Frequently Asked Questions

UL CLASSIFIED CABLE RUNWAY



Q. Does Cable Runway need to be bonded and grounded?

A. Yes, any metal pathway such as CPI's Cable Runway, must be bonded together for grounding purposes. Generally, individual pathway components are bonded across each splice and the pathway is then bonded to the Telecommunications Grounding Bus Bar.

Q. When is UL Classified Cable Runway required?

A. UL Classified Cable Runway (also called ladder rack) can be used in any standard cable runway application, but is required in the United States by the National Electric Code (NFPA 70) when cable runway will be used as an equipment grounding conductor. For example, if racks are bonded to the cable runway instead of running an individual ground conductor from the Telecommunications Grounding Bus Bar to each rack.

Q. How many styles of UL Classified Cable Runway does CPI offer?

A. Two styles. The original UL Classified Cable Runway (P/Ns 11275-XXX) and the Universal Cable Runway (P/Ns 10250-XXX).

Q. What are the differences between UL Classified Cable Runway and Universal Cable Runway?

A. The overall length, size of the cross member (rung), spacing of the cross members and finish are different on UL Classified and Universal Cable Runway. UL Classified Cable Runway (P/N 11275-XXX) is a Telco-style cable runway (ladder rack). Each piece is 9' 8-1/2" long, cross members (rungs) are 1" wide by ½" high and are spaced on 9" centers, and the finish is a gold or black chem film over zinc plating. Each piece of Universal Cable Runway is 9'-11 ½" long, cross members (rungs) are 1 ½" wide by 3/8" high and are spaced on 12" centers, and the finish is a powder coat paint.

Q. How do the differences between UL Classified Cable **Runway and Universal Cable Runway affect installation** when the runway is used as a grounding conductor? A. The US National Electric Code provides specific guidance for when metal cable runway can be used as a grounding conductor. In general, cable trays must be bonded together at each splice point to provide an electrically continuous pathway. Since UL Classified Cable Runway is zinc plated, it can be bonded together using UL Classified Splices. No ground straps are required. However, Universal Cable Runway is painted, so the paint must be removed under splices or a separate ground strap must be used across each splice to create metal-to-metal contact. Installers save time assembling UL Classified Cable Runway because the tray is bonded by the splices, but the price per piece is higher. More time is required to remove paint at the spice points with Universal Cable Runway, but the price per piece is less.



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Q. How much protection does the UL Classified installation provide?

A. The US National Electric Code provides specific guidance for determining the largest individual circuit that can be placed in the cable runway when the runway is used as a grounding conductor based on the cross sectional area of the runway. A minimum cross sectional area is stated on the UL Classified label applied to the runway. The cross sectional area is cross referenced to a table in the code that defines the maximum individual circuit size that can be used based on the type of tray. Reference the code for specific requirements. In general, a larger cross sectional area supports higher current circuits. Note that inspectors will look for the UL Classified label on the product, so be sure to install the section with the label if you cut the runway.



Note: .065" (1.65 mm) thick tubular stringer. Combined area of both stringers is a minimum of .40 square inches (260 square millimeters)



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