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Thursday, 13 June 2019

To: WC80 Committee
Mike Johns Project Manager
Murray Teale Chairman

Regarding: AS/CA S009 2019 Draft

Dear Sirs

In relation to the following sections and statements:

AS/CA S009 2019 Draft

5.9.2 Connecting cords, patch cords and extension leads

A CABLING PROVIDER **shall not** make an equipment connecting CORD, PATCH CORD, extension lead or the like using component parts, whether or not such parts meet the requirements of AS/CA S008.

Note: CORDS are required to meet the requirements of AS/CA S008. Manufacturers are directed to the regulatory obligations for compliance labelling of CORDS.

Fitness for purpose

AS/CA S009 requires that cabling products be selected and installed so that they are fit for purpose for their intended purpose. A plug with inadequate performance characteristics or an ineffectively terminated plug would be an example of an installation that is not fit for purpose.

A complementary requirement has now been added to DR AS/CA S008 to assist cablers to select cabling products that are fit for purpose for a particular installation. For example, a Category 6 cord that meets its performance requirements for data transmission may also need to meet power feeding requirements. It is recommended that component manufacturers be consulted for confirmation of the intended use and/or capabilities of cabling products used. A typical example would be to confirm that a particular cable can support remote powering to ensure the cable has the ability to handle the current required by the device to be connected and powered.

I understand that your goals are safety orientated.

My general comments about reviewing this standard have led me to many road blocks as I can not afford to purchase all the relevant standards to allow me to technically and carefully review your final draft.

I also cannot be a valuable member of your committee because I cannot afford the travel and accommodation expenses to legitimately and face to face attend such meetings.

I noted that your committee members are predominantly Manufacturers and large corporations that do not represent the Industry at large. This is a concern as Industry representation must be broad and must cover installers and maintenance workers.

However, The work that has been undertaken to develop these standards is highly commendable and appreciated. Thank you all.

Objection to 5.9.2 Connecting cords, patch cords and extension leads.

Safety is paramount. The problem is not the patch cord but the individual who made that patch cord. Training is the issue. Training (RTO) may be regulated but I hope we all know the quality of the training is not regulated.

Competent tradesmen know how to make “fit for purpose” patch cords.

The solution is not to mandate against the making of a patch cord.

The solution is to ensure that the relevant National Competency includes specific elements that require students to know how to make patch cords competently.

This would mean the CPC and ICT competencies be immediately reviewed and this requirement be included. Reviews are being undertaken in both sectors right now. Time to act and your committee needs to speak with these controlling bodies.

If you continue with this “one brush stroke fixes all” approach the inevitable conclusion is that all cabling be pre-terminated. Just does not work in reality.

Please consider another approach as I have indicated.

Regards
Trevor

<signature removed by Communications Alliance>

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