

COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

Customer Equipment and Cable Reference Panel

Expression of Intent EOI/22/001 Fitness for Purpose

AS/CA S009:2020 Installation requirements for customer cabling (Wiring Rules)



The *Customer Equipment and Cable Reference Panel* (CECRP) established a *Publication Advisory Group* (PAG) in 2004. The purpose of the PAG is to provide the opinion of experienced members of the Communications Alliance technical bodies to queries of the intent of specific requirements in published Standards and Guidelines for which the CECRP is responsible.

The following notes are to be read in conjunction with the attached *Expression of Intent* (Eol):

1. The PAG consists of active members of the CECRP, but its opinions are those of the PAG and are not voted decisions of any Communications Alliance Working Committees.
2. When it is felt that a query arose due to a possible lack of clarity in a Standard or Guideline, the matter is brought to the attention of the CECRP to be considered for future work. However, this will not necessarily lead to any future amendment of the Standard or Guideline.
3. The PAG is restricted to expressing the intent of the words of the publication in question, as the members of the PAG either recollect the original intentions of the Working Committee that developed the Standard or Guideline, or is based on the opinions of nominated advisors within the telecommunications industry. The Eol is not an interpretation of the requirements of the publication.
4. The Eol has no regulatory or legal status and represents only the PAG's view of the intent or likely intent underlying the relevant publication. Eols are issued to explain and clarify the intent or likely intent of the Standard or Guideline and do not constitute an alteration to the original Standard or Guideline or provide new requirements. The PAG cannot make new rules to fit situations not yet covered in the Standard or Guideline. Changes to the Standard or Guideline are made only through revisions or amendments to that publication.
5. The PAG does not provide a consultancy service where organisations are in disagreement on whether a specific design or configuration meets the requirements of a particular Standard.
6. The Eol does not constitute legal advice. Any reliance upon or use made of the published *Expressions of Intent* (Eol) by the query submitter, or any other person, is solely at their own risk. Communications Alliance does not guarantee that compliance with any Eol will constitute compliance with the relevant publication.

Inquiries related to the Standards and Guidelines that have been developed under the CECRP are welcome. Such inquiries are to be forwarded through Communications Alliance to the secretary of the PAG. Responses are sent to the query submitter by the secretary and are circulated to members of the CECRP, the PAG and other technical advisors involved in the development of the response. *Expressions of Intent* (Eol) are published on the Communications Alliance website at www.commsalliance.com.au.

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With respect to your query, please note that the CECRP response is restricted to expressing the PAG's view of the intent or likely intent of the words of the Standard concerned. Some queries therefore may be more appropriately addressed to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), a test laboratory or experienced consultant concerned with Customer Equipment design requirements.

It is understood that your fundamental question concerning AS/CA S009:2020 is:

What is the intent of the fitness for purpose requirement in Clause 5.5.1?

In response to this query:

The Foreword of AS/CA S009:2020 indicates this Standard is referenced under the *Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2014* (CPRs)¹. The CPRs are subject to subsection 421(1) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* as they '*relate to the performance of cabling work*' concerning the installation of, connection to, and maintenance of customer cabling to a telecommunications network (Section 418 of the Act). The CPRs '*govern the performance, and the supervision of the performance, of customer cabling in order to protect the health and safety of persons, and the integrity of the telecommunications network*'². CPRs require a registered cabling provider to work within the scope of their registration, to perform and certify the cabling work in accordance with AS/CA S009:2020.

Clause 5.5.1 of AS/CA S009:2020 is to be read in the context of the CPRs and the rest of the Standard. The selected cabling products and installation methods used must be suitable for the intended performance of the cabling products, whether express or implied, when intended for use connected to or in connection with a telecommunications network.

Clause 5.5.1 notes some examples of installation practices that are not fit for purpose, such as the selection of a plug with inadequate performance characteristics or an ineffectively terminated plug. Other examples may include suitability for emergency services calling or suitability of cabling where safety-related application systems are commonly used, such as medical alerts, assistive living systems, security systems, and fire alarm systems.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2014L01684>

² Explanatory Statement, *Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2014*,
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2014L01684/Explanatory%20Statement/Text>

While not referenced by AS/CA S009:2020, attention is drawn to *The Australian Consumer Law*³ (ACL) which requires that suppliers must not make false or misleading representations about standards compliance, quality, value, grade, composition, style or model of goods and services that they supply.

There are also mandatory Consumer Guarantees in the ACL, which says in section 54(2) that: '*Goods are of acceptable quality if they are as fit for all the purposes for which goods of that kind are commonly supplied; and acceptable in appearance and finish; and free from defects; and safe; and durable*'.

Consumer guarantees in the ACL also apply to the installation workmanship, which is a 'supply of services' as per sections 60 and 61. Section 61 covers '*fitness for a particular purpose*' and applies where '*the consumer, expressly or by implication, makes known to the supplier any particular purpose for which the services are being acquired by the consumer*'.

Clause 5.5.1 of AS/CA S009 is intended to align with these ACL requirements in the context of expressly stated or reasonably implied customer requirements.

³ The Australian Consumer Law - Schedule 2 - Chapter 3—Specific protections - Part 3-1—Unfair practices - Division 1—False or misleading representations etc. - 29 False or misleading representations about goods or services. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A00109>