

**UL 3992 Patch Cord
Specification Program**

What to Specify When Buying Safe, Performing Patch Cords

For anyone who purchases patch cords, here's what to put in your procurement contract.

Background

As we have reported previously, over 80% of patch cords surveyed in the market, primarily from off-shore suppliers, failed to meet the performance specifications of ANSI/TIA-568-C.2. In these tests, almost half of the non-compliant samples failed 568-C.2 requirements by at least 6dB. Many Network Engineers at mission critical facilities have also contacted CCCA to report serious network performance liabilities attributed to patch cords.

In response, CCCA member companies worked diligently with Underwriters Laboratories to generate a performance verification program for patch cords. When specifying this UL verification program from your Supplier, you can be assured of the performance of your patch cords!

Purchasing / Procurement Specification

Patch Cords

- Patch cords shall be certified for compliance with UL 3992, Outline of Investigation for Patch Cords Terminating in Eight-Position Modular Plug Connectors – Performance, by a certification organization (accredited by a certification body accreditation agency (e.g., the American National Standards Institute)).

NOTE: One way to determine compliance with UL 3992 is for the patch cord to be verified under UL's category for Communications Cable Assemblies Verified for Data Performance in Accordance with National or International Specifications, DVBH.

- Patch cords shall comply with the transmission performance requirements for cords and jumpers described in ANSI/TIA-568-C.2 for the Category ____ (e.g. Category 5e, 6, 6a, etc.).
- Patch cords (intended for use in premise or industrial wiring applications) shall be constructed of patch cable certified for compliance with UL 444, "Communications Cable", or UL 13, "Power-Limited Circuit Cable", and are for installation and use in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC®).

Markings

The smallest shipping package of each cable assembly shall be marked where it will be plainly visible with the following:

- a) The manufacturer's name, trade name, or trademark or other descriptive marking by which the organization responsible for the product may be identified,
- b) A distinctive catalog number or the equivalent,
- c) The maximum data transmission rate tested (e.g. Category 5e, 6, 6a, etc.), and,
- d) The length of the cord.

Terminology

Be sure to use the correct terminology and avoid miscommunicating desired requirements for patch cords.

Correct Terminology:
"UL 3992 Verified Patch Cords"

Do Not Use Incorrect Terminology:
"CCCA Approved"
"UL Approved"
"Certified Patch Cord"