

What does the optical cable outer sheath code 03 mean

Article Overview

Outer sheath code "03" typically indicates a low smoke, zero halogen (LSZH) jacket suitable for indoor/outdoor OM3 fiber optic cables.

Overview of OM3 Cable Sheaths

OM3 multimode optical fiber cables are commonly used in LAN, WAN, and data center backbones. Their outer sheath serves multiple purposes: mechanical protection, fire safety, and environmental resistance. For OM3 cables, the outer sheath is often flame retardant, low smoke, and zero halogen (LSZH), which reduces toxic fumes in case of fire and complies with international safety standards . Some cables may also feature armored or reinforced sheaths for rodent resistance or outdoor durability .

Meaning of Code "03"

While specific coding systems vary by manufacturer and region, in many European and German standards (e.g., DIN VDE type designation codes), a numeric code like "03" is used to classify the sheath material and fire performance . For OM3 cables, code "03" generally corresponds to:

- o Material: LSZH (Low Smoke Zero Halogen) or similar halogen-free polymer
- o Fire rating: Suitable for indoor installations with Euroclass Dca-s2,d2,a1 or equivalent
- o Application: Indoor/outdoor, duct, tray, or backbone installations This aligns with typical OM3 cable specifications, where the outer sheath is designed to be flexible, lightweight, and flame-retardant, while protecting the internal fibers from mechanical stress .

Practical Implications

- o Safety: LSZH sheaths minimize smoke and toxic gas emission in case of fire, making them suitable for public buildings and data centers.
- o Installation: Code "03" cables are compatible with standard indoor/outdoor routing, including trays, ducts, and risers.
- o Compliance: Using a cable with code "03" ensures adherence to European fire safety standards and international fiber optic installation norms . In summary, optical cable outer sheath code "03" identifies an LSZH, flame-retardant jacket suitable for OM3 fiber optic cables, providing both safety and mechanical protection for indoor and outdoor applications.



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Unless otherwise specified, the outer jacket of premises cable containing more than one fiber type shall use a printed legend to

This guide focuses on fiber jacket and connector color codes: the visual details technicians use to identify fiber type,

Colored outer jackets or prints may be applied to outside plant and premises fiber cables, such as fiber distribution

Fiber optic cables for external plants and premises, such as fiber optic distribution cables and fiber optic patch cables,

SUPPORT Fiber Optic Terms and Definitions A AbsorptionThe portion of optical attenuation in optical fiber resulting

According to the TIA-598 standard, color coding applies to three primary components: Outer

APPLY when the cables are for interior or exterior environment distribution. Some manufacturers use bright colors that differentiate

The cable designation is made up of several numbers and letters. Read what the individual letters and numbers mean here!

In this guide, we will break down the latest EIA/TIA-598-D requirements (the most current revision used globally) and

Cable jacket colors represent the most immediate visual identifier in fiber optic systems, allowing instant recognition

Introduction This Cable Jacket Selection Note is intended to provide the reader with an organized selection methodology when

Cable outer sheath is mainly used to protect the optical fibers inside fiber cable. Except the basic protection

When you look at a fiber optic cable, the outer jacket color instantly tells you what type of fiber is inside. This color

For indoor cables, the jacket also provides the fire retardance required by building codes. Many different materials are available for

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so, most of the outer sheath material has good flame retardant performance, whether the outer sheath material is the only criterion

A: Type OFN cable is listed under the product category for Optical Fiber Cable (QAYK). Listed optical fiber cable is required to be

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