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*Binational Wire and Cable Packaging Standard*

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword .....	iii
<b>Section 1 GENERAL</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Scope.....	1
1.2 Definitions.....	1
<b>Section 2 CONSTRUCTION OF PACKAGE TYPES</b> .....	<b>2</b>
2.1 Returnable Reels.....	2
2.1.1 Gas-Tight Returnable Steel Shipping Reels .....	2
2.1.2 Steel Fluted Reels.....	2
2.1.3 Engineered Plastic Reels.....	2
2.1.4 Extra Heavy Duty Wood Reels.....	2
2.2 Reusable Wood Reels.....	2
2.2.1 Wood Reels.....	3
2.3 Nonreturnable Reels.....	3
2.3.1 Steel Reels.....	3
2.3.2 Wood Reels.....	3
2.3.3 Engineered Plastic Reels.....	3
2.3.4 Plywood Reels and Spools .....	3
<b>Section 3 MINIMUM DRUM DIAMETERS</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Section 4 REEL COVERINGS</b> .....	<b>15</b>
4.1 Reel Coverings.....	15
<b>Section 5 MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Section 6 HANDLING AND STORING OF CABLE REELS</b> .....	<b>19</b>
6.1 Handling Recommendations .....	19
<b>Section 7 CAPACITIES OF PACKAGE TYPES</b> .....	<b>20</b>
7.1 Calculation of Reel Capacity for Round Cables .....	20
7.1.1 Reel Capacity in Feet.....	20
7.1.2 Reel Capacities in Meters .....	20
7.1.3 Reel Capacity Parameters .....	20
7.2 Non-round Cables .....	20
 <b>Figures</b>	
2-1 Flat Bar Tire Fluted Steel Reel—Type RM.....	4
2-2 I-Beam Tire Fluted Steel Reel—Type RMT.....	5
 <b>Tables</b>	
2-1 Gas Tight Returnable Steel Shipping Reels for Pipe-Type Cable .....	6
2-2 General Purpose Steel Fluted Returnable Reels for Wire and Cables—Class 1 .....	7
2-3 Heavy Duty Steel Fluted Returnable Reels for Wire and Cables—Class 2.....	8
2-4 General Purpose Reusable Wood Reels—Class 1 .....	9
2-5 Heavy Duty Reuseable Wood Reels—Class 2 .....	10
2-6 Extra Heavy Duty Returnable Wood Reels—Class 3 .....	11
2-7 Plywood Reels and Spools.....	12
3-1 Minimum Drum Diameters of Reels for Cables .....	14

4-1	Recommended Product Level Protection.....	16
4-2	Recommended Packaging Materials .....	17

## Foreword

The purpose of this Standards Publication is to provide practical information concerning the packaging of wire and cable for the North American wire and cable industry. There are, however, scores of different sizes and types of wire and cable products; and the determination of the most desirable standard packages for each, from both the manufacturer's and users' points of view, requires careful consideration of the many variables.

The issuance or existence of these standards does not in any respect prevent or restrict any member or nonmember of NEMA or EFC from supplying customers with reels or packages not in conformance with these standards.

User input has been considered throughout the development of this Standards Publication.

This Standards Publication was developed by the Technical Harmonization Committee (THC) on Wire and Cable Packaging which consists of representatives from the Electrical Equipment Manufacturers Advisory Council (EEMAC), an affiliate of Electro-Federation Canada, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA). This standards publication will be reviewed periodically by THC and revised as necessary to keep it current with advancing technology. Comments or proposed revisions are welcomed and should be submitted to:

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This Standards Publication was developed by the Building Wire and Cable Section and the Power and Control Cable Section of NEMA. Section approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all section members voted for its approval or participated in its development. At the time it was approved, the sections were composed of the following members:

AFC Cable Systems—New Bedford, MA  
Alcan Cable—Atlanta, GA  
Americable—El Dorado, AR  
American Insulated Wire Corporation—Pawtucket, RI  
AXA Cables—San Nicolas De Los Garza NL  
Cable USA—Dekoron Division, Houston, TX  
Colonial Wire & Cable Co., Inc.—Hauppauge, NY  
Encore Wire Corporation—McKinney, TX  
Essex Electric Inc., Ft. Wayne, Indiana  
Furon Company—Aurora, OH  
General Cable—Highland Heights, Kentucky  
Hendrix Wire & Cable Co.—Milford, NH

Prysmian Power Cables & Systems USA, LLC  
Service Wire Company—Culloden, WV  
Southwire Company—Carrollton, GA  
The Kerite Company—Seymour, CT  
The Okonite Company—Ramsey, NJ  
The Rockbestos-Surprenant Corporation -- East Granby, CT  
United Copper Industries—Denton, TX

This standard was developed in conjunction with EEMAC, the Electrical Equipment Manufacturers Association of Canada, a Council within Electro-Federation Canada. EEMAC is composed of:

Alcan Cable—Mississauga, ON  
Alcatel Canada Wire, Inc.—Markham, ON  
Belden CDT (Canada) Inc. —Cobourg, ON General Cable Corporation—West Nyack, NY  
BIW Cable Systems, Ltd.—Burlington, ON  
Cable Tech., a Division of Noma, Inc.—Stouffville, ON  
Domtech Holdings, Inc.—Trenton, ON  
General Cable—Toronto, ON  
Nexans Canada, Inc—Markham, ON  
Noma Consumer Electrical—Scarborough, ON  
Prysmian Power Cables & Systems Canada Ltd.—St. Jean-Sur-Richelieu, PQ  
Shawflex—Etobicoke, ON

## Section 1 GENERAL

### 1.1 SCOPE

This standard covers uniform requirements for packaging electrical wire and cable and replaces the following NEMA/EEMAC standards:

NEMA WC 26-2000	<i>Wire and Cable Packaging</i>
EEMAC 200-1-1996	<i>Returnable and Nonreturnable Reels</i>
EEMAC 201-2000	<i>Wire and Cable Packaging</i>

No longer active:

PC 1-1973	<i>Gas Tight Returnable Steel Shipping Reels for Pipe-type Cable</i>
WC 6-1980	<i>Minimum Drum Diameters of Reels for Cables</i>
WC 20-1976	<i>Dimensions and Capacities of Returnable Reels for Wires and Cables</i>
WC 21-1978	<i>Nonreturnable Reels for Wires and Cables</i>
WC 22-1979	<i>Construction of Steel Fluted Returnable Reels for Wires and Cables</i>
WC 25-1975	<i>Protective Coverings for Wire and Cable Reels</i>
WC 26-1990	<i>Wire and Cable Packaging (Rev 1-8-93)</i>
EEMAC 200-1-1995	<i>Returnable and Nonreturnable Reels</i>

### 1.2 DEFINITIONS

**maximum overall width:** The maximum overall width of the reel such that no portion of the reel exceeds this value.

**maximum strength capacity:** Maximum capacity defines the total conductor or cable weight that can be carried by a particular size and construction of reel or spool. The maximum capacity values listed in the tables of this document have been determined to be typical values based on experience from users. It should be noted that for all types of wood reels, over and above the thicknesses and number of tie rods used, the maximum capacity can vary depending on factors such as wood species, assembly methods, moisture content, and products that are tightly wound such as ACSR, etc. Therefore, these values should be used as a guide only.