

ALCAN CABLE CORPORATE POSITION STATEMENT



At Alcan Cable we consider ourselves stewards of the aluminum cable industry and therefore take product quality and industry specifications very seriously.

As a result of concerns expressed to us from members of the building construction industry, the recent influx of substandard electrical building wire has given us cause for great concern. These substandard products have the potential to jeopardize the aluminum cable industry and the reputation of industry stakeholders including construction firms, electrical contractors and distributors.

The primary issue comes down to concerns over product quality and non-conformance with industry accepted standards. It appears that some products entering the North American marketplace carry Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) markings, but do not comply with the applicable UL standards.

How can you be sure the products you purchase meet or exceed the appropriate minimum quality standard? To be assured that the products you purchase or install meet industry standards, purchase products that are produced by reputable manufacturers as well as hold the mark of a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory, such as UL.

All who are involved in the chain of custody – from manufacturer to electrical contractor – should understand the risk and liability associated with the product selections they make. All involved should also carefully inspect the products they purchase to ensure compliance with required manufacturing and process controls and strict adherence to quality standards.

In order to investigate the concerns expressed to us from members of the building construction industry, Alcan Cable tested samples of wire products. Our initial tests yielded some startling results.

The majority of the products in the sample group did not meet at least one of the performance characteristics required by UL.

Some of the products tested show significant product non-compliance with UL 44 and UL 1581 product requirements.

Non-compliant products increase the risk of post-sale liabilities for the buyer, including liability for possible product failures and resulting safety issues. The concerns and uncertainties brought to the surface by our testing demonstrate that such non-conforming products come with no guarantee of quality and ultimately, safety.

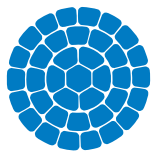
At Alcan Cable we are committed to the aluminum wire industry and to ensuring that our aluminum wiring products are produced to meet or exceed the quality and safety standards developed in North America. We take pride in the quality of our products, and as a leader in the North American industry for the past century we have earned the confidence of distributors and contractors. We are concerned that the short sighted interests of a few will jeopardize the quality standards that the aluminum building wire industry has worked so hard to develop and uphold.

Alcan Cable products produced in Alcan Cable plants are rigorously tested for safe use in the marketplace where they are sold. We stand behind the products we sell and believe that the industry has a shared responsibility to be continuously vigilant in pursuit of quality. High quality helps protect the reputation of the entire industry, and above all, the safety of our customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Hewett".

IAN HEWETT
PRESIDENT, ALCAN CABLE



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Alcan Cable

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