L.N. 55 of 1993

QUALITY CONTROL (EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND LOCAL GOODS) ACT (CAP. 225)

Electric Cable Order, 1993 (Order No. M31 of 1993)

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Quality Control (Exports, Imports and Local Goods) Act, the Malta Board of Standards has made the following order:—

Citation and commencement.

1.1 This order may be cited as the Electric Cable Order, 1993 and may be referred to as Order No. M31 of 1993.

1.2 This order shall become operative on a date after the lapse of 20 days from the day on which it is laid on the Table of the House of Representatives, which date shall be notified by the Board in the Gazette.

Scope.

2.1 This order is intended to cover essential requirements of electric cables of the type used or intended to be used in domestic power and lighting, whether for indoor or outdoor use as used in households, garages, shops, light industries and on farms.

Applicability.

3.1 The provisions of this order apply to imported electric cables and electric cables manufactured for the local market.

3.2 The provisions of this order apply to electric cables having a voltage designation up to 450/750 and a conductor area up to 16mm^2.

3.3 This order does not apply to electric cables exclusively designed for industrial use, and for cables used on equipment having voltages up to 50 Volts, and/or currents greater than 63 Amperes and/or frequencies greater than 60 cycles per second, where the coils of such cables are marked or labelled with the following information or words which convey the same meaning; any such marking or labelling shall be legible and durable and done in English and/or Maltese. Such labelling is not required on cables which, on account of their dimensions, characteristics, properties or other cogent grounds are manifestly unsuitable for domestic power and lighting:

3.3.1 Not for use on mains voltage or,

3.3.2 Only suitable for up to 50 volts or,

3.3.3 For use on telephones, loudspeakers and similar applications.

Conformity.

4.1 No item to which this order applies shall, unless it complies with this order —

4.1.1 be sold, offered for sale, exposed for sale or kept in possession of any person for the purpose of being sold;

4.1.2 be locally manufactured or imported into Malta for local use.

Definitions.

5.1 All definitions of the Electrical Equipment Order No. 28 shall apply.

5.2 "Electric cable" means an insulated conductor or an assembly of conductors which may incorporate an assembly protection, a protective covering or coverings, and shall also be held to include a flexible cable, flexible cord or extensible lead.

5.3 "Flexible cable" means an electric cable which is required to be capable of being flexed while in service and of which the structure and materials are such as to fulfil this requirement.

5.4 "Flexible cord" means a flexible cable with a limited number of conductors of small cross-sectional area.

5.5 "Extensible lead" means a flexible cord that has been coiled to produce helical leads for use with portable or movable equipment.

5.6 "Indicated standard" means the standard to which the electric cable is claimed to conform, provided that it is generally in agreement with the technical provisions of the appropriate recommendations issued by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

5.7 "Voltage designation" means the rated voltage of the cable for which the cable is designed and is expressed, in Volts, by the following expression —

Uo/U

where: Uo is the root mean square value between any insulated conductor and earth,

U is the root mean square value between any two phase conductors of a multicore cable or of a system of single-core cables.

5.7.1 In a direct current system, the nominal voltage of the system shall be not higher than 1.5 times the rated voltage of the cable.

5.8 "Ovality" means the difference between any two values of the overall diameter of circular electric cable at the same cross-section.

Marking and labelling.

6.1 Coils of electric cables to which this order applies shall be packed/wrapped by an appropriate means and the packing/wrapping shall be marked or labelled with the following information. Any markings or labelling shall be legible and durable and done in English and/or Maltese.

6.1.1 Indicated standard;

6.1.2 Type of electric cable. This shall include the number of cores and conductor area in mm^2, and type of insulation/sheath;

6.1.3 Conductor material unless the conductor material is annealed copper;

6.1.4 Voltage designation;

6.1.5 The manufacturer's name or trademark;

6.1.6 Nominal length of coil in metres.

6.2 Electric cables to which this order applies shall, 6 months after the publication of this order, be provided with an indication of origin. This shall include the manufacturer's name or trade mark and be done by one of the three following alternative methods:—

6.2.1 printed tape within the cable;

6.2.2 printing, indenting or embossing on the insulation of at least one core;

6.2.3 printing, indenting or embossing on the sheath if any.

6.3 The marking shall be legible and durable. The gap between the end of one complete inscription and the beginning of the next shall not exceed 500mm if the marking is on the sheath and shall not exceed 200mm if the marking is on the insulation.

6.4 In the case of extensible leads both tails of the extensible lead shall be marked approximately at mid-point of the tail, by embossing or ink printing on heat shrink sleeving.

Core identification.

7.1 Each core of electric cable to which this order applies shall be identified by its colour. The colours shall comply with the requirements of the indicated standard as appropriate.

7.2 Except for cables for use in special applications, twin sheathed flexible cords and cables shall be coloured brown and blue, while in sheathed flexible cords and cables comprising three or more cores, the colours available shall include the combination green/yellow, blue and brown.

7.3 Bi-colour combination shall be made of yellow and green only. For every length of 15mm the distribution of one of these colours shall cover at least 30% and at most 70% of the surface of the core, while the other colour covers the remainder of the surface.

Construction.

8.1 The sheath shall be applied in a single layer. It shall be applied closely but shall not adhere to the cores or any inner covering. It shall be permissible for the sheath to penetrate into the spaces between the cores, thus forming a filling. It shall be capable of being removed without damage to the cores.

8.2 PVC insulated extensible leads to which this order applies shall be made from 2 or 3 core flexible cord having conductors with a nominal cross-sectional area of between 0.5mm^2 and 1.5mm^2 inclusive.

Tests.

9.1 Electric cables to which this order applies shall meet the requirements of the indicated standard as regards electrical tests, constructional and dimensional tests and tests under fire conditions.

Mechanical properties of conductors, insulation and sheath.

10.1 Electric cables to which this order applies shall meet the requirements of the indicated standard as regards mechanical properties of the conductors, insulation and sheath.

Methods of tests.

11.1 Electric cables to which this order applies shall be tested by methods described in the indicated standard and/or CENELEC or IEC Standards.

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