Requirements for cable trays in the Netherlands



Overview

Cable tray installation at a power plant in the NetherlandsCable tray installation at a power plant in the Netherlands Cable tray installation must comply.

Key Takeaways

Cable trays in the Netherlands must comply with IEC 61537, CPR fire classification (EN 50575), and NEN 8012 standards, ensuring mechanical strength, fire safety, and proper material selection. Regulatory StandardsIEC 61537 is the international standard governing cable tray systems, covering construction, mechanical strength, corrosion resistance, electrical continuity, fire resistance, ventilation, and installation compatibility. Cable trays must withstand the load of cables, environmental factors, and external pressure, and ensure proper grounding and electrical continuity when used as part of the electrical system.

In the Netherlands, CPR (Construction Products Regulation) compliance is mandatory for permanent installations. Since 1 July 2017, only CPR-certified cables can be used, following the EN 50575 standard. This standard classifies cables based on flame propagation, heat emission, smoke emission, and acidity, ensuring fire safety in buildings.

The NE

N 8012 standard also provides fire rating guidance for cables and trays, harmonizing fire safety requirements across installations.

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Material and Construction Requirements

Cable trays can be made from galvanized steel, stainless steel, aluminum, or synthetic materials. The choice depends on environmental conditions, such as exposure to moisture, chemicals, or marine environments. Trays may be perforated, solid, or ladder-type, with perforations aiding ventilation and heat dissipation.

Covers are recommended in high-traffic areas or outdoor installations to protect cables from mechanical damage. Mechanical strength requirements include proper span lengths (typically 3–6 meters), rung spacing (150–230 mm), and support for cable weight without deformation. Corrosion resistance is critical, especially in industrial or coastal environments, and coatings or material selection must meet these conditions.

Installation Guidelines

Tray selection depends on cable type, environment, span length, and fire rating. Electrical continuity must be maintained if trays serve as grounding paths. Ventilation and fill ratio should prevent overheating and allow proper cable cooling.

Covers and lids are recommended for protection in high-traffic or outdoor areas. Attachment hardware such as clamps, bends, and risers must be compatible with the tray system and meet mechanical and fire safety requirements.

Summary

In the Netherlands, cable trays must meet IEC 61537 for mechanical and electrical performance, CPR/EN 50575 for fire safety, and NEN 8012 for fire rating compliance. Proper material selection, corrosion resistance, ventilation, and installation practices are essential to ensure safety, durability, and regulatory compliance.

Article Content

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