



FESHM 5043: MANAGEMENT AND USE OF CABLE TRAY SYSTEMS

Revision History

Author	Description of Change	Revision No. & Date
Michael J. Utes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Revised the definition of Cable Tray System2. Revised the first sentence in the definition of Signal3. Added NFPA reference to Requirements item 1a4. Reworded requirement 2b from "For installations of cable into a power cable tray, the responsible engineer shall consider the cable for thermal, and electrical properties in consideration of the specific installation and the cable tray for structural integrity. All installations should reference the NEC guidelines for cable tray." To: "For installations of cable into a power cable tray, the responsible engineer shall consider the thermal and electrical properties of the cable with regard to that specific installation and the structural load capability of the cable tray system. All installations should reference the NEC NFPA 70 Article 318 guidelines for cable tray fill and other considerations specified."	Revision 1 December 2010



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes general installation requirements and uses permitted for various types of cable tray systems for electrical conductors not generally covered by Article 318 of the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70). Hazards associated with the use of cable tray include overloading which may lead to mechanical failure and overheating which may lead to insulation failure and the possibility of fire.

This chapter does not apply to mechanical tray systems used to support piping, tubing, or other non-electrical loadings.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Cable Tray System A unit or assembly of units or sections and associated fittings forming a rigid structural system used to support, securely fasten, and protect electrical cables.

Power Cable Tray A cable tray containing DC cables supplying magnet loads and or AC cables for utilization equipment.

Premises Wiring Cable Tray A cable tray containing conductors associated with the premises wiring system.

Signal A voltage or current of low energy carried on a conductor for the purpose of monitoring or controlling equipment. Such signals are typically associated with, but not limited to, accelerator and experimental control and data acquisition systems and their connective networks. This definition must not be confused with the NEC definition for a signaling circuit which refers to alarm (fire alarm) or security (burglar alarm) systems or with controllers that deliver electric power to equipment such as motors.

Utility Cable Tray. A cable tray containing signal cables. See definition of signal above.

Definitions of other applicable terms of AC Electrical Power Distribution System, Electrical Utilization Equipment, Point of Outlet, and Premises Wiring are found in Fermilab FESHM Chapter 5042.



3.0 REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The following requirements and recommendations relate to all installations and uses of cable trays, of any type.
 - a. Cable tray systems shall be grounded. Reference NFPA 70 articles 318-7 and 250.
 - b. Cable tray systems shall be engineered and properly installed so as to preclude mechanical failure under anticipated load conditions.
 - c. Cable tray systems shall present a minimum of sharp edges to installed cables.
 - d. Caution must be exercised when adding cables or other services to existing trays to insure that installed cables are not crushed, abraded, or otherwise damaged.
 - e. Mechanical fastening of cables to the cable tray structure or to other cables in the cable tray system should be minimized. Excessive fastening unnecessarily constrains the addition or removal of cables at future times. It is recognized, however, that mechanical fastening of certain cable installations is necessary to limit movements associated with electromagnetic forces.
 - f. It is strongly recommended that all unused cables be removed from existing cable tray systems. It is recognized, however, that such removal may be precluded if existing operational cables would be adversely affected by the removal process.
 - g. Cable trays should not be utilized for storage of excessive lengths of installed cables. Cables should be dressed to suitable lengths upon installation.
 - h. It is recognized that in many locations, due to limited space, the cable tray system offers the best means of bringing services to support experimental devices. In all cases, neither the mechanical loading nor the ventilating capability of the installed cable tray system shall be significantly compromised by addition of such services.
 - i. Flammable gas lines are generally not permitted to be located in cable trays. Refer to Fermilab FESHM Chapter 6020.3 for specific details relative to flammable gas line installation and routing.
 - j. Utilization equipment shall not be located in cable tray.



2. The following requirements and recommendations relate to installations and uses of specific types of cable trays, as previously defined.
 - a. For instances of where premise wiring is to be installed in a cable tray, such wiring shall be installed in accordance with the National Electrical Code. For those cases where premise wiring is installed in existing cable trays, it is suggested that the wiring be removed or be segregated through the use of tray dividers. The fill factor should be adjusted to meet the requirements of the National Electrical Code.
 - b. For installations of cable into a power cable tray, the responsible engineer shall consider the thermal and electrical properties of the cable with regard to that specific installation and the structural load capability of the cable tray system. All installations should reference the NEC NFPA 70 Article 318 guidelines for cable tray fill and other considerations specified.
 - c. For installations of cable into a utility cable tray, the responsible engineer shall take into account the structural load capability of the cable tray system and the durability of the existing cables. 100% cable fill of the tray is permitted. The nature of signal circuits is such that the energy carried by the cables is relatively low. Accordingly, the resultant losses in signal cables are of a sufficiently low level that heat dissipation is not a problem.
 - d. While subject to the general requirements of this chapter, non-flammable gas lines which are neatly bundled and secured may be installed in utility cable tray or attached to the utility cable tray supports (not attached to the tray itself).