

COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

Public Comment Draft

DR AS/CA S008 A1:2024

Amendment No. 1/2025 to AS/CA S008:2020 Requirements for Customer Cabling Products

Guidance for public comment on DR AS/CA S008 A1:2024

This draft Standard Amendment is the outcome of a targeted review of AS/CA S008:2020 and AS/CA S009:2020 undertaken by the Communications Alliance **WC115 : Cable Flammability Amendment** Working Committee. The two-month public comment phase is a part of the requirements of Communications Alliance Operating Procedures for the development or revision of an AS/CA Standard.

The reader is invited to comment on the requirements for customer equipment scoped within this Standard and on the following proposed recommendations. All submissions received will be made publicly available on the Communications Alliance website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Please return comments by 25 February 2025 to:

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This draft is available from www.commsalliance.com.au for download.

Issue

An inconsistency between AS/CA S008:2020¹ and AS/CA S009:2020² has been identified which requires rectification. AS/CA S008 specifies that cables that are intended for use within a building are to meet the flammability requirements of that Standard. This is contrary to the requirements in AS/CA S009 which allows flammable and non-flammable cables to be installed within a building, along with additional requirements for adequate fire stopping between fire compartments within a building.

The requirements in AS/CA S008 are to be amended to align the cable product requirements with the installation practices specified in AS/CA S009.

Background

The cable flammability requirements in Clause 16.1 of AS/CA S009:2013³ were revised in 2020 by the WC80 *Customer Cabling Installation and Cabling Products* Working Committee

¹ AS/CA S008:2020 Requirements for Customer Cabling Products Standard.

<https://www.commsalliance.com.au/Documents/all/Standards/s008>

² AS/CA S009:2020 Installation requirements for Customer Cabling (Wiring Rules) Standard.

<https://www.commsalliance.com.au/Documents/all/Standards/s009>

³ AS/CA S009:2013 Installation requirements for Customer Cabling (Wiring Rules) Standard.

<https://www.commsalliance.com.au/Documents/Available-Superseded/s009>

because it was recognised that there were inconsistencies in the way that industry members were applying these requirements.

In reviewing Clause 16.1 of AS/CA S009:2013, Communications Alliance engaged with the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) to seek clarification on the obligations under the National Construction Code (NCC) with respect to either external communications cables which enter a building, or internal communications cables, that are installed within a fire zone or transition between fire zones. The question was also asked with respect to the construction of such cables. In parallel, the members of the Working Committee were also provided with evidence of cable type reactions to fire on various cable construction types.

As a result of our inquiry, the members of the Working Committee were informed that the NCC does not address cable construction directly. The fire safety requirements of the NCC aim to achieve life safety and focus preventing and containing the spread of fire and notification.

The obligations pertaining to fire hazard properties do not specifically exempt wiring other than that used for emergency lighting and exit signs but does allow material that does not significantly increase the hazard of fire.

Fire compartmentation relies on barriers that have the appropriate resistance to the spread of fire and smoke and where these are penetrated by various services, these penetrations must be appropriately protected to ensure they do not allow fire spread to an adjoining compartment. External to internal penetrations are also dealt with in a similar fashion.

In line with the aims of the NCC, AS/CA S009 was updated to allow cables that might propagate fire to be installed within buildings. Attention was then directed to revise the requirements of Clause 16.2 on fire stopping, again receiving input from industry on the matter. The requirements for fire stopping are to 'ensure that the opening is fire stopped to perform at a fire resistance level not less than the fire resistance level that the building element is likely to be intended to perform at as a fire safety element of the building'. The intent of AS/CA S009 is to allow for flammable and non-flammable cables to be installed within a building, but to provide adequate fire stopping between fire compartments.

AS/CA S008:2020 is proposed to be amended to remove the five instances where flammability requirements are currently required, being for; metallic paired cable, coaxial cable, optical fibre cable, blown fibre tube systems or similar system with preinstalled elements, and special application cables. Flammability requirements continue to be specified for cordage with metallic conductors, cords with metallic conductors, metallic jumper wire and jumper cable.

In addition, a number of issues were identified during the targeted review of AS/CA S008:2020 and AS/CA S009:2020, including those of use of terminology and the structure of AS/CA S008, which have been logged for consideration at the next revision of these two Standards.

Compliance arrangements

This Amendment is intended to be enforceable by ACMA under the ACMA *Telecommunications (Labelling Notice for Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Instrument 2015* (TLN) or its replacement. Information on the ACMA TLN is available from the ACMA *Find the right labelling notice* at <https://www.acma.gov.au/find-right-labelling-notice>.

The intention is to publish the amendment in Q2 2025, to be then forwarded to ACMA with the recommendation for making under the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

Amendment No. 1/2025

to

AS/CA S008:2020

Requirements for Customer Cabling Products

REVISED TEXT

The 2020 edition of AS/CA S008 is amended as follows; the amendment should be inserted in the appropriate place.

SUMMARY: This Amendment applies to the References.

Approved for publication on dd mmm 2025.

Published on dd mmm 2025.

Amended version reissued on dd mmm 2025.

ISBN: 1 74000 XXX X

AMDT
No. 1
MMM
2025

Page 23 Clause 5.6.4

*Delete the first sentence and replace with 'A Cable that is required to comply with Clauses 5.6.12, 5.6.13 and 5.6.14 of this Standard **shall** pass both—'*

AMDT
No. 1
MMM
2025

Page 29 Clause 5.6.11

Delete '5.6.4 Flammability (if intended for use within a building)'

AMDT
No. 1
MMM
2025

Page 32 Clause 5.6.15.1

Delete '5.6.4 Flammability (if intended for use within a building)'

AMDT
No. 1
MMM
2025

Page 32 Clause 5.6.16.1

Delete '5.6.4 Flammability (if intended for use within a building)'

AMDT
No. 1
MMM
2025

Page 34 Clause 5.6.17.1

Delete '5.6.4 Flammability (if intended for use within a building)'

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MMM
2025

Page 34 Clause 5.6.18.2

Delete the clause.

This Amendment forms part of the Standard on publication.

- End of Amendment No. 1 -