FM Approvals

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Examination Standard for Blankets for Cable Trays

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Foreword

This standard is intended to verify that the products and services described will meet stated conditions of performance, safety and quality useful to the ends of property conservation. The purpose of this standard is to present the criteria for examination of various types of products and services.

Examination in accordance with this standard shall demonstrate compliance and verify that quality control in manufacturing shall ensure a consistent and reliable product.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

1.1.1 This standard states testing and certification requirements for blankets used to wrap cable trays for the purpose of limiting fire exposure to the cables.

1.1.2 Testing and certification criteria may include performance requirements, marking requirements, examination of manufacturing facility(ies), audit of quality assurance procedures, and a surveillance program.

1.2 SCOPE

1.2.1 This standard applies to any component intended to or for use in the covering of cable trays using a blanket material.

1.3 BASIS FOR REQUIREMENTS

1.3.1 The requirements of this standard are based on experience, research and testing, and/or the standards of other organizations. The advice of manufacturers, users, trade associations, jurisdictions and/or loss control specialists was also considered.

1.3.2 The requirements of this standard reflect tests and practices used to examine characteristics of blankets for cable trays for the purpose of obtaining certification.

1.4 BASIS FOR CERTIFICATION

Certification is based upon satisfactory evaluation of the product and the manufacturer in the following major areas:

1.4.1 Examination and tests on production samples shall be performed to evaluate:

- the suitability of the product;
- the performance of the product as specified by the manufacturer and required for certification,
- the durability and reliability of the product.

1.4.2 An examination of the manufacturing facilities and audit of quality control procedures may be conducted to evaluate the manufacturer's ability to consistently produce the product which is examined and tested, and the marking procedures used to identify the product. Subsequent surveillance may be required by the certification agency in accordance with the certification scheme to ensure ongoing compliance.

1.5 BASIS FOR CONTINUED CERTIFICATION

The basis for continual certification may include the following based upon the certification scheme and requirements of the certification agency:

- production or availability of the product as currently certified;
- the continued use of acceptable quality assurance procedures;
- compliance with the terms stipulated by the certification;
- satisfactory re-examination of production samples for continued conformity to requirements; and
- satisfactory surveillance audits conducted as part of the certification agencies product surveillance program.

1.6 EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this examination standard mandates that all products tested for certification after the effective date shall satisfy the requirements of this standard.

The effective date of this standard is eighteen (18) months after the publication date of the standard for compliance with all requirements.

1.7 SYSTEM OF UNITS

Units of measurement used in this standard are United States (U.S.) customary units. These are followed by their arithmetic equivalents in International System (SI) units, enclosed in parentheses. The first value stated shall be regarded as the requirement. The converted equivalent value may be approximate. Conversion of U.S. customary units is in accordance with ANSI/IEEE/ASTM SI 10.

1.8 NORMATIVE REFERENCES

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the cited edition applies.

ANSI/IEEE/ASTM SI 10, American National Standard for Metric Practice

ASTM E1725, Standard Methods for Fire Tests of Fire Resistive Barrier Systems for Electrical System Components

ASTM E1529, Standard Test Methods for Determining Effects of Large Hydrocarbon Pool Fires on Structural Members and Assemblies

1.9 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this standard, the following terms apply:

Blanket A flexible insulation type material to be used to wrap around cable trays for the purpose of limiting fire exposure to the cables.

Cable Tray A structural support systems holding or storing cables.

2 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 PRODUCT INFORMATION

Blankets are a flexible material placed around the cable tray. They may be fabricated as plain insulation, with or without a laminated foil material over the insulation blanket. The cable blanket may be supplied in various thicknesses, densities and widths. Other designs meeting the criteria of this standard may also be considered for certification.

2.2 CERTIFICATION APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The manufacturer shall provide the following preliminary information with any request for certification consideration:

- A complete list of all models, types, sizes, and options for the products or services being submitted for certification consideration;
- Materials list, anticipated marking format, brochures, sales literature, spec. sheets, installation, operation and maintenance procedures.
- The number and location of manufacturing facilities.
- All documents shall identify the manufacturer's name, document number or other form of reference, title, date of last revision, and revision level. All documents shall be provided with English translation.

2.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR SAMPLES FOR EXAMINATION

2.3.1 Following authorization of a certification examination, the manufacturer shall submit samples for examination and testing based on the following:

- hourly rating;
- thickness, density and width;
- material composition;
- sample requirements to be determined by the certification agency.

2.3.2 Requirements for samples may vary depending on design features, results of prior or similar testing, and results of any foregoing tests.

2.3.3 The manufacturer shall submit samples representative of production.

2.3.4 It is the manufacturer's responsibility to provide any necessary test fixtures, such as those which may be required to evaluate the blanket.

3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION

3.1.1 During the initial investigation and prior to physical testing, the manufacturer's specifications and details shall be reviewed to assess the ease and practicality of installation and use. The certification examination results may further define the limits of the final certification.

3.2 MARKINGS

3.2.1 Marking on the product or, if not possible due to size, on its packaging or label accompanying the product, shall include the following information:

- name and address of the manufacturer or marking traceable to the manufacturer;
- date of manufacture or code traceable to date of manufacture or lot identification;
- model number, size, rating, capacity, as appropriate.

When hazard warnings are needed, the markings should be universally recognizable.

3.2.2 The model or type identification shall correspond with the manufacturer's catalog designation and shall uniquely identify the certification agency's mark of conformity.

3.2.3 The certification agency's mark of conformity shall be displayed visibly and permanently on the product and/or packaging as appropriate and in accordance with the requirements of the certification agency. The manufacturer shall exercise control of this mark as specified by the certification agency and the certification scheme.

3.2.4 All markings shall be legible and durable.

3.3 MANUFACTURER'S INSTALLATION AND OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS

3.3.1 The manufacturer shall

- prepare instructions for the installation, maintenance, and operation of the product;
- provide facilities for repair of the product and supply replacement parts, if applicable; and
- provide services to ensure proper installation, inspection, or maintenance for products of such nature that it would not be reasonable to expect the average user to be able to provide such installation, inspection, or maintenance.

3.4 CALIBRATION

3.4.1 Each piece of equipment used to verify the test parameters shall be calibrated within an interval determined on the basis of stability, purpose, and usage. A copy of the calibration certificate for each piece of test equipment is required. The certificate shall indicate that the calibration was performed against working standards whose calibration is certified and traceable to an acceptable reference standard and certified by an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited calibration laboratory. The test equipment shall be clearly identified by label or sticker showing the last date of the calibration and the next due date. A copy of the service provider's accreditation certificate as an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited calibration laboratory should be available.

3.4.2 When the inspection equipment and/or environment is not suitable for labels or stickers, other methods such as etching of control numbers on the measuring device are allowed, provided documentation is maintained on the calibration status of thus equipment.

4 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.1 FIRE EXPOSURE TEST

4.1.1 Requirement

The tested sample shall meet the fire resistance acceptance requirements of ASTM E1725. The results are reported in terms of time increments such as, ½ hr., 1 hr., 1-1/2 hr.

4.1.2 Test/Verification

The fire exposure test is conducted in accordance with the test configuration requirements of ASTM E1725 using the rapid temperature rise curve in ASTM E1529.

5 OPERATIONS REQUIREMENTS

5.1 DEMONSTRATED QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM

5.1.1 A quality assurance program is required to assure that subsequent products produced by the manufacturer shall present the same quality and reliability as the specific products examined. Design quality, conformance to design, and performance are the areas of primary concern.

- Design quality is determined during the examination and tests and may be documented in the certification report.
- Continued conformance to this standard is verified by the certifier's surveillance program.
- Quality of performance is determined by field performance and by periodic re-examination and testing.

5.1.2 The manufacturer shall demonstrate a quality assurance program which specifies controls for at least the following areas:

- existence of corporate quality assurance guidelines;
- incoming quality assurance, including testing;
- in-process quality assurance, including testing;
- final inspection and tests;
- equipment calibration;
- drawing and change control;
- packaging and shipping; and
- handling and disposition of non-conforming materials.

5.1.3 Documentation/Manual

There should be an authoritative collection of procedures/policies. It should provide an accurate description of the quality management system while serving as a permanent reference for implementation and maintenance of that system. The system should require that sufficient records are maintained to demonstrate achievement of the required quality and verify operation of the quality system.

5.1.4 Records

To assure adequate traceability of materials and products, the manufacturer shall maintain a record of all quality assurance tests performed, for a minimum period of two years from the date of manufacture.

5.1.5 Drawing and Change Control

- The manufacturer shall establish a system of product configuration control that shall allow no unauthorized changes to the product. Changes to critical documents, identified in the certification report, may be required to be reported to, and authorized by the certification agency prior to implementation for production.
- Records of all revisions to all certified products shall be maintained.

5.2 SURVEILLANCE AUDIT

5.2.1 An audit of the manufacturing facility may be part of the certification agencies surveillance requirements to verify implementation of the quality assurance program. Its purpose is to determine that the manufacturer's equipment, procedures, and quality program are maintained to ensure a uniform product consistent with that which was tested and certified.

5.2.2 Certified products or services shall be produced or provided at, or provided from, location(s) disclosed as part of the certification examination. Manufacture of products bearing a certification mark is not permitted at any other location prior to disclosure to the certification agency.

5.3 MANUFACTURER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

5.3.1 The manufacturer shall notify the certification agency of changes in product construction, components, raw materials, physical characteristics, coatings, component formulation or quality assurance procedures prior to implementation.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

ISO/IEC 17025, *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*.