# Table of Contents

## Page

Foreword.................................................................................................................................................. ii  
Scope...................................................................................................................................................... iii  

### Section 1

REFERENCES........................................................................................................................................... 1  

### Section 2

PRODUCT NUMBERING SCHEMES  
FOR BUILDING WIRE AND CABLE PRODUCTS..................................................................................... 3  

### Section 3

BAR CODING BUILDING WIRE AND CABLE PRODUCTS............................................................ 5  

### Section 4

MAINTENANCE OF STANDARD ITEM NUMBERING SYSTEM............................................. 15  

## Appendices

WIRE DATABASE; COPPER, ALUMINUM, UTILITY, CABLE ....................................................... 17  

### Appendix A

BUILDING WIRE—COPPER ................................................................................................................. 19  

### Appendix B

ARMORED CABLE............................................................................................................................... 75  

### Appendix C

BARE COPPER WIRE AND CABLE ..................................................................................................... 77  

### Appendix D

BUILDING WIRE—ALUMINUM ............................................................................................................ 81
Foreword

At the time of preparation of this Standards Publication, it was evident that there was increasing manufacturer interest in utilizing the Uniform Code Council’s product identification and bar coding scheme for uniquely identifying building wire products. In responding to that interest, the requirements set forth in this publication were established by the Building Wire and Cable Section of NEMA as an extension of the previously published Electrical Industry Business Communications Guidelines and Implementing Product Identification and Bar Code Systems for the Electrical Wholesale Distribution Marketplace.

Also recognizing the desire of the electrical wholesale distribution community for a common numbering system for like wire and cable products, this publication sets forth standardized five digit item identification numbers for standard copper and aluminum building wire and cable products.

Therefore, through the combined use of the standardized item numbers included herein, and the UPC system of unique product identification and bar coding, the Building Wire and Cable Section has set forth in this publication a means of accommodating the desires of both the manufacturer and the electrical wholesale distributor and retail sectors.

In the preparation of this Standards Publication, input of users and other interested parties has been sought and evaluated. Inquiries, comments, and proposed or recommended revisions may be submitted to the Building Wire and Cable Section by contacting the:

Vice President, Engineering
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
2101 L Street, N.W., Suite 300
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Scope

This Standards Publication sets forth product identification and bar coding techniques for standard copper and aluminum building wire and cable products.

This standards publication also lists standard item identification numbers for building wire and cable products produced by multiple manufacturers on a repetitive basis. Numbers in the system covered in this publication are intended to be assigned to package quantities that have gained common usage in the industry. In addition to being utilized as the basis for bar coding, the item identification numbers included herein are intended for use in electronic data interchange (EDI), and other business communications.

The building wire and cable products covered by this standards publication utilize solid or stranded copper and/or aluminum conductors in standard packages for shipment direct to distributor stock. Type MC cable shall be limited to cables employing conductor sizes 10 AWG or smaller, with 4 conductors or less; for all other Type MC cables constructions refer to NEMA WC 60. Products whose identification numbers are listed in this publication are generally covered by National Electrical Code Articles 310, 333, 334, 338 and 339 and described by the following standards:

- THHN, THW, THW-2, THHW, THWN-2
  - UL 83—*Thermoplastic-Insulated Wires and Cables*
- XHHW, XHHW-2, RHH, RHW, RHW-2
  - UL 44—*Rubber-Insulated Wires and Cables*
- NM-B, NMC-B
  - UL 719—*Nonmetallic Sheathed Cables*
- UF-B
  - UL 493—*Thermoplastic-Insulated Underground Feeder and Branch-Circuit Cables*
- SE-U, USE, USE-2, SE-R
  - UL 854—*Service Entrance Cable*
- TFFN
  - UL 62—*Flexible Cord and Fixture Wire*
- BARE SD
  - ASTM Standards
- AC
  - UL 4—*Armored Cables*
- MC
  - UL 1569—*Metal-Clad Cables*