

Theft Prevention - CBI

Proof of ownership is the biggest hurdle to overcome when trying to convict a person of cable theft. Here we detail our theft prevention initiative which started in May 2009.

Basic concept

We insert a tape containing a series of unique ID numbers into each conductor of a cable. These ID numbers are scanned and associated with the purchaser just prior to despatch. The appropriate records are stored off site by Unicode. On finding a piece of cable, the ID numbers in one or more cores can be checked against the Unicode database to establish the original owner.

Features

- A relatively low cost material (PET) allows us to put it into every core of every cable.
- Each 150mm of conductor within a cable contains a unique ID number.
- The ID numbers change in a known sequence allowing intermediate numbers to be predicted from any two exposed ID numbers.
- Innermost in the cable makes it difficult to remove.
- Innermost in the cable makes it burn resistant. (45 minute veld fire)
- The tape survives production process and operational (normal and fault) temperatures.
- The barcode reduces the risk of typographical errors.
- Size allows for reading with the unaided eye.
- All stock is available to any customer.

Prosecution options

This initiative allows for 4 potential prosecution options:

1. Possession of stolen goods. Rightful owner is identified with certainty.
2. A piece of stolen cable can be related to a specific crime scene.
3. Act 6 of 2009 Clause 21 (1) (b) requires a dealer to keep record of serial numbers.
4. Clause 22 (1) (c) requires the dealer to report any attempt made to damage the marking. Melted tape remains as evidence.

Product range

- All copper and aluminium conductors 16mm² to 1000mm² on LV, MV and HV cables.
- We exclude the smaller sizes (≤10mm²) and aerial cables (ACSR, ABC, Service cables).

electric
african cables