

**Low smoke, zero halogen cable sources?
Originated by Robbie Laird on Fri, 22 Mar 2013**

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Hi

Can anyone recommend a source for low smoke, zero halogen cable?
(Actually, what we are really looking for is ABS approval) In particular, signal cable, (STP, USTP), ethernet, and fiber. I'd like to be able to buy cut lengths if possible, although purchasing by the spool is an option.

Robbie Laird
WHOI

Reply From: Marc Willis (OSU) on Fri, 22 Mar 2013

Robbie,

You can look up "type approved" cables on the ABS website (eagle.org). As I understand it, ABS approval is only required for cables that are "critical" (ship control, power cables, emergency services, etc.). Depending on the use, it may not be necessary to put in low-smoke, zero-halogen cabling for things like shipboard networks. The USCG rules may or may not agree - sometimes they do, sometimes not. But, I AM NO EXPERT. From where I sit, most plenum rated cables are suitable for general shipboard use - it's when you get into critical functions that some of the rules kick in. But, again, I AM NO EXPERT.

Marc

Marc Willis
SIKULIAQ Shipyard Project Office
Marine Science Technical Director

Reply from Sarah Kaye on Fri, 22 Mar 2013

When conflicting information on The Internets has baffled me, I've found our local Graybar rep to be very helpful. Yes, they want to sell you stuff - but they also want a long-term relationship with you, so they'd rather sell you the right stuff.

Sarah

Reply From: Webb Pinner on Fri, 22 Mar 2013

Robbie,

Westlake Electronic has a whole page of GEPCO Cable that's shipboard-rated, ABS approved. Should help get the ball rolling. I've been using GEPCO for a few years and been pretty happy with the quality.

<http://westlake-electronic.com/products/GEPCO/BULK%20SHIPBOARD%20CABLE.aspx>

If you want to source the stuff local I think Little Bay Broadcasting in New Hampshire is still a distributor.

If you want to go with Belden, here's the GEPCO/Belden cross-reference
http://www.gepco.com/PDF_files/crossreference.pdf

Graybar is another good option.

Good Luck,
- Webb

Reply From: Robert Hagg (WHOI) on Sat, 23 Mar 2013

Robbie -

I understand what Marc has described to be accurate as well.

It was described to us by the Chief Engineer aboard the Atlantis, during the EM122 installation. I recall he looked up the CFRs referring to this matter. Network cabling fell into a gray area, which he felt did not apply.

You may want to contact the port engineers to see what their interpretation of the rules are as well.

Cheers,

Robb

Reply From: Thomas Wilson (SUNY) on Fri, 22 Mar 2013

All,

We had quite a time finding cables, especially network cables, that satisfied Coast Guard Inspectors when we were instrumenting the P.T. Barnum passenger ferry in 2002. We

finally located a vendor named Offshore Marine Cable Specialists in Houston TX that supplies the offshore oil and gas industry. They are apparently now the Houston office of a larger company called Nexans Amercable but the address and telephone (713) 896-5800 is the same:

<http://www.amercable.com/2.6.0/?id=contact>

Hope they are as helpful today as they were for me,
Tom