



The Fibreoptic Industry Association

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STANDARDISATION HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

by

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for Networking+ (July 2009)**

June 2009 saw the publication of 2nd editions of the BS EN 50174-1 and BS EN 50174-2 standards which cover the specification and quality assurance of all telecommunication cabling installations and the installation planning and practices inside buildings respectively. These standards are part of a package intended for use by customers (or their consultants) and installers of all types of telecommunications cabling infrastructures but the 2009 versions of BS EN 50174-1 and BS EN 50174-2 are already having an impact outside their primary application base.

For example the Fibre optic Industry Association is rebuilding the On-Line Assistance package for its Approved Installer Scheme and the UK primary standard, BS 6701, is also undergoing revision to simplify its relationship with the new BS EN 50174 standards.

It is said that "as one door closes - another opens" and the European committee responsible for the EN 50174 series has now begun work on the revision of EN 50174-3 which covers installation planning and practices outside buildings. The most obvious changes will be the restructure of the existing document (EN 50174-3:2003) to match the format of the other two standards. These obvious changes will not hide the more fundamental technical updates that will define new, additional, requirements and recommendations for general installations between buildings - irrelevant of where those buildings are or what they are (data centres, operator sites, buildings on a university or commercial campus). All pathways between buildings are included (underground, aerial etc) and the existing contents covering segregation between IT cabling and a variety of external services are to be both maintained and extended.

FIA members can monitor the development of the new work via the Standards Forum area of the FIA web-site. Published standards can be purchased direct from the FIA web-site at www.fia-online.co.uk.