

## Information Technology Systems Glossary

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Additional telecommunications terms are available in the ANSI T1.523-2001 standard, [ATIS Telecom Glossary 2000](#). Individual industry standards and codes also have definitions and acronyms.

### Acronyms

<b>A/E</b>	Architectural/Engineering	<b>ESD</b>	Electrostatic Discharge
<b>ADSK</b>	Autodesk, maker of CAD and BIM software.	<b>FD</b>	Floor Distributor
<b>AHJ</b>	Authority Having Jurisdiction	<b>FM</b>	Factory Mutual
<b>AM</b>	Amplitude Modulation	<b>FM</b>	Frequency Modulation
<b>ANSI</b>	American National Standards Institute	<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>APWA</b>	American Public Works Association	<b>GPR</b>	Ground Potential Rise
<b>AWG</b>	American Wire Gauge	<b>HC</b>	Horizontal Cross-Connect
<b>BCT</b>	Bonding Conductor for Telecommunications	<b>HH</b>	Hand Hole
<b>BD</b>	Building distributor	<b>HVAC</b>	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
<b>BICSI</b>	Building Industry Consulting Service International	<b>IC</b>	Intermediate Cross-Connect
<b>BIM</b>	Building Information Modeling.	<b>IDC</b>	Insulation Displacement Contact
<b>BPM</b>	Building Product Manufacturer.	<b>IEEE</b>	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
<b>CAD</b>	Computer Aided Design; Computer Aided Drafting.	<b>IMC</b>	Intermediate Metal Conduit
<b>CD</b>	Campus Distributor	<b>IPD</b>	Integrated Product Delivery
<b>CD</b>	Construction Document.	<b>ITS</b>	Information Technology System; Information Transport System
<b>CEV</b>	Controlled Environmental Vault	<b>LS0H</b>	Low Smoke, Zero Halogen (cable)
<b>CGA</b>	Common Grounds Alliance	<b>LSZH</b>	Low Smoke, Zero Halogen (cable)
<b>CO-OSP</b>	Customer Owned Outside Plant	<b>MC</b>	Main Cross-Connect
<b>CUE</b>	Concrete Universal Enclosure	<b>MGN</b>	Multi-Ground Neutral
<b>DAS</b>	Distributed Antenna System	<b>MH</b>	Maintenance Hole
<b>DB</b>	Direct-Buried conduit	<b>MPD</b>	Multiple Plastic Duct
<b>dB</b>	Decibel	<b>MPOE</b>	Minimum Point of Entry
<b>dBm</b>	Decibels, referenced to one milliwatt	<b>NEC</b>	National Electric Code
<b>EB</b>	Encased Buried Conduit	<b>NECA</b>	National Electrical Contractors Association
<b>EF</b>	Entrance Facility	<b>NESC</b>	National Electrical Safety Code
<b>EIA</b>	Electronic Industries Alliance	<b>NFPA</b>	National Fire Protection Association
<b>EMC</b>	Electromagnetic Compatibility	<b>NRTL</b>	National Recognized Testing Laboratory
<b>EMI</b>	Electromagnetic Interference	<b>OCSI</b>	One-Call Systems International
<b>EMT</b>	Electrical Metallic Tubing	<b>OFC</b>	Optical Fiber, Conductive. See NEC 770.179.
<b>ER</b>	Equipment Room	<b>OFN</b>	Optical Fiber, Nonconductive. See NEC 770.179.



<b>OSHA</b>	Occupational Safety and Health Administration	<b>TI</b>	Tenant Improvement
<b>OSP</b>	Outside Plant	<b>TIA</b>	Telecommunications Industry Association
<b>OTDR</b>	Optical Time Domain Reflectometer	<b>TBB</b>	Telecommunications Bonding Backbone
<b>PE</b>	Professional Engineer	<b>TGB</b>	Telecommunications Grounding Busbar
<b>PM</b>	Phase Modulation	<b>TMGB</b>	Telecommunications Main Ground Busbar
<b>PRCS</b>	Permit-Required Confined Space	<b>TMH</b>	Telecommunications Maintenance Hole
<b>PVC</b>	Polyvinyl Chloride	<b>TO</b>	Telecommunications Outlet Box
<b>RCDD</b>	Registered Communications Distribution Designer	<b>TR</b>	Telecommunications Room
<b>RMC</b>	Rigid Metal Conduit	<b>UL</b>	Underwriters Laboratories
<b>RMCSG</b>	Revit Model Content Style Guide	<b>UPS</b>	Uninterruptible Power Supply
<b>RUS</b>	Rural Utilities Service	<b>UTP</b>	Unshielded Twisted Pair (cable)
<b>SAI</b>	Serving Area Interface	<b>VDL</b>	Vertical Down Lead
<b>ScTP</b>	Screened Twisted Pair (cable)		
<b>STP</b>	Shielded Twisted Pair (cable)		
<b>TGB</b>	Telecommunications Ground Busbar		

## **Units of Measurement**

<b>ft</b>	Foot/feet
<b>in</b>	Inch/inches
<b>km</b>	Kilometer(s)
<b>m</b>	Meter(s)
<b>mi</b>	Mile(s)
<b>mm</b>	Millimeter(s)

## **Definitions**

### **Approved**

Acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction. For example, electrical devices that are listed or approved by UL, FM or CSA normally are acceptable.

### **Authority Having Jurisdiction**

The building official, electrical inspector, fire marshal, or other individuals or entities responsible for interpretation and enforcement of local building and electrical codes.

### **Backbone Cable**

A cable between any of the following spaces: telecommunications rooms, common telecommunications rooms, floor-serving terminals, entrance facilities, equipment rooms, and common equipment rooms.

### **Bonded (Bonding)**

Connected to establish electrical continuity and conductivity. (NEC Article 100)

### **Building Distributor (BD)**

See Intermediate Cross-Connect.

**Building Information Modeling**

The process (and the supporting software) of generating and managing building data during its life cycle, using three dimensional, real-time graphical images with substantial imbedded data about each object. This allows interactions and conflicts to be automatically highlighted.

**Campus Distributor (CD)**

See Main Cross-Connect.

**Classified**

One of four product test ratings used in the U.S. (Listed, Classified, Recognized, Verified). A product is Classified after it is evaluated and passes tests for one or more of the following: Specific hazards only; performance under specified conditions; regulatory codes; other standards, including international standards. The Classified rating is generally restricted to industrial or commercial products.

**CLX cable**

Corrugated aluminum sheath. Another term for the NEC's Type MC cable, as defined in NEC Article 330. See "Communications Cable Markings" below.

**CMX cable**

See the "Communications Cable Markings" section below.

**Demarc; Demarcation Point**

See Minimum Point of Entry.

**Distribution Panel**

A wiring board that provides patch panel functions and mounts either in a rack or on a wall.

**Entrance Facility**

An entrance to a building for both public and private network service cables (including wireless) including the entrance point at the building wall and continuing to the entrance room or space.

**Equipment Room**

An environmentally controlled centralized space for telecommunications equipment that usually houses a main or intermediate cross-connect.

**Factory Mutual; FM Global**

A National Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) in the U.S.

**Floor Distributor (FD)**

See Horizontal Cross-Connect.

**Grounded (Grounding)**

Connected (connecting) to ground or to a conductive body that extends the ground connection.

**Horizontal Cable**

Permanently installed cabling that connects the telecommunications outlet/connector at the work area and the first piece of connecting hardware in the horizontal cross-connect (floor distributor).

**Horizontal Cross-Connect (HC)**

A group of connectors (e.g., patch panel or punch-down block) that allows equipment and backbone cabling to be cross-connected with patch cords or jumpers. Floor distributor is the international equivalent term for horizontal cross-connect.

**Information Transport System (ITS)**

The cabling, pathways, rooms and spaces, wireless systems, racks, power, grounding, cooling and other infrastructure required to support the transportation of voice and data signaling between communication, data processing, data display of information gathering devices. Formerly known as a Structured Cabling System.

**Intermediate Cross-Connect (IC)**

The connection point between a backbone cable that extends from the main cross-connect (campus distributor [first-level backbone]) and the backbone cable from the horizontal cross-connect (floor distributor [second-level backbone]). Building distributor is the international equivalent term for intermediate cross-connect. Formerly called the Intermediate Distribution Frames (IDF).

**Jack**

- a.) A common term for telecommunications outlet/connector.
- b.) A female telecommunications connector that maybe keyed or un-keyed and may have six or eight contact positions, but not all positions need to be equipped with jack contacts.

**Listed**

One of four product test ratings used in the U.S. (Listed, Classified, Recognized, Verified). A product is Listed after it successfully completes a series of mechanical, electrical, and thermal characteristics tests that simulate all reasonable, foreseeable hazards. The Listed classification is exclusive to the product for the specific applications for which it was tested and is not valid for other applications.

**Low Smoke, Zero Halogen (LSZH or LS0H) Cable**

Cables with a LSZH jacket are intended for applications where both low smoke and low corrosive gases are needed. This requirement is often found in shipboard or airborne applications or in environments where expensive equipment would be damaged if exposed to corrosive gases. Also used outside of North America in place of plenum cable. There are advantages and disadvantages to using LSZH vs. plenum. See <http://www.anixter.com/axecom/us.nsf/Search?searchview&Query=wirewisdom&Count=30> for more information.

**Main Cross-Connect (MC)**

The cross-connect normally located in the (main) equipment room for cross-connection and interconnection of entrance cables, first-level backbone cables, and equipment cables. Campus distributor is the international equivalent term for main cross-connect. Formerly called the Main Distribution Frame (MDF).

**MC Cable**

A factory assembly of one or more insulated circuit conductors with or without optical fiber members enclosed in an armor of interlocking metal tape or a smooth or corrugated metallic sheath.

**Minimum Point of Entry (MPOE)**

- a.) The point at which the telephone company network ends and connects with the wiring at the customer premises. Also referred to as the demarcation point, demarc, or DMARC.
- b.) The earliest point at which a wire or cable enters a building via a wall, slab, conduit or tubing.

**National Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL)** An organization recognized by the government and industry that tests products according to their application or purpose. Test results are often used for insurance underwriting.

**Outside Plant (OSP)**

A system of cables designed for use outdoors.

**Patch Cords**

As used in this document, it collectively refers to equipment cords, works area cords and cross-connect jumpers.

**Plenum Cable**

Cables listed as being suitable for use in ducts, plenums, and other space used for environmental air. Plenum cable must have adequate fire-resistant and low smoke-producing characteristics. Used primarily in North America. Most of the rest of the world uses Low Smoke, Zero Halogen (LS0H or LSZH) cable. Plenum cable produces much less smoke than riser or general purpose cable when burned, but the smoke that is produced is considered toxic. There are advantages and disadvantages to using LSZH vs. plenum. See [http://www.anixter.com/axecom/us.nsf/Search?searchview&Query=wire\\_wisdom&Count=30](http://www.anixter.com/axecom/us.nsf/Search?searchview&Query=wire_wisdom&Count=30) for more information.

**Recognized**

One of four product test ratings used in the U.S. (Listed, Classified, Recognized, Verified). A product is Recognized after it is tested for use as a component in a Listed package and passes. These component products are tested for electrical, mechanical, and thermal characteristics. The Recognized classification is a more general-purpose approval than Listed because it allows a product to be certified for a category of equipment uses.

**Revit**

A major BIM software package, made by Autodesk.

**Structured Cabling System**

See Information Transport System.

**Telecommunications Outlet Box**

Housing used to hold Telecommunications outlets/connectors.

**Telecommunications Room**

An enclosed architectural space for housing telecommunications equipment, cable terminations, and cross-connect cabling.

**Underwriters Laboratories (UL)**

A National Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) in the U.S.

**Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)**

A device inserted between a primary power source (e.g., a commercial utility) and the primary power input of equipment to be protected (e.g., a computer system) to eliminate the effects of transient anomalies or temporary outages.

**Verified**

One of four product test ratings used in the U.S. (Listed, Classified, Recognized, Verified). UL also produces a performance verification of communications cabling with the classification of Verified. Cabling manufacturers and their cabling types are listed in the UL publication, [Performance Levels Certification Program](#), for meeting the base performance criteria for the product, such as category 3, 5e, and 6. The Performance Verification Mark allows manufacturers to demonstrate that telecommunications cabling products are certified for both safety and performance, and comply with industry performance standards and draft standards. The UL Performance Verification Mark also signifies the testing of copper and optical fiber cabling products to industry performance standards such as ANSI/TIA/EIA, ISO/IEC 11801 Ed.2:2002, NEMA, and Telcordia. It can also be applied to UL Listed optical fiber cable Verified to Telcordia specifications. The Verification Mark may also be applied to data transmission or optical fiber cable Verified to performance specifications only.

**Work Areas**

A building space where the occupants interact with telecommunications terminal equipment.

### **Communications Cable Markings ((NEC 800.50)**

<b><u>Cable Marking</u></b>	<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>Reference</u></b>
MPP	Multipurpose plenum cable	800.51(G) and 800.53(A)
CMP	Communications plenum cable	800.51(A) and 800.53(A)
MPR	Multipurpose riser cable	800.51(G) and 800.53(B)
CMR	Communications riser cable	800.51(B) and 800.53(B)
MPG	Multipurpose general-purpose cable	800.51(G) and 800.53(D) and (E)(1)
CMG	Communications general-purpose cable	800.51(C) and 800.53(D) and (E)(1)
MP	Multipurpose general-purpose cable	800.51(G) and 800.53(D) and (E)(1)
CM	Communications general-purpose cable	800.51(D) and 800.53(D) and (E)(1)
CMX	Communications cable, limited use	800.51(E) and 800.53(C), (D), and (E)
CMUC	Under-carpet communications wire and cable	800.51(F) and 800.53(F)(6)