



The Fibreoptic Industry Association

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FIA TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENTS - RESPONDING TO USERS NEEDS!

by
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for Networking+ (October 2009)**

The recent publication of IEC 61280-4-1 and the approval of ISO/IEC 14763-3 A1 may have gone unnoticed by the majority of the IT community but they represent the completion of a cycle of technical development and standardisation that was initiated by the FIA as long ago as 2002. The two standards introduce strict new requirements for testing of multimode optical fibre cabling which place demands on equipment suppliers, test cord manufacturers and installers - ignorance of which may render test results invalid.

However, the purpose of this article is not to explain the minutiae of standards but to illustrate of the work of the Fibreoptic Industry Association in addressing the needs of the marketplace - members and their clients alike.

The FIA has an important responsibility to react to changes in fibre optic technology. Our reaction may be in response to specific technical challenges identified by the FIA Technical Directorate or to the impacts of such changes on, as highlighted by, the user and/or supplier community.

The FIA encourages input from the user community (members or non-members) which could lead to the production of either a Technical Support Document or a White Paper. A TSD generally addresses issues of major significance which would typically be developed to a quality capable of submission to international, European or British standards bodies as appropriate. Once standardisation has taken place (which can take more than five years, as in the example above) the TSD is amended or withdrawn.

The FIA offers users of cabling infrastructure, such as network managers, the opportunity to raise technical or commercial issues and to have them responded to swiftly and within their direct involvement. To get noticed and get results, e-mail jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk or contact the FIA Secretariat on 01763 273039.