

Entertainment Services and Technology Association



American National Standard
E1.27-2 - 2009
Entertainment Technology -
Recommended Practice for Permanently
Installed Control Cables for Use
with ANSI E1.11 (DMX512-A) and USITT
DMX512/1990 Products

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American National Standard E1.27-2-2009 Entertainment Technology Recommended Practice for Permanently Installed Control Cables for Use with ANSI E1.11 (DMX512-A) and USITT DMX512/1990 Products

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Entertainment Services and Technology Association
875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005
New York, NY 10001 USA
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
Fax: 1-212-244-1502
standards@esta.org
<http://www.esta.org/>

For additional copies of this document contact:

ESTA Publications
The ESTA Foundation
875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005
New York, NY 10001 USA
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
Fax: 1-212-244-1502
<http://www.estafoundation.org>

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The ESTA Technical Standards Program was created to serve the ESTA membership and the entertainment industry in technical standards related matters. The goal of the Program is to take a leading role regarding technology within the entertainment industry by creating recommended practices and standards, monitoring standards issues around the world on behalf of our members, and improving communications and safety within the industry. ESTA works closely with the technical standards efforts of other organizations within our industry, including USITT, PLASA, and VPLT, as well as representing the interests of ESTA members to ANSI, UL, and the NFPA. The Technical Standards Program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

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The Control Protocols Working Group, which authored this Standard, consists of a cross section of entertainment industry professionals representing a diversity of interests. ESTA is committed to developing consensus-based standards and recommended practices in an open setting. Future Control Protocols Working Group projects will include updating this publication as changes in technology and experience warrant, as well as developing new standards and recommended practices for the benefit of the entertainment industry.

Contact Information

Entertainment Services and Technology Association

Karl G. Ruling
Technical Standards Manager
ESTA
875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
FAX: 1-212-244-1502
standards@esta.org

Technical Standards Committee Chairperson

Mike Garl
James Thomas Engineering, Inc.
10240 Caneel Drive
Knoxville, TN 37931
Phone: 1-865-692-3060
FAX: 1-865-692-9020
mikeg@jthomaseng.com

Control Protocols Working Group Chairpersons

Michael Lay
Philips Strand Lighting
6603 Darin Way
Cypress, CA 90630
Phone: 1-714-230-8208
FAX: 1-714-899-0042
michael.lay@philips.com

Tracy Underhill
Electronics Diversified LLC
1675 NW Cornelius Pass Rd.
Hillsboro, OR 97124
Phone: 1-503-645-5533
FAX: 1-503-629-9877
tracy.underhill@edionline.com

Acknowledgments

The Control Protocols Working Group was the consensus body for the development of this Standard. The working group's membership when it voted to accept this document as an American National Standard on 11 March 2009 is shown below.

Voting members:

Daniel W. Antonuk; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc. [MP]
Robert Armstrong; Pathway Connectivity Inc. [MP]
Robert Bell; Horizon Control Inc. [MP]
Scott M. Blair; High End Systems Inc. (Barco) [MP]
Ron Bonner; PLASA [G]
John (Javid) D. Butler; Integrated Theatre, Inc. [CP]
Jean-Francois Canuel; Spectrum Manufacturing Inc. (A.C. Lighting Ltd.) [CP]
Kimberly Corbett; Schuler Shook [G]
Stuart Cotts; Oregon Shakespeare Festival [U]
Milton Davis; Doug Fleenor Design, Inc. [MP]
Gary Douglas; Horizon Control Inc. [MP]
Doug Fleenor; Doug Fleenor Design, Inc. [MP]
Phillip M. Gallo; TMB [DR]
Robert Goddard; Goddard Design Co. [MP]
Tom Grimes; High End Systems, Inc. (Barco) [MP]
Dennis Grow; I.A.T.S.E. Local 728 [U]
Mitch Hefter; Entertainment Technology (Royal Philips Electronics), representing USITT [U]
Dave Higgins; Pathway Connectivity Inc. [MP]
John Huntington; City Tech, Ent Tech Department, representing I.A.T.S.E. Local 1 [U]
Paul Kleissler; City Theatrical, Inc. [MP]
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E. Local 1 [U]
Ulrich Kunkel; E3 Engineering & Education for Entertainment GmbH, representing the DIN, NVBF Committee [U]
Roger Lattin; I.A.T.S.E. Local 728 [U]
Hans Lau; Sand Network Systems, Inc. [MP]
Michael Lay; Strand Lighting (Royal Philips Electronics) [MP]
Kevin Loewen; Pathway Connectivity Inc. [MP]
Alan Martello; Horizon Control Inc. [MP]
Tyrone Mellon Jr.; Lex Products Corp. [CP]
Philip Nye; Engineering Arts [G]
Edward A. (Ted) Paget; Vortek Rigging Division (Daktronics Inc.) [G]
Charles Reese; Production Resource Group [DR]
Alan M. Rowe; I.A.T.S.E. Local 728 [U]
Yngve Sandboe; Sand Network Systems, Inc. [MP]
Steve Terry; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc. [MP]
Robert Tooker; Production Resource Group [DR]
Tracy Underhill; Electronics Diversified LLC [MP]
Michael (Mike) Whetstone; Integrated Theatre, Inc. [CP]
Peter Willis; Howard Eaton Lighting Ltd. [CP]

Observer members:

Simon Alpert; Lighttech Event Technologies [CP]
Klaus Amling; Licht-Technik [MP]
Shahid Anwar; Avolites Ltd. [MP]
Tim Bachman; A.C.T Lighting, Inc. [DR]
Robert Barbagallo; Solotech Inc. [U]
William Benner; Pangolin Laser Systems [MP]

Adam Bennette; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc. [MP]
David Bertenshaw [G]
Stephen Bickford; T. Kondos Associates [U]
Torrey Bievenour; Vision Quest Lighting [G]
Mike Blackwell; Philips/Color Kinetics (Royal Philips Electronics) [MP]
Lee J. Bloch; Bloch Design Group, Inc. [G]
David A. Boller; Organic Machines LLC [CP]
Andre Broucke; ADB - TTV Technologies (ADB-TTV Group) [MP]
Steve Carlson; High Speed Design, Inc. [MP]
Soo-Myong Chung; Bloch Design Group, Inc. [G]
Paul J. Clark; HxDx [CP]
Edward R. Condit; Edward R. Condit [G]
Eric Cornwell; West Side Systems [U]
Klas Dalbjorn; Labgruppen AB (TC Group) [MP]
Gary Dove; Dove Systems [MP]
Larry Dunn; City Theatrical, Inc. [MP]
Jerry Durand; Durand Interstellar, Inc. [CP]
James Eade; PLASA [G]
Joost van Eenbergen; ELC Lighting [MP]
Bill Ellis; Candela Controls, Inc. [U]
Paul K. Ericson; Syska Hennessy Group Lighting Design [U]
Jon R. Farley; Sixteenth Avenue Systems [CP]
Martin Farnik; Robe Show Lighting s.r.o. [MP]
Bill Fehrmann; Electrol Engineering, Inc. [MP]
Trevor Forrest; Helvar Lighting Control [MP]
Douglas Franz; QVC Network [U]
Steve Friedlander; Auerbach Pollock Friedlander [U]
Michael Gonzales; Spectrum Lighting Inc. [DR]
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs [G]
Josh Gubler [CP]
Sean Harding; Rhode Island College [U]
Bill Hewlett; Hewlett Electronics [CP]
Simon Hobday; Artistic Licence (UK) Ltd. [CP]
Helge Hoffmann; JB Lighting [MP]
Jim Holladay; Luxence [G]
Wayne David Howell; Artistic Licence (UK) Ltd. [CP]
Sierk Janszen; Kiss Box (Ground Zero) [U]
Flemming Jensen; Martin Professional A/S [G]
Eric Johnson [MP]
Rob Johnston; Interactive Technologies, Inc. [MP]
Ed Jones; Edwin Jones Co., Inc. [CP]
Jussi Kallioinen; Eastway Sound & Lighting [U]
Ujjal Kar; Standard Robotics & Lighting [G]
Kirk D. Keen; Hollywood Lighting Services, Inc. [DR]
Hiroshi Kita; Marumo Electric Co., Ltd. [MP]
Mark T. Kraft; Lehigh Electric Products Co. [MP]
Marty Lazarus; Chicago Spotlight, Inc. [G]
Rick Leinen; Colortran (Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.) [MP]
Hans Leiter; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc. [MP]
Mark Manthei; Shure Inc. [G]
Paul F. Mardon; Pulsar Ltd. [MP]
Mick Martin; ShowCAD Control Systems [MP]
Paul Kenneth McEwan; Zero 88 [MP]
John Mehlretter; Lehigh Electric Products Co. [MP]
Avraham Mendall Mor; Lightswitch [U]

Tobin Neis; Barbizon Companies [DR]
Lars F. Paape; Scientific Algorithms and Embedded Systems [U]
Fabiano Pina; Clay Paky S.P.A. [MP]
Gary Pritchard; LSC Lighting Systems PTY Ltd [MP]
Eric Proces [U]
Christopher Purpura; Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc. [G]
Torben Kaas Rasmussen; Martin Professional A/S [G]
Charlie Richmond; Richmond Sound Design Ltd. [CP]
Bernardo Benito Rico; Ben-Ri Electronica S.A. [MP]
Steve Roberts; Carr & Angier [G]
Erwin Rol; Erwin Rol Software Engineering [G]
Dietmar Rottinghaus; Connex GmbH [G]
Richard Salzedo; Avolites Ltd. [MP]
Larry Schoeneman; Designlab Chicago, Inc. [DR]
Chuck Seifried; Phoenix Civic Plaza, City of Phoenix [U]
John Sellers; AIM Northwest [G]
Andrew Sherar; Lightmoves PLC [MP]
Yehuda Shukram; Compulite Systems [MP]
John Sondericker III; Wybron, Inc. [MP]
Bart Swinnen; Luminex LCE [MP]
Arnold Tang; Arnold Tang Productions [U]
Geoffrey O. Thompson; Nortel Networks, Inc. [G]
David Timmins; Jands Electronics [MP]
J. B. Toby; Avolites Ltd. [MP]
Bob Toms; Catalyst Microsystems LLC [G]
Tad Trylski [U]
Stephen J. Tyrrell; Quantum Logic [MP]
Steve Unwin; Pulsar Ltd. [MP]
Ken Vannice; Colortran (Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.) [MP]
Dominic Vincenty; Television Production Service [DR]
Will Wagner; Carallon Ltd. [MP]
John Warwick; Philips/Color Kinetics (Royal Philips Electronics) [MP]
Colin Waters; TMB [U]
Ralph Weber; ENDL Texas [G]
Daniel Weiermann; Mainstage Theatrical Supply [DR]
Lars Wernlund; Lewlight [MP]
Loren Wilton; Showman Systems [CP]
Barbara Wohlsen [U]
Jiantong Wu; Beijing Special Engineering Design & Research Institute [G]
Kehang Wu; Shure Inc. [G]

[CP] Custom-market Producer
[MP] Mass-market Producer
[DR] Dealer or Rental company
[U] User
[G] General Interest

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Foreword

(This foreword is not a normative part of ANSI E1.27-2–2009.)

This recommended practice describes the types of permanently installed cable used to interconnect products that comply with ANSI E1.11-2004, Entertainment Technology – USITT DMX512-A: Asynchronous Serial Digital Data Transmission Standard for Controlling Lighting Equipment and Accessories, or that comply with USITT DMX512/1990.

In 2003, the Control Protocols Working Group of ESTA’s Technical Standards Program authorized the formation of a DMX512 Cabling Task Group. Writing an American National Standard that would be a recommended practice for permanently installed cables was one of the projects assigned to this task group. This document is the result.

Task Group Chair: John David Butler, Integrated Theatre.

Additional Task Group Members

Tim Bachman, ACT
Milton Davis, Doug Fleenor Design
Mitch Hefter, Entertainment Technology
Peter Willis, Howard Eaton Lighting Limited

1 General

1.1 Scope

This Recommended Practice is intended to provide for maximum interoperability in the use of equipment connected in permanently installed entertainment lighting applications. To accomplish this intent the Recommended Practice defines acceptable cable and connector types, and the ways in which they may be used.

Entertainment lighting uses both EIA-485/EIA-485-A and EIA/TIA-568 Category 5 and higher cabling systems for data connection between equipment. There are significant differences between the two cables. In order to avoid confusion arising from the differences in specification of the two cable types this Recommended Practice has separate sections for cables designed specifically for EIA-485 signals and Category 5 and higher cable.

Category 5 cable is also known as Class D cable under ISO/IEC standard 11801. Research by the ESTA CPWG determined that Category 5, 5e, 6, and 6a cables would all be suitable for use with DMX512. Since control over future revisions of ANSI/EIA/TIA-568 and ISO/IEC 11801 is beyond the scope of this Recommended Practice, ANSI/EIA/TIA-568 Category cables shall be the controlling standard with respect to future developments. Cable, Equipment, and System Manufacturers, and Engineers, System Integrators, and Installers subject to ISO/IEC standards should consider references to Category 5 or higher cable as referencing comparable cable described by ISO/IEC standards.

This Recommended Practice applies to entertainment lighting systems that are permanently installed, regardless of the nature of the facility. Connection of portable and temporary equipment are not covered by this Recommended Practice, and applications that may limit the interoperability of entertainment lighting control systems for the sake of cost are also beyond the scope of this Recommended Practice. Connection of proprietary control systems, which may co-exist with equipment covered by this Recommended Practice, is also beyond the scope of this Recommended Practice.

1.2 Appropriate uses

This Recommended Practice is intended for those involved in the design, manufacture, installation, and use of entertainment lighting systems.

1.3 Compliance

Compliance with this Recommended Practice is strictly voluntary and the responsibility of the Specifier, System Manufacturer and installer. Disclosures and identification or other claims of compliance do not constitute certification or approval by ESTA. See clause 7 for disclosure requirements.

1.4 Local Requirements and Regulations

Cabling installations covered by this Recommended Practice are frequently also covered by local regulations which may place restrictions on cable construction, connection or installation for reasons of safety, electromagnetic compatibility or other reasons. Such local regulations may be statutory requirements or may be included in the system specification. All such regulations are entirely beyond the scope of this Recommended Practice and compliance with this Recommended Practice has no bearing on compliance with any other such requirements.

2 Normative references

- ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-B-2001 Commercial Building Telecommunications Cabling Standard
- ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-B.2-1-2002 Commercial Building Telecommunications Cabling Standard -
Part 2 - Addendum 1 - Transmission Performance Specifications
for 4-Pair 100 Ohm Category 6 Cabling