

4 Core identification

Each core shall be identified as follows:

- in cables having up to and including five cores by colour, see 4.1;
- in cables having more than five cores by number, see 4.2.

NOTE The colour scheme, and in particular the scheme for rigid multicore cables, is under consideration.

4.1 Core identification by colours

4.1.1 General requirements

Identification of the cores of a cable shall be achieved by the use of coloured insulation or other suitable method.

Each core of a cable shall have only one colour, except the core identified by a combination of the colours green-and-yellow.

The colours green and yellow, when not in combination, shall not be used for any multicore cable.

NOTE The colours red and white should preferably be avoided.

4.1.2 Colour scheme

The preferred colour scheme for flexible cables and single-core cables is:

- single-core cable: no preferred colour scheme;
- two-core cable: no preferred colour scheme;
- three-core cable: either green-and-yellow, blue, brown, or, brown, black, grey
- four-core cable: either green-and-yellow, brown, black, grey, or blue, brown, black, grey
- five-core cable: either green-and-yellow, blue, brown, black, grey, or blue, brown, black, grey, black.

The colours shall be clearly identifiable and durable. Durability shall be checked by the test given in 1.8 of IEC 60227-2.

4.1.3 Colour combination green-and-yellow

The distribution of the colours for the core coloured green-and-yellow shall comply with the following condition (which is in accordance with IEC 60173): for every 15 mm length of core, one of these colours shall cover at least 30 % and not more than 70 % of the surface of the core, the other colour covering the remainder.

NOTE Information on the use of the colours green-and-yellow and blue.

It is understood that the colours green and yellow, when they are combined as specified above, are recognized exclusively as a means of identification of the core intended for use as earth connection or similar protection, and that the colour blue is intended for the identification of the core intended to be connected to neutral. If, however, there is no neutral, blue can be used to identify any core except the earthing or protective conductor.

4.2 Core identification by numbers

4.2.1 General requirements

The insulation of the cores shall be of the same colour and numbered sequentially, except for the core coloured green-and-yellow, if one is included.