

Support to cables in cable trays (England & Wales only)

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Question

Is it acceptable to support cables beneath inverted cable trays by use of combustible fixings (plastic ties)? This practice is frequently found in the common corridors to blocks of flats.

Considerations

Paragraph 5.38 of Approved Document B recommends:

- that protected circuits are provided where it is critical for an electrical circuit to be able to continue to function during a fire.
- the method of cable support for protected power circuits should generally be non-combustible.
- protected circuits should be separate from any circuit provided for another purpose.

Answer

Where cables are providing power to fire alarm or other life safety systems these should be separate from other circuits and supported by non-combustible fixings. Steel fixings at maximum 1m centres are recommended.

In addition, all cables, including protected circuits, should be supported by non-combustible fixings within 500mm of the penetration of any fire resisting structure such as compartment walls or fire resisting partitions. This support is considered necessary to reduce the likelihood of services being dislodged during a fire and disrupting the fire stopping around the cable penetrations through fire resisting structures.