
Figure 7.2 Ribbon preparation	29
Figure 7.3 Ribbon separation.....	30
 <u>TABLES</u>	
<u>PAGE</u>	
Table 1.1 Cable normal temperature ranges.....	2
Table 2.1 Multimode optical fiber specification requirements.....	8
Table 2.2 Single-mode optical fiber specification requirements.....	9
Table 2.3 Fiber Bend characteristics of G.657 single-mode fiber (informative)	9
Table 4.1 Individual fiber, unit, and group identification	16
Table 7.1 Maximum dimensions of optical fiber ribbons	27
Table 8.1 Attenuation coefficient performance requirements.....	43
Table 8.2 Multimode bandwidth coefficient performance requirements.....	43
Table 8.3 Point discontinuity acceptance criteria	44
Table 8.4 Optical attenuation measurement methods	44
Table 8.5 Multimode optical bandwidth measurement methods.....	45
Table B.1 Acceptance criteria for L-Band operation.....	54

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PART 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope

1.1.1 Products

This Standard covers performance requirements for microduct optical fiber outside plant cables intended for installation in microducts, typically by blowing in using commercially available equipment intended for this application. Products covered by this Standard are intended only for operation under conditions normally found in outside plant communication systems. Typically, these products are installed in protected ducts but may be also run for short distances in both exposed areas and in concealed areas (such as handholes), with or without external protection. Due to the thinner jacket usually associated with microduct cables, they typically do not have the jacket durability to be pulled into conduit for long distances even at or below the rated tensile strength. Additionally, the impact resistance, compression resistance and tensile strength requirements for cables covered by this Standard may be significantly lower than those for conventional outside plant cables covered by ICEA-640. Therefore, installation of cables covered by this Standard by techniques such as capstan pulling, aerial lashing, trenching, and direct burial is not recommended.

1.1.2 Applications Space

Products covered by this Standard are intended for operation only under conditions normally found in communications systems. These products normally convey communications signals (voice, video, and data) including but not limited to point-to-point or point-to-multipoint installations. Products covered by this Standard may be factory terminated with connectors or splicing modules.

1.1.3 Temperature Ranges

The normal temperature ranges for cables covered by this Standard are given in Table 1.1.

Two temperature performance levels are specified for this Standard.

- Standard temperature performance - This level is considered to be in line with normal outside plant performance levels. This category will ensure performance in scenarios that include transitions between unconnected microduct systems or between a microduct system and some other protective structure, such as a conduit or tray.

- Moderate temperature performance – This level is characterized for installation in moderate climates or when the cable will not be exposed to short transitions below -30 °C (-22 °F).

If “Moderate Temperature Performance” is specified, the performance level should be clearly stated. This may be done using product specification sheets, customer quotations, or similar means.

Table 1.1 - Cable normal temperature ranges

Standard Temperature Performance	°C	(°F)
Operation	-40 to +70	(-40 to +158)
Storage and Shipping	-40 to +70	(-40 to +158)
Installation	-30 to +60	(-22 to +140)

Moderate Temperature Performance	°C	(°F)
Operation	-30 to +60	(-22 to +140)
Storage and Shipping	-30 to +60	(-22 to +140)
Installation	-10 to +50	(+14 to +122)

1.1.4 Tensile Rating

The minimum tensile rating for cables covered by this Standard is based on cable weight and is equivalent to the force exerted by the weight of 1,000 m of cable. While microduct cable should be blown into duct instead of pulled, a tensile strength is specified to provide durability and handling robustness.

1.1.5 Minimum Bend Diameter

The standard minimum bend diameters for cables covered by this Standard are:

Residual Condition (Installed): 20X Cable OD, or 30X for ribbon cables (≥ 216 fibers)

Loaded Condition (During Installation): 40X Cable OD

For very small cables, such as those installed in miniature ducts, manufacturers may specify a fixed cable minimum bend diameter (e.g., 300 mm) that is independent of the cable outer diameter (OD).