



# EDA's Scottish Regional Business Forum

## Non compliant cables and the CPR

An estimated 20% of cable products in the supply chain are non-approved, unsafe or counterfeit: What's the impact on the wholesaler and what difference will the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) make?

**Martin Boorman,**  
UK Sales Manager  
Prysmian Group.



# Today's Presentation

## ACANTS – All Cables Are Not The Same

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Introduction

Fake Britain

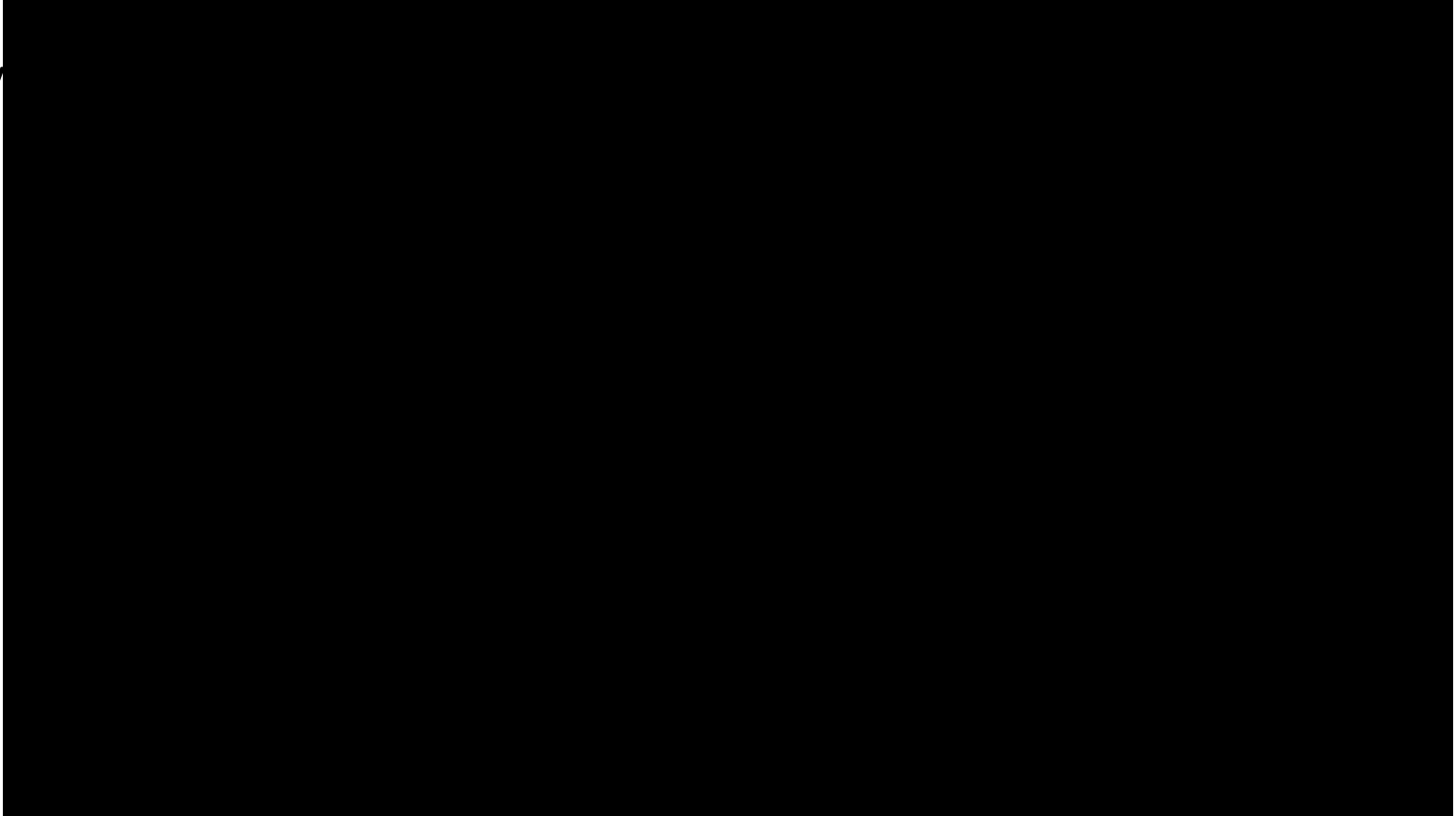
The ACI – The Approved Cable Initiative

CPR – The Construction Products regulation

Summary



Play





# LOW QUALITY IMPORTS

## CASE 1: Infinity and Olsent Cables Australia

- 2010-2013 Infinity and Olsent cables were imported and installed in an estimated 40,000 homes and commercial offices in Australia.
- Infinity and Olsent branded cables failed to meet electrical safety standards due to poor quality insulation.
- To date, 27 suppliers have announced recalls of Infinity/Olsent cables.
- In August 2015, NSW Fair Trading issued a mandatory recall notice under the NSW electrical safety regulations to a further 25 suppliers





# LOW QUALITY IMPORTS

## CASE 2: Ecables Australia

- In October 2014, Ecables were discovered to withstand half the temperatures they claimed to.
- This discovery was only made 2 years after the cable had been in circulation in Australia.
- Energy Safe Victoria (ESV), an independent technical regulator responsible for electricity, gas and pipeline safety in Victoria, issued a mandatory recall notice to E-Cables Pty Ltd for copper clad aluminium (CCA) power cable with RE110 insulation supplied since 2011..
- These cables had been sold to electricians and were used in residential buildings & hotels



# LOW QUALITY IMPORTS

## CASE 3: SKL Cables Australia

- In 2015, a batch of cables manufactured in China and imported by SKL was found to break down and become brittle prematurely.
- The prohibition affected SKL brand TPS twin and earth cable with marking '2013', sold or distributed by SKL Cables Australia Pty Ltd,
- The material used in these cables was not a suitable compound that complied with Australian safety standards.



# Approved Cables Initiative

*Our aim is to stop sub-standard, non  
approved or dangerous cable entering the UK  
market*

# **Approved Cables Initiative (ACI)**

**Established 2010 to educate  
and inform the electrical  
supply industry of sub-  
standard, non-approved and  
unsafe cable.**

To date many millions of metres of  
defective cable have been removed from  
the market place.

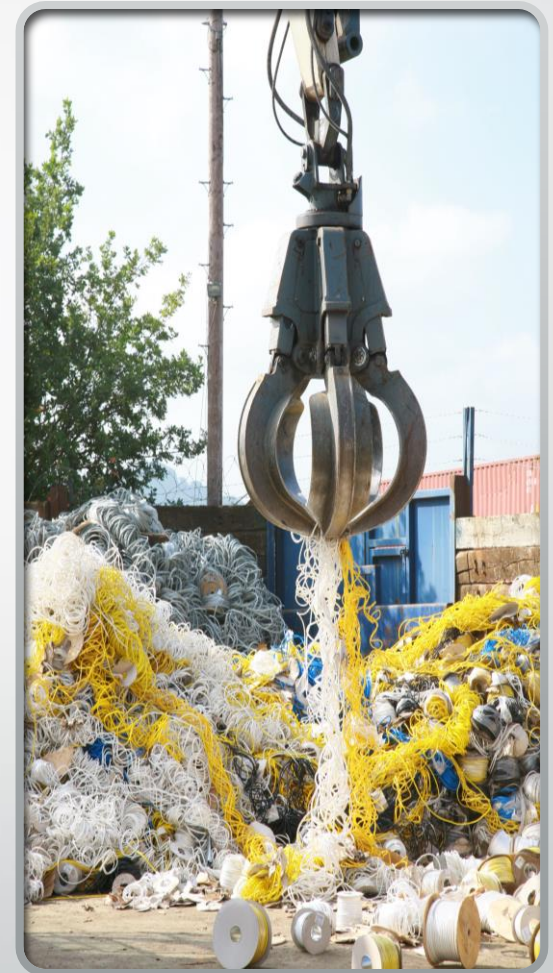
**ACI is the first initiative of its kind and  
has Trading Standards and Health &  
Safety Executive support.**



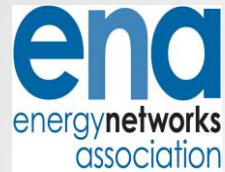


## Sub-standard cable - not just a UK problem - it is a worldwide concern.

- France, China, South Korea, India, the Middle East and Australia all reported issues with sub-standard cable recently.
- Some have better legislation for managing and control their import:
  - *From August 2014, the importation, entry, selling and/or display of non-complaint cables and low voltage electrical wire into the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is prohibited and only compliant products, having the necessary ESMA Certificate of Conformity, will be allowed into the country.*



# Our industry supporters





Communicates with cable supply industry and member associations as well as Electrical Safety Roundtable/Electrical Safety First

Now focusing on Distributors and to launch an ACI wholesaler/distributor scheme to encourage better practice within the industry



Communicates with Government, meeting as appropriate with relevant Ministers and MPs/MEPs who share an interest and support the ACI's work

Attends relevant conferences/events (Party Conferences, relevant Select Committee Group meetings, TSI Conference)



Communicates with other industry sectors to share experience and knowledge – In particular the construction, insurance and fire safety industries – presentations and meetings

ACI advises and informs stakeholders on sub-standard cables issues

# The sub-standard cable problem

Positive  
work

Negative  
actions

Millions of metres of sub-standard cable removed and destroyed

Awareness of the sub-standard cable issue has been heightened

UK Distributors order overseas manufacturers to produce under sized cable

Mis-selling of data cable -(low cost Copper Clad Aluminium (CCA)) supplied and installed

Inferior cable product sold unmarked making it untraceable; misuse of trade marks common place

Government doesn't accept need for legislation. Encourages industry to self regulation

# Why we need change?

## Risk to Life

- Millions of metres of sub-standard cable already discovered
- Sub-standard cable found installed in houses, schools, hospitals and other public buildings
- Alarms that don't sound, sprinklers that don't activate, emergency light that doesn't operate - ALL risk lives

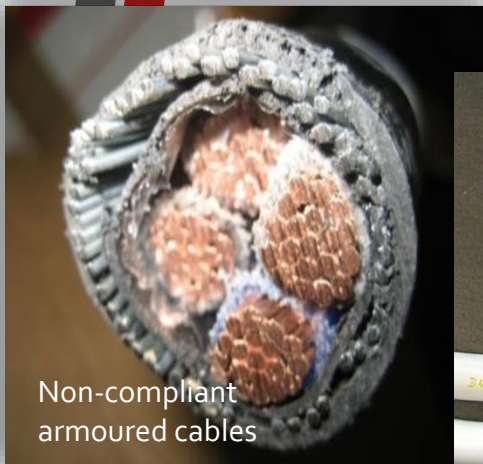
## Risk to livelihoods

- Contractors are risking their livelihood by buying and installing non-approved cable
- A costly mistake when contractors must make good where sub-standard cable is installed

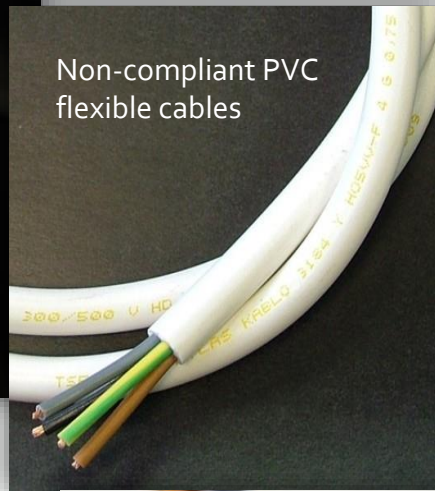
## Risk to UK business

- UK's domestic cable industry seen as centre of high-quality, safe cabling product
- Yet sub-standard cable has already forced more than 30 UK producers out of business





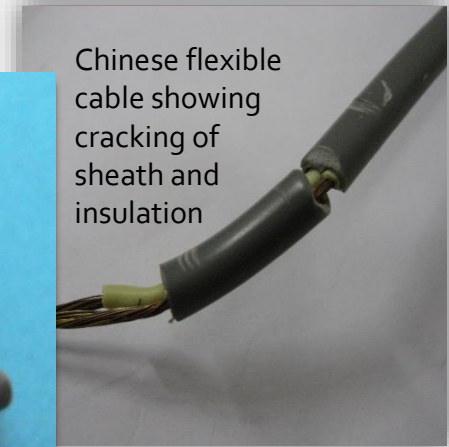
Non-compliant armoured cables



Non-compliant PVC flexible cables



Non-compliant cable, manufactured in China, removed from Wilko retailers



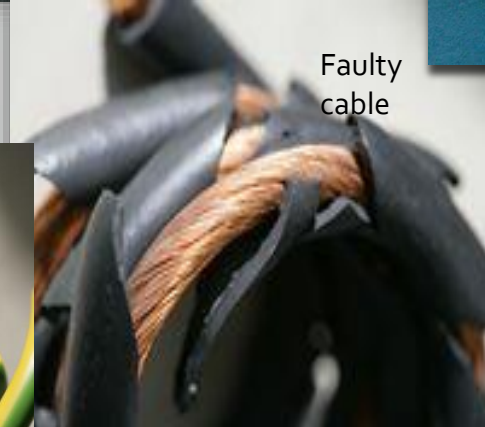
Chinese flexible cable showing cracking of sheath and insulation



Fake fire resistant cables



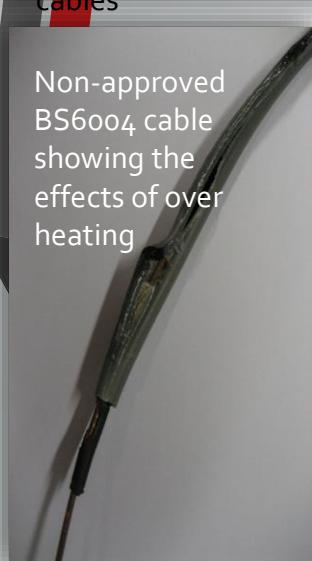
Faulty cable



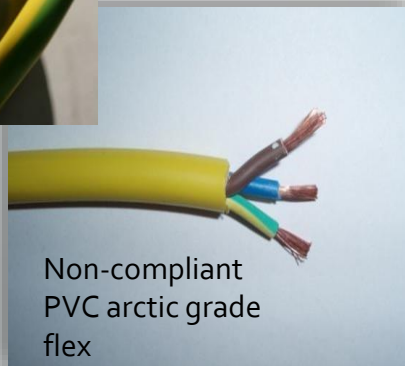
Faulty cable



Non-compliant PVC arctic grade flex



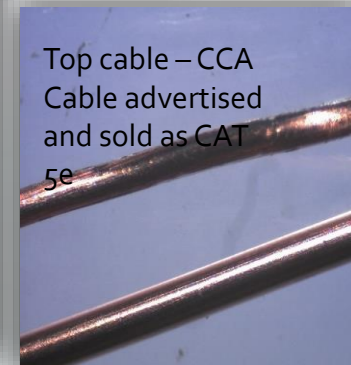
Non-approved BS6004 cable showing the effects of over heating



Non-compliant PVC arctic grade flex



Non-standard, non-approved lighting cable



Top cable – CCA Cable advertised and sold as CAT 5e

# Hall of Shame

# ACI is looking to tip the balance

- Legislation to ensure cable installed in UK must be compliant with relevant standards
- Such cable must be independently third party approved
- ACI continues to press for legislative policy change to enable better control over cable imports at the point or place of entry.
- ACI is also pressing for changes to Wiring Regulations to meet its aims.



# What are the ACI doing

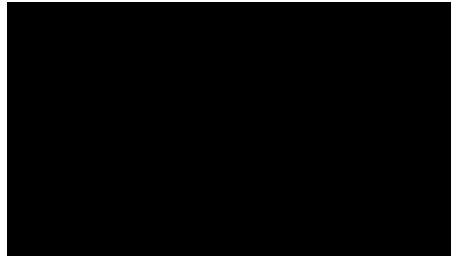
- Lobbying Government, agencies, stakeholder groups who can help
- Communicating issues as and when they happen
- Managing our own testing of suspect cable
- Getting closer to distributors
- Taking our work into the public arena- highlighting the health and safety issues around sub-standard cable



**Fire performance requirements  
for cables under the CPR.  
(Construction Products Regulation)**



Play CPR video.



## What is CPR

- The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) will become a legal requirement from 1st July 2017 under UK Statutory Instrument #1387 to many but not all cables.
- For cables - CPR covers any cables intended to be incorporated in construction works in a permanent manner, including both buildings and civil engineering works.
- CPR introduces obligatory Declaration of Performance and CE marking of cables for construction works with their fire performance.
- CPR does not in itself impose requirements on the level of performance of products. Setting safety levels remains a national responsibility:





## WHICH ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CABLES ARE UNDER THE CPR?

### **Safety in case of fire**

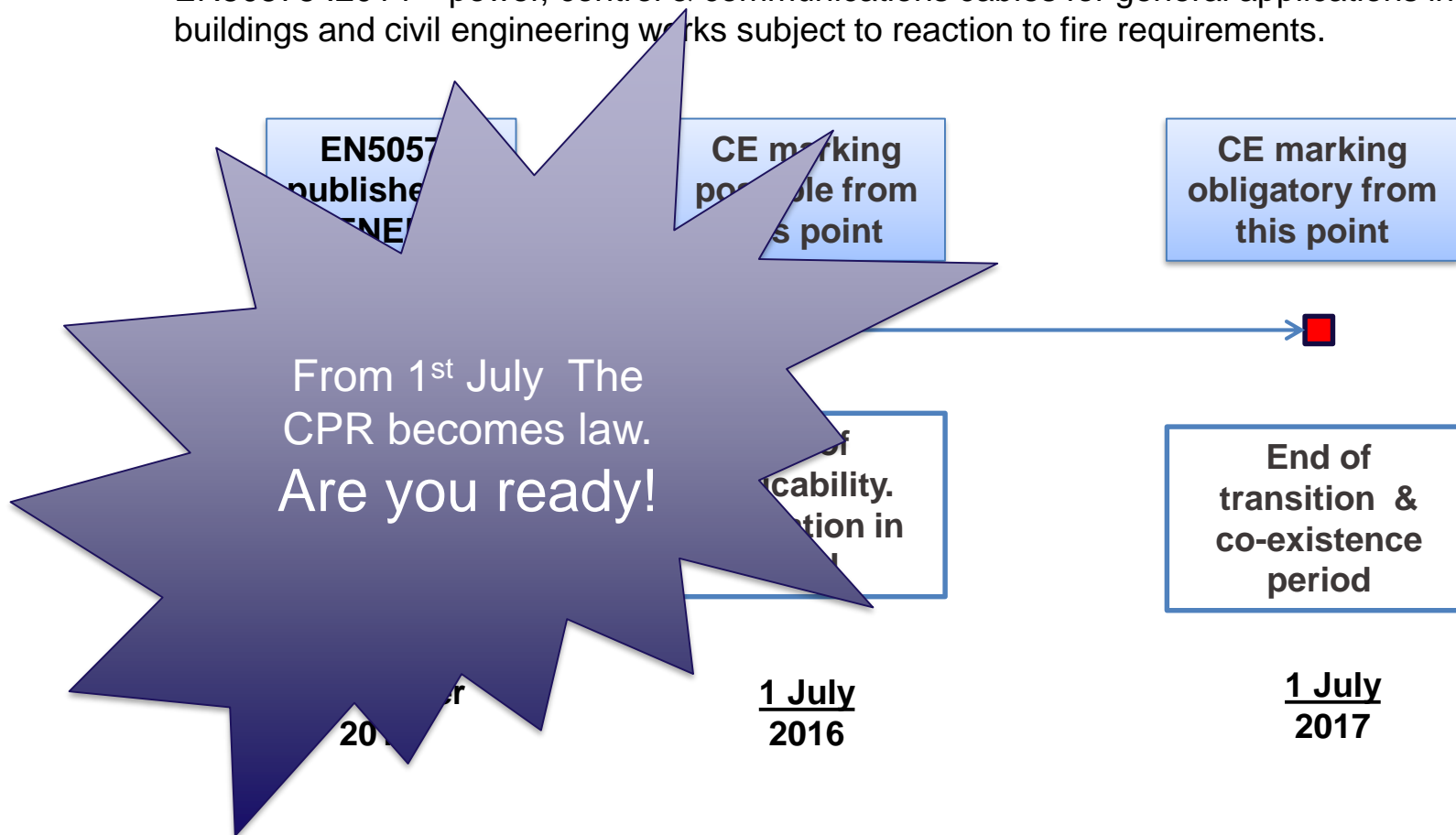
- Reaction to fire : EN50575: 2014
- Resistance to fire : To follow

### **Scope of EN50575 includes:**

- Test methods for reaction to fire classes
- Initial type testing and Factory production control
- Marking, labelling and packaging
- Declaration of Performance and CE marking and labelling
- Note that there is no voltage restriction
- Note that fire resistant cables are specifically excluded from this standard

## CPR REACTION TO FIRE - TIMELINE

EN50575 :2014 – power, control & communications cables for general applications in buildings and civil engineering works subject to reaction to fire requirements.



## The Compliance Process

UK: CPR = law

### Notified Body

- Test cable & issue approval to requested euroclass

### Declaration of Performance (DOP)

- Manufacturer can only raise after approval from Notified body,

### CE mark

- Can only be applied if a DOP available

Note: If cable is imported from outside the EU the Importer takes on the legal responsibility of the manufacturer

CPR does not in itself impose requirements on the level of performance of products

## New mandatory obligations



For manufacturers  
including importers and distributors  
*and wholesalers*



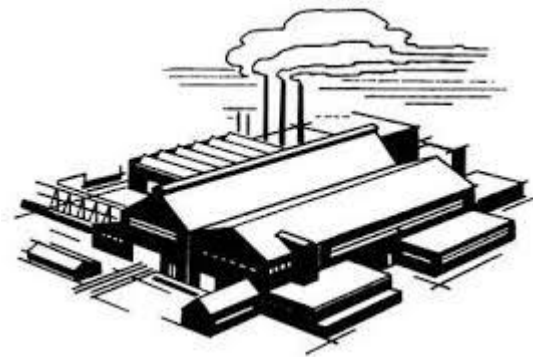
For regulators  
including “de facto” regulators



For users including use in regulated  
and non-regulated applications

## Key mandatory obligations of the manufacturer

- Make a *declaration of performance(DOP)* with regard to reaction to fire
- Make available a DOP based on 3rd party testing from an official notified body
- Apply a CE mark to indicate the product is consistent with its DOP in the prescribed form
- Ensure the product on the market is in accordance with the DOP
- Assume legal responsibility for the performance of this product to its declared performance





## Key mandatory obligations of the Wholesaler

These requirement applies to anybody in the supply chain who sell on cable already placed on the market. They must:-

- Ensure the manufacturer or importer has complied with all the relevant CPR requirements
- Make sure a DOP is available
- Ensure cables they supply bear the correct CE marking
- Not supply any product they believe does not confirm to its declared performance
- Ensure that if they believe a product is not in conformity they withdraw/recall it



## Key mandatory obligations of the Importer

These regulations apply to anybody importing cable from outside of the EU

- Ensure the cable is CPR compliant and has a CE mark and a DOP
- Mark on the packaging their name, registered trade name and their contact address
- Carry out sample testing of the products when appropriate, keep a register of complaints, non conformance and product recalls
- Keep a copy for 10 years of the DOP for all products they supply.
- Make documents available to market surveillance authorities

*In this case Compliance is the obligation of the importer not the exporting manufacturer*





## NEW OBLIGATIONS FOR USERS

- To be aware of the new "Euroclass" performance
- To be aware of the availability of the DoP as a source of information on product performance
- To be aware of any applicable regulatory requirements
- To choose products most suitable for their intended use in construction works in both "regulated" and "non-regulated" applications
- Users may need to have a broad understanding of the relationship between the new common "classes" performance and that expressed through existing European and International standards
- No changes to installation practice should be required due to CPR

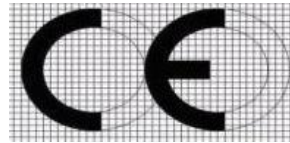
## Essential requirements of the Declaration of performance (DOP)

- THE DOP must be drawn up by the manufacturer,
- They assumes responsibility for the conformity of the product with the declared Euroclass performance
- Where cable is imported from outside the EU then the Importer is responsible
- CE marking may not be applied unless a DoP is available

\*

### The DOP must show

1. DOP number
2. Unique identification code of the product-type
3. Intended use
4. Manufacturer
5. Authorised representative:
6. Harmonised Standard
7. Notified body
6. System/s of AVCP:
7. Declared performance



## MARKING OF CABLES

- CE marking signifies compliance with applicable legislation
- For cables, the CE mark shall be affixed visibly, legibly and indelibly to the product labels affixed to the reels, coils or drums of cable. Not on the cable itself.
- CE marking may not be applied unless a DoP is available
- The CE marking label must make reference to the notified body used
- Until the resistance to fire standard is available Fire Resistant cables can only be CE marked to LV directive not to CPR

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 it is obligatory for cables purchased by wholesalers to contain full CPR information on the reel, box or drum label.

## **The new CE label should be applied to the cable packaging and must show**

- The CE mark
- Identification number of the testing body
- Name and address of the manufacturer
- The year cable first put on the market
- The DOP reference number
- The declared euroclass performance
- The European product standard
- A unique identification code
- Intended use of the product

This is much more information than appears on many products currently available in the market and makes it harder to sell sub standard cables.

## Key actions for Wholesalers from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017

- Check if a cable you are buying needs to be CPR complaint
- Then ensure the manufacturer confirms the cable is CPR compliant.
- Ask the manufacturer for copies of their DOP for the ranges you buy.
- Have a product withdrawal and recall system in place
- If you import cable from outside of the EU then refer to the CPR documentation to ensure you are in compliance with the law.





# ACANTS Summary

- Not all cable is fit for purpose
- It is not easy in the supply chain to spot unsafe or non complaint cable
- CPR ensure 3<sup>rd</sup> party involvement is a legal requirement
- CPR gives clarity of performance and cable origin
- This helps everybody in the supply chain ensure cable is of the required quality.



# Thank you