Zerohal

Low Fire Hazard Performance Wire and Cable Jacket Material

Product Facts

- Halogen free
- Low smoke generation
- Highly flame retardant
- Low toxicity index
- Low corrosive gas emission
- Temperature rating -30°C to +105°C [-22°F to +221°F]

Available in:

Americas	■
Europe	■
Asia Pacific	■

Applications

Cables rarely initiate fires, but they could be involved in them and can significantly increase the damage caused should they propagate the fire. Until recently the flame retarding of cables was achieved by the use of halogenated flame retardants which are effective fire suppressants, but which unfortunately produce dense smoke and corrosive acid gases when burned. These effects are highly undesirable in a fire, hindering evacuation and fire fighting, endangering life and causing corrosion damage to expensive and vital equipment.

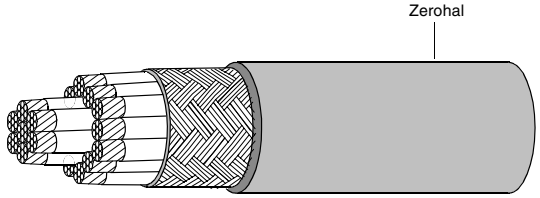
Raychem Zerohal is a halogen-free cable jacket material developed by TE and approved to the most exacting requirements for low fire hazard cables in many countries and, as such, is the most widely accepted material for these applications in the marine, process and mass transport industries. Combined with SPEC 44 wire or Type 99 and 100 wire, this jacket material provides small size, light weight cables (approximately 40% weight saving over conventional materials).

Zerohal combines the good mechanical and electrical features of some conventional cables with good flame retardancy, low smoke generation, low evolution of hazardous and corrosive gases, and good resistance to diesel fuel, lubricating oils and water.

Zerohal jacket material is fully compatible with the low fire hazard harnessing system - System 100.

System

- System 100



Catalog 1654025
Revised 3-13

www.te.com

Dimensions are shown for reference purposes only. Specifications subject to change.

Dimensions are in millimeters unless otherwise specified.

USA: +1 800 522 6752
Asia Pacific: +86 0 400 820 6015
UK: +44 800 267 666

For additional support numbers please visit www.te.com

Zerohal (Continued)

Typical Characteristics when Tested in Accordance with TE Specification WCD 2015 and WC 2001 (Zerohal with Fungicide)

Mechanical	Tensile strength (MPa) Elongation (%) Tear strength (N/mm) Abrasion resistance (1.6 kg load) Cold bend	9 200 5 30 scrapes min. -30°C [-22°F]	
Thermal aging	Heat aging 120 h 130°C [266°F]	60% min retention of TS and Eb	
	Heat shock 4 h at 225°C [437°F]	No cracks, drips or flowing, 6 mm total shrinkage in 300 mm	
		Retention of properties	
		Tensile strength	Elongation
Fluid resistance	Diesel fuels 20°C [68°F] /24 h	85	75
	IRM 902 24h, 100°C [212°F]	90	75
	Lubricating oils 50°C [122°F]/24 h	80	75
	Water uptake (ASTM D570) 70°C [158°F] /28 days	4% weight uptake (max)	
Electrical	Insulation resistance 20°C [68°F] M ohms km (min)	1	
Other	45° flammability	Self extinguishing	
	Vertical flammability (Swedish Chimney)	Self extinguishing	
	Acid gas	1.2% HCl equivalent (max)	
	Limiting oxygen index	32%	
	Temperature index	275°C [527°F]	
	Toxicity index	2.5 per 100 g	
	Smoke index	18	
	Halogen content	None detected	

Low Fire Hazard Performance

Flammability

Current thinking on fire hazard defines the term 'Fire Risk'. This description recognizes that the risk in a fire situation is influenced strongly from several factors including, ignitability, heat release, smoke evolution and toxic gas emission together with flammability.

There are several test procedures available used to assess flammability of wires and cables. Still in widespread use is Limiting Oxygen Index (LOI), but it is now generally recognized that because the test is conducted on a single specimen (of cable jacket or wire) in laboratory conditions, the results are, at best, only weakly correlated to actual fire situations. Critical Temperature Index (CTI), is a related test and assesses performance at elevated temperature but nevertheless it is still conducted on a single specimen. The most common flammability tests for a single wire specimen is the 60˚ flame test as defined by AS81044 and FAR Part 25.More recent evidence and thinking places significantly greater importance on large scale flammability tests, such as IEC IEEE 383 or UL1685, in which the sample consists of a tray of wires. These tests predict more accurately the likely behavior of cables in actual fire scenarios. Raychem Zerohal cable jackets give very good results in small scale laboratory based tests (e.g. LOI, CTI) and Zerohal cables perform very well in large scale tests (e.g. IEEE 383 or UL1685). Overall Zerohal jacketed cables have been shown to exhibit excellent flammability characteristics.

Corrosivity

Under fire conditions, polymers containing halogens, sulphur and phosphorous all form corrosive acid gases or liquids. These acids can then attack items such as printed circuit boards, connectors, control relays and metal structures, including steel reinforcement bars embedded in concrete.

Test methods to evaluate corrosivity involve direct measurement of the amount of acid gas produced during pyrolysis, eg to MIL-DTL-24640 Acid Gas Generation or measurement of pH and electrical conductivities of solutions.

Toxicity Index

The various gases given off by combustion of polymeric materials are toxic to differing degrees.

The Def Stan 02-713, assesses the concentration of each of the possible by-products and, by measuring the amounts of these materials, a Toxicity Index is assigned.

Zerohal jacket material has a typical Toxicity Index of 1.7, compared to a typical value of 6 for CSP and 20 for PVC jacketed cable. The Def. Standard 61-12 Part 31 specification requirement for a cable jacket is <5.

Smoke

The problems of classifying flammability and corrosive gas generation equally apply to measuring smoke generation. The method accepted by most authorities involves the use of the NBS smoke chamber where optical density of the chamber's atmosphere is constantly measured during pyrolysis.

The 10% visibility line indicates the density of smoke which would cause human disorientation and confusion. The rate of change of smoke density can be summarized to a single numerical value, as in Def. Standard 02-711, to give a smoke index for a material and thus offers simple comparison of materials performance.

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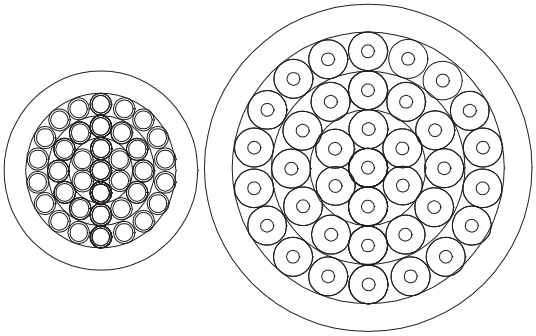
Navy Applications

37 Component Cable Comparison



TE Competition

	TE Cable to Def Stan 61-12 Pt25	Cable to DGS 212
Diameter	12.5 mm (nom.)	21.3 mm
Weight	328 g/m (nom.)	526 g/m
Conductor	0.60 mm^2 (nom.)	0.5 mm^2

Ships are becoming smaller and more sophisticated, with an ever increasing complexity of electronic systems, sensors and weapons. As technology advances shipbuilders are called upon to update and modify existing systems or fit completely new ones. The proliferation of electronic hardware requires more and more communication systems to transfer data from one place to another. To provide all the necessary interconnections, hundreds of multicore cables have to run throughout the ship. These, along with cables for power, lighting and other basic services, create a severe space problem within ducts and hangers.

For the vessel to achieve maximum speed, maneuverability and range, it is vital to keep the “top weight” to a minimum and since most of the equipment is located on the upper decks, system weight must be kept as low as possible.

The diagram shows a lightweight cable compared with a traditional shipboard cable having the same cross-sectional area of copper. Both cables have the same number of conductors. A saving in size has been made on the insulation material, but without sacrificing the mechanical or electrical characteristics of the cable. A typical saving in cable tray volume could be as high as 40%. Lightweight cables can also save in excess of twenty tons on a typical frigate and three to five tons on a fast patrol boat.

TE lightweight, small size cables are giving reliable service in frigates, corvette's, fast patrol boats, hydrofoils and submarines in many major Navies.

Due to recent improvements in manufacturing, TE can now offer an even tighter tolerance of ±2.5% on cable diameter. This is well within the limits imposed by specifications such as Def Stan 61-12 part 25, MIL-DTL-24640/24643, and offers significant benefits to system designers, particularly where cable glanding is involved.

Weight savings within “maxima allowed” by existing specifications are also achievable.

Other applications

The increasing awareness of many areas of industry of the need to minimize fire hazard risk is leading to a rapid growth in the use of Zerohal jacketed cables. Applications include rail and mass transit, offshore platforms and other enclosed areas where a fire would present a significant threat to people or equipment.

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