Installation of Grid Cable Tray Supports



Overview

Cable Tray Technical Guide A practical guide to product selection and. Cable tray length is selected based on the load to be supported, the distance betw.

Key Takeaways

Proper installation of grid cable tray supports ensures safe, organized, and code-compliant routing of electrical cables in industrial and commercial settings.

Planning and Design

Before installation, a layout plan should be developed by a qualified designer or engineer who considers building codes, equipment specifications, clearances, and load requirements (Unitray Guide). The plan should identify cable types, approximate cross-sectional areas, and maximum fill capacities according to NEC Table 392. 22 (A) to ensure compliance and prevent overfilling (ExpertCE).

Selecting the appropriate tray type—ladder, ventilated trough, or mesh—is critical based on cable size, heat dissipation needs, and environmental conditions (ExpertCE).

Support Spacing and Mounting

Grid cable tray supports must be structurally sound and capable of bearing the weight of cables and trays. Typical support spans for ladder trays range from 4 to 6 feet, while ventilated troughs may require closer spacing to prevent sagging (ABB Technical Guide). Supports can be mounted on ceilings, walls, or floors using threaded rods, struts, or brackets, ensuring alignment and level installation (OBO CMS Guide).



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Anchors and fasteners should be selected based on substrate type and load requirements.

Installation Steps

Mark support locations according to the layout plan, ensuring proper alignment and spacing. Install support elements such as struts, brackets, or hangers securely to the building structure. Place cable trays on the supports, ensuring rungs or mesh sections are level and properly aligned.

Secure trays using bolts, clamps, or connectors to prevent movement and maintain structural integrity. Check for bends and transitions, maintaining minimum bend radii for cables to avoid damage (ABB Technical Guide). Bonding and grounding must be completed according to NEC Article 392 to ensure electrical safety (ExpertCE).

Material and Environmental Considerations

Cable tray supports and trays are typically made from steel, stainless steel, aluminum, or fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) depending on environmental conditions (OBO CMS Guide). Galvanized or coated steel is preferred in corrosive environments, while FRP is ideal for high-moisture or chemical-exposed areas due to its non-conductive and corrosion-resistant properties (ExpertCE).

Maintenance and Safety

After installation, ensure cable routing is smooth to prevent abrasion, and verify that all fasteners are tight. Regular inspections should check for corrosion, loose connections, or sagging trays. Proper installation reduces the risk of physical damage, overheating, and facilitates future maintenance or upgrades (Unitray Guide).

By following these guidelines, grid cable tray supports can be installed safely, efficiently, and in compliance with electrical codes, ensuring long-term reliability and protection of electrical systems.

Article Content

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