



**european space agency
agence spatiale européenne**

Pages 1 to 19

POLYIMIDE INSULATED WIRES AND CABLES,

LOW FREQUENCY, 600V, - 100 TO + 200 °C

ESA/SCC Detail Specification No. 3901/002

SCC

**space components
coordination group**

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No. 3901/002

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DOCUMENTATION CHANGE NOTICE

Rev. Letter	Rev. Date	Reference	CHANGE Item	Approved DCR No.
		This Issue supersedes Issue 2 and incorporates the changes agreed in the following DCR's:-		
		Cover Page		None
		DCN		None
		Para 4.2.4	: Title amended	23791
		Para. 4.3.1	: Wording amended	23791
		Para 4.4.1.1	: Paragraph standardised	23791
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		Para 4.4.3	: First and second sentences amended	23791
		Para 4.4.4.2	: Paragraph standardised	23791
		Para 4.5.2	: Wording amended	23791
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		Para 4.8.2	: Sentence added	23791
		Para 4.8.3	: Sentence added	23791
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		Para 4.8.11	: Test '(h)' and '(i)' corrected to '(e)' and '(f)'	23791
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		Para 4.8.19	: New paragraph added	23791

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APPENDICES (Applicable to specific Manufacturers only)

None.

**1. GENERAL****1.1 SCOPE**

This specification details the ratings, physical and electrical characteristics, test and inspection data for Polyimide Insulated Wires and Cables, Low Frequency, 600V, -100 to +200 °C. It shall be read in conjunction with ESA/SCC Generic Specification No. 3901, the requirements of which are supplemented herein.

NOTES

1. These wires and cables shall not be used in the presence or vicinity of hydrazine or nitrogen tetroxide.

1.2 TYPE VARIANTS

Variants of the basic types of wires and cables specified herein which are also covered by this specification, are listed in Table 1(a).

1.3 MAXIMUM RATINGS

The maximum ratings, applicable to the finished wires and cables specified herein, which shall not be exceeded at any time during use or storage in controlled space environment, are scheduled in Table 1(b).

1.4 PARAMETER DERATING INFORMATION

The derating information applicable to the finished wires and cables specified herein is as follows:

- The maximum current for each wire used in a bundle shall be:-

$$I_{Bmax} = I_{max} \times \frac{29 - n}{28} \quad (\text{for } 1 < n < 15)$$

$$I_{Bmax} = \frac{I_{max}}{2} \quad (\text{for } n > 15)$$

where n = number of wires in the bundle;

- The temperature derating information is shown in Figure 1 with maximum current I_{max} for a single wire.
- The derating factors contained herein indicate maximum stress values and do not preclude further derating.

1.5 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The physical characteristics of the finished wires and cables specified herein are shown in Figures 2(a), 2(b) and 2(c) and their dimensions in Table 1(a).

1.6 FUNCTIONAL DIAGRAM

Not applicable.



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TABLE 1(a) - TYPE VARIANTS

VARIANT No.	SHIELDED	UN-SHIELDED	No. OF CORES	WIRE SIZE AWG	STRANDING No. OF STRANDS x DIAMETER (mm)	CONDUCTOR CHARACTERISTICS			SHIELD STRAND Ø (mm)	CORE MAX Ø (mm)	FINISHED WIRE OR CABLE CHARACTERISTICS	
						MAX Ø (mm)	NOM SECT. (mm ²)	MAX OHMIC RESISTANCE (Ω/km)			MAX Ø (mm)	MAX WEIGHT (kg/km)
Variants 01 through 30 deleted, not to be used												
31		X	2	26	19x0.10 (1)	0.53	0.15	155	-	0.78	1.64	4.42
32		X	2	24	19x0.12 (1)	0.64	0.21	110	-	0.88	1.84	5.91
33		X	2	22	19x0.16	0.85	0.38	53.5	-	1.08	2.24	9.41
34		X	2	20	19x0.20	1.04	0.60	33.8	-	1.28	2.64	14.2
35		X	2	18	19x0.25	1.29	0.93	21.6	-	1.53	3.15	21.3
36		X	3	26	19x0.10 (1)	0.53	0.15	155	-	0.78	1.76	6.45
37		X	3	24	19x0.12 (1)	0.64	0.21	110	-	0.88	1.97	8.81
38		X	3	22	19x0.16	0.85	0.38	53.5	-	1.08	2.40	14.3
39		X	3	20	19x0.20	1.04	0.60	33.8	-	1.28	2.84	21.1
40		X	3	18	19x0.25	1.29	0.93	21.6	-	1.53	3.40	31.6
41	X		1	26	19x0.10 (1)	0.53	0.15	148	0.08	0.78	1.13	3.85
42	X		1	24	19x0.12 (1)	0.64	0.21	105	0.08	0.88	1.23	4.75
43	X		1	22	19x0.16	0.85	0.38	50.9	0.08	1.08	1.43	6.86
44	X		1	20	19x0.20	1.04	0.60	32.2	0.08	1.28	1.63	9.43
45	X		1	18	19x0.25	1.29	0.93	20.6	0.10	1.53	1.92	13.8
46	X		2	26	19x0.10 (1)	0.53	0.15	155	0.08	0.78	2.01	8.0
47	X		2	24	19x0.12 (1)	0.64	0.21	110	0.10	0.88	2.24	10.5
48	X		2	22	19x0.16	0.85	0.38	53.5	0.10	1.08	2.65	14.8
49	X		2	20	19x0.20	1.04	0.60	33.8	0.10	1.28	3.03	20.2
50	X		2	18	19x0.25	1.29	0.93	21.6	0.12	1.53	3.58	29.6

NOTES: 1. Copper alloy.



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TABLE 1(a) - TYPE VARIANTS (CONTINUED)

VARIANT No.	SHIELDED	UN-SHIELDED	No. OF CORES	WIRE SIZE AWG	STRANDING No. OF STRANDS x DIAMETER (mm)	CONDUCTOR CHARACTERISTICS			SHIELD STRAND Ø (mm)	CORE MAX Ø (mm)	FINISHED WIRE OR CABLE CHARACTERISTICS	
						MAX Ø (mm)	NOM SECT. (mm ²)	MAX OHMIC RESISTANCE (Ω/km)			MAX Ø (mm)	MAX WEIGHT (kg/km)
51	X		3	26	19x0.10 (1)	0.53	0.15	155	0.10	0.78	2.15	11.2
52	X		3	24	19x0.12 (1)	0.64	0.21	110	0.10	0.88	2.36	14.0
53	X		3	22	19x0.16	0.85	0.38	53.5	0.10	1.08	2.82	20.2
54	X		3	20	19x0.20	1.04	0.60	33.8	0.12	1.28	3.26	29.4
55	X		3	18	19x0.25	1.29	0.93	21.6	0.15	1.53	3.86	44.1
56		X	1	26	19x0.10 (1)	0.53	0.15	148	-	-	0.78	1.93
57		X	1	24	19x0.12 (1)	0.64	0.21	105	-	-	0.88	2.64
58		X	1	22	19x0.16	0.85	0.38	50.9	-	-	1.08	4.25
59		X	1	20	19x0.20	1.04	0.60	32.2	-	-	1.28	6.49
60		X	1	18	19x0.25	1.29	0.93	20.6	-	-	1.53	9.79
61		X	1	28	19x0.08 (1)	0.43	0.10	242	-	-	0.68	1.23
62		X	2	28	19x0.08 (1)	0.43	0.10	254	-	0.68	1.43	2.70
63		X	3	28	19x0.08 (1)	0.43	0.10	254	-	0.68	1.53	3.95
64	X		1	28	19x0.08 (1)	0.43	0.10	242	0.08	0.68	1.07	3.05
65	X		2	28	19x0.08 (1)	0.43	0.10	254	0.08	0.68	1.80	5.70
66	X		3	28	19x0.08 (1)	0.43	0.10	254	0.10	0.68	1.92	8.10
67	X		4	28	19x0.08 (1)	0.43	0.10	254	0.10	0.68	2.15	10.15
68	X		4	26	19x0.10 (1)	0.53	0.15	155	0.10	0.78	2.40	13.3
69	X		4	24	19x0.12 (1)	0.64	0.21	110	0.10	0.88	2.65	16.5
70	X		4	22	19x0.16	0.85	0.38	53.5	0.12	1.08	3.17	26.4
71	X		4	20	19x0.20	1.04	0.60	33.8	0.15	1.28	3.70	38.8
72	X		5	28	19x0.08 (1)	0.43	0.10	254	0.10	0.68	2.27	12.1
73	X		5	26	19x0.10 (1)	0.53	0.15	155	0.10	0.78	2.56	15.8

NOTES: 1. Copper alloy.



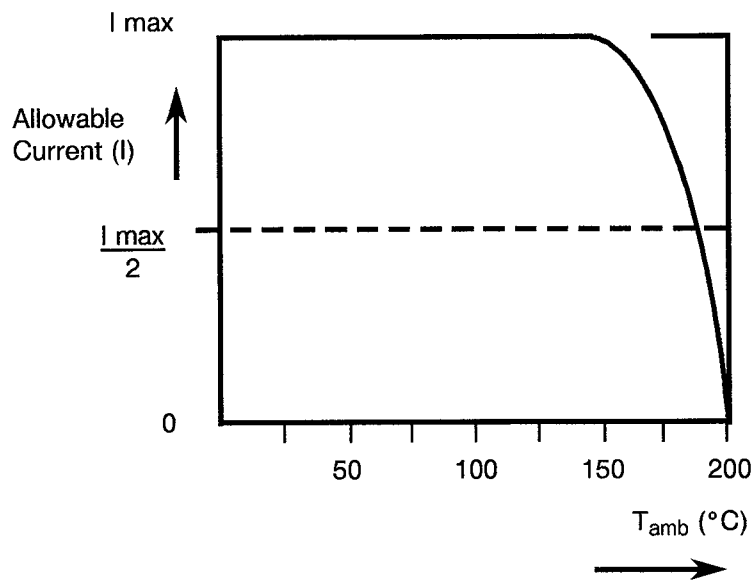
TABLE 1(b) - MAXIMUM RATINGS

No.	CHARACTERISTICS	SYMBOL	MAXIMUM RATINGS	UNIT	REMARKS
1	Voltage	V_P	600	Vrms	
2	Maximum Current (Note 1)	I_{max}	1.5 2.5 3.5 5.0 7.5 10.0	A	For AWG 28 26 24 22 20 18
3	Operating Temperature Range	T_{amb}	- 100 to + 200	°C	
4	Storage Temperature Range	T_{stg}	- 100 to + 200	°C	

NOTES

- The above specified current will generate a temperature rise of approximately 50°C above ambient temperature in a vacuum environment. Precautions shall be taken to prevent the total temperature of the wire (ambient plus rise) exceeding the continuous operating temperature of the wire.

FIGURE 1 - PARAMETER DERATING INFORMATION



Allowable Current versus Temperature



FIGURE 2 - PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Dimensions are given in Table 1(a)

FIGURE 2(a) - FINISHED WIRES

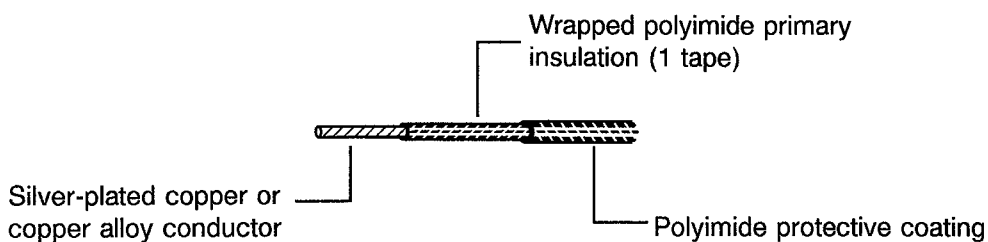


FIGURE 2(b) - SHIELDED AND JACKETED CABLES

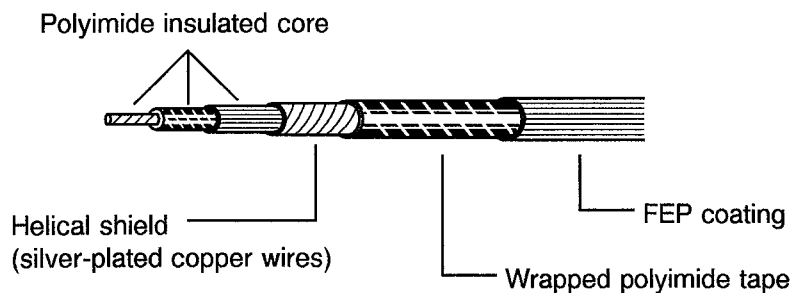
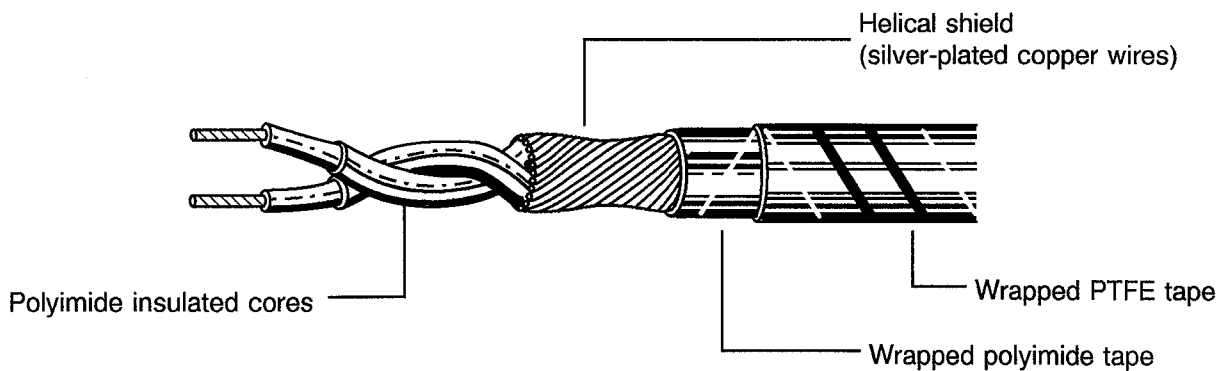


FIGURE 2(c) - SHIELDED AND JACKETED CABLES



**2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS**

The following documents form part of this specification and shall be read in conjunction with it:

- (a) ESA/SCC Generic Specification No. 3901, "Wires and Cables, Electrical, 600V, Low Frequency",
- (b) MIL-W-81381, "Wires, Electric, Polyimide Insulated, Copper or Copper Alloy".

3. TERMS, DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS AND UNITS

For the purpose of this specification, the terms, definitions, abbreviations, symbols and units specified in ESA/SCC Basic Specification No. 21300 and ESA/SCC Generic Specification No. 3901 shall apply.

4. REQUIREMENTS**4.1 GENERAL**

The complete requirements for procurement of the finished wires and cables specified herein are stated in this specification and ESA/SCC Generic Specification No. 3901. Deviations from the Generic Specification, applicable to this specification only, are listed in Para 4.2.

Deviations from the applicable Generic Specification and this Detail Specification, formally agreed with specific Manufacturers on the basis that the alternative requirements are equivalent to the ESA/SCC requirements and do not affect the components' reliability, are listed in the Appendices attached to this specification.

4.2 DEVIATIONS FROM GENERIC SPECIFICATION**4.2.1 Deviations from Special In-process Controls**

None.

4.2.2 Deviations from Final Production Tests (Chart II)

None.

4.2.3 Deviations from Burn-in and Electrical Measurements (Chart III)

Not applicable.

4.2.4 Deviations from Qualification Tests (Chart IV)

- (a) Para. 9.21, "Resistance to Fluids": To be modified as stated in Para. 4.8.11 of this specification.

4.2.5 Deviations from Lot Acceptance Tests (Chart V)

None.

**4.3 MECHANICAL REQUIREMENTS****4.3.1 Dimension Check**

The dimensions of the finished wires and cables specified herein shall be checked; they shall conform to those shown in Table 1(a), Figure 2 and Para 4.4 of this specification (see below for the list of parameters to be checked).

LIST OF PARAMETERS TO BE CHECKED

PARAMETER	TABLE 1(a)	FIGURE 2	PARA 4.4
<u>COMPOSITION</u>			
Number of conductors	X		
Gauge	X		
Shielding	X		
Jacket		X	
<u>CONDUCTOR</u>			
Nature			X
Outer diameter	X		
Number of strands	X		
Strand diameter	X		
Length of lay			X
Silver thickness			X
<u>INSULATION</u>			
Composition		X	X
Protective coating		X	X
Thickness			X
Overlapping			X
Outer diameter	X		
<u>SHIELDING</u>			
Number of strands	X		
Type of shielding			X
Strand diameter	X		
Nature		X	X
Silver thickness			X
Shielding lay			X
Shield coverage			X
<u>JACKET</u>			
Composition		X	X
Protective coating		X	X
Thickness			X
Overlapping			X
Outer diameter	X		
Stripe dimensions			X

4.3.2 Weight

The maximum weight of the finished wires and cables specified herein shall be as specified in Table 1(a).



4.4 MATERIALS AND FINISHES

The materials and finishes shall be as specified herein. Where a definite material is not specified, a material which will enable the wires and cables specified herein to meet the performance requirements of this specification shall be used. Acceptance or approval of any constituent material does not guarantee acceptance of the finished product.

4.4.1 Conductor

4.4.1.1 Material Characteristics

All strands used in the manufacture of the conductors shall be silver-coated, soft or annealed, oxygen-free high conductivity copper from AWG 18 to 22 inclusive and silver-coated, high strength copper alloy from AWG 24 to 28. On silver-coated strands, the thickness of the silver shall be 2 microns minimum.

On all copper conductors, any strand shall show a 10% minimum elongation. On all high-strength copper alloy conductors, any strand shall show a 6% minimum elongation at break and a 350N/mm² minimum tensile strength.

The resistance of the conductors shall be determined at +20°C in accordance with Para. 9.5 of ESA/SCC Generic Specification No. 3901, where the 'α' coefficient for copper alloy is 0.0035.

4.4.1.2 Stranding

The conductors shall be constructed of concentrically laid strands to produce a smooth and uniform conductor of circular cross-section and free from any high strands or other surface irregularities.

The length of the left-hand lay of the external layer shall not be less than 8, nor more than 16, times the maximum conductor diameter specified in Table 1(a).

4.4.2 Insulation

4.4.2.1 Material

Any insulating material shall be virgin polyimide with only those additives that are necessary for processing and pigmentation.

4.4.2.2 Construction

The insulation shall consist of 1 wrapped ribbon, the overlapping of which shall be equal to, or more than, 67%. Each ribbon (30µm of thickness) shall conform to 0.1/1.0/0.1 type according to MIL-W-81381. The insulation shall have a uniform cross-section throughout the length of the cable and the conductor shall be evenly centred in the insulation. The nominal wall thickness, including the polyimide protective coating, shall be 0.11mm.

4.4.2.3 Insulation Colour

The insulation colour is prescribed in relation to the wire size as shown in the table of Para. 4.4.7.



4.4.3 Assembly

A multicore cable shall be constructed by assembling the cores in a right-hand concentric lay. The length of lay shall not be less than 10, nor more than 14, times the maximum multicore assembly diameter as detailed in Table 1(a). A Teflon PTFE filler is necessary in the centre of the 4- and 5-core cables.

4.4.4 Shield

4.4.4.1 Material

Shield strands shall meet the requirements for silver-coated annealed copper as outlined in Para. 4.4.1.1 of this specification.

4.4.4.2 Construction

The shield shall be wound closely and helically around the strands and provide not less than 92% coverage, 'K' being calculated by the following formula:-

$$K = \frac{n \cdot d \cdot \sqrt{(L^2 + P^2)}}{P \cdot L}$$

where:-

- K = % coverage,
- n = total number of shield strands,
- d = mean shield strand diameter,
- L = apparent shielding lay,
- P = outside perimeter of the shielded cable,

where:-

- P = $\pi(D + d)$ - for a single core cable,
- P = $\pi(D + d) + xD$ - for a multicore cable.

where:-

- D = mean diameter of core insulation,
- x = the number of cores.

N.B.

The shield may exhibit an occasional gap between strands provided that:

- the coverage coefficient meets the required value.
- the gap width and gap length are no more than 0.5mm and 50mm respectively.

4.4.5 Jacket

For single-core shielded cables: 2 layers minimum of polyimide tape, type 0.1/1.0/0.1 according to MIL-W-81381, coated with pigmented FEP before identification by coloured stripes on the outside.

For multicore shielded cables: 1 layer minimum of polyimide tape, type 0.1/1.0/0.1 according to MIL-W-81381, plus 1 layer of coloured PTFE tape with coloured stripes on the outside.

For multicore unshielded cables: 1 layer minimum of polyimide tape, type 0.1/1.0/0.1 according to MIL-W-81381, with coloured stripes on the outside.

4.4.6 Coloured Stripes

4.4.6.1 Colour Identification

Colour identification shall be as specified in Para. 4.4.7. Coloured stripes shall be helically applied on the jacket and grouped in accordance with the following rule:-

- 1-core cable: 1 narrow stripe.
- 2-core cable: 2 narrow stripes.
- 3-core cable: 3 narrow stripes except AWG 28: no stripes.
- 4-core cable: 1 wide stripe.
- 5-core cable: 1 wide plus 1 narrow stripe.

4.4.6.2 Stripe Dimensions

- Narrow stripe width : 0.6mm.
- Wide stripe width : 1.6mm.
- Space between stripes : 1.0mm.
- General tolerance : $\pm 30\%$.

4.4.7 Colour Identification Code

The colour identification code for insulation, jacket and stripes shall be as specified in the following table.

COLOUR IDENTIFICATION CODE

Wire Size (AWG)	Insulation Colour	Jacket Colour		Colour of Stripes
		Twisted Cores	Shielded Cores	
28	Brown	Amber	White	Brown
26	Black	Amber	White	Black
24	Khaki-beige (straw-like)	Amber	Light blue	White
22	Red	Amber	White	Red
20	Green	Amber	White	Green
18	Yellow	Amber	White	Yellow

4.5 MARKING

4.5.1 General

The marking of all spools of finished wires and cables delivered to this specification shall be in accordance with the requirements of ESA/SCC Basic Specification No. 21700. Each spool shall be marked in respect of:-

- (a) The SCC Component Number.
- (b) Characteristics.
- (c) Traceability Information.
- (d) Additional Markings.



4.5.2 The SCC Component Number

Each spool shall bear the SCC Component Number which shall be constituted and marked as follows:-

Detail Specification Number _____ **390100244B**
Type Variant (see Table 1(a)) _____
Testing Level _____

4.5.3 Characteristics

The characteristics shall show the length(s) of finished wire or cable wound on each spool and shall be marked as follows:-

Length in metres (see Note) _____ **100m**
Symbol for metres _____

NOTE

Whenever the length is less than 100 metres, insert a zero in the first block (example: 075m). If more than one length of finished wire or cable is wound on a spool, the characteristics of each length shall be marked as above.

4.5.4 Traceability Information

Each spool shall be marked in respect of traceability information in accordance with the requirements of ESA/SCC Basic Specification No. 21700.

4.5.5 Additional Marking

Each spool shall bear the cable manufacturer's Quality Control Inspector's stamp or initials.

4.6 ELECTRICAL MEASUREMENTS

4.6.1 Electrical Measurements at Room Temperature

The parameters to be measured at room temperature are scheduled in Table 2. The measurements shall be performed at $T_{amb} = +22 \pm 3$ °C.

4.6.2 Electrical Measurements at High and Low Temperatures

Not applicable.

4.6.3 Circuits for Electrical Measurements

Not applicable.

4.7 BURN-IN TESTS

Not applicable.

4.8 ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENDURANCE TESTS

4.8.1 Mechanical Properties of Conductor

As detailed in Para. 4.4.1.1 of this Specification.

4.8.2 Accelerated Ageing

Ageing Temperature $+230 \pm 5$ °C.

The mandrel diameter and appropriate weight used for accelerated age testing of the finished wires is given in Table A.

TABLE A - MANDREL DIAMETERS AND LOADS FOR FINISHED WIRES

Wire Size (AWG)	Mandrel Diameter (mm)	Weight (kg)
28	6.0	0.125
26	6.0	0.25
24	6.0	0.25
22	6.0	0.4
20	6.0	0.4
18	10	0.5

4.8.3 Wrap Test at Ambient Temperature

The mandrel diameters and applied loads for wrap testing of finished wires are given in Table A. The mandrel diameters and applied loads for screened and jacketed cables are given in Table B.

**TABLE B - MANDREL DIAMETERS AND LOADS FOR SHIELDED
AND JACKETED CABLES**

Cable Size (AWG)	Number of Cores	Mandrel Diameter (mm)	Load (kg)
28	1	6.0	0.125
26	1	6.0	0.25
24	1	6.0	0.25
22	1	6.0	0.4
20	1	6.0	0.4
18	1	10	0.5
28	2	6.0	0.25
26	2	6.0	0.5
24	2	12	0.5
22	2	12	0.8
20	2	12	0.8
18	2	12	1.0
28	3	12	0.4
26	3	12	0.75
24	3	12	0.75
22	3	12	1.2
20	3	12	1.2
18	3	12	1.5
28	4	12	0.5
26	4	12	1.0
24	4	12	1.0
22	4	12	1.6
20	4	12	1.6
28	5	12	0.7
26	5	12	1.2

4.8.4 Voltage Test

No particular conditions are applicable.

4.8.5 Shrinkage

The shrinkage temperature shall be $+230 \pm 5$ °C

4.8.6 Blocking

The blocking temperature shall be $+200 \pm 5$ °C.

4.8.7 Cold Bend Test

The mandrel diameters and loads shall be as specified in Table C.

**TABLE C - MANDREL DIAMETERS AND LOADS FOR
FINISHED WIRES OR CORES**

Wire Size (AWG)	Mandrel Diameter (mm)	Weight (kg)
28	6.0	0.125
26	6.0	0.25
24	6.0	0.25
22	6.0	0.4
20	6.0	0.4
18	10	0.5

4.8.8 Cut-through Resistance

The mean load measured during the required tests shall not be less than the relevant value specified below:-

Wire Size (AWG)	28	26	24	22	20	18
Cut-through Load (kg)	9	12	14	18	23	31

4.8.9 Notch Resistance

The depth of notch shall be 0.04 mm.

4.8.10 Flammability

No particular conditions are applicable.

4.8.11 Resistance to Fluids

Tests (e) and (f) shall not be performed.

4.8.12 Surface Resistance

No particular conditions are applicable.

4.8.13 Abrasion Resistance

The weight to be applied to the needle is specified below:-

Wire Size (AWG)	28	26	24	22	20	18
Scrape Abrasion Load (g)	350	450	500	600	650	750

4.8.14 Soldering

No particular conditions are applicable.

4.8.15 Solderability

No particular conditions are applicable.

**4.8.16 Radiation Resistance**

No particular conditions are applicable.

4.8.17 Overload Resistance

No particular conditions are applicable.

4.8.18 Long-term Ageing Test

The long-term ageing temperature shall be +200°C.

4.8.19 Anthony and Brown Test

No particular conditions are applicable.

TABLE 2 - ELECTRICAL MEASUREMENTS AT ROOM TEMPERATURE

No.	CHARACTERISTICS	SPEC. AND/OR TEST METHOD	TEST CONDITION	LIMITS	UNIT
1	Conductor Resistance	ESA/SCC No. 3901, Section 9	Para 9.5	Table 1(a)	Ω/km
2	Spark Test	ESA/SCC No. 3901, Section 9	Para 9.6	Insulation : 3 Jacket : 1.5	kV
3	Voltage Test	ESA/SCC No. 3901, Section 9	Para 9.7	Para 9.7	kV
4	Insulation Resistance	ESA/SCC No. 3901, Section 9	Para 9.8	Insulation : 750 Jacket : 30	MΩ.km
5	Surface Resistance	ESA/SCC No. 3901, Section 9	Para 9.22	: 125	MΩ.mm