



The Electrical Cable Specialists

## IEEE Cable Burn Test Standards

IEEE 383 Standard for Qualifying Class 1E Electric Cables and Field Splices for Nuclear Power Generating Stations was published in 1974 in the wake of the fire at the Brown's Ferry nuclear site. It included one of the first test standards for cable flame propagation and damage.

The flame test included in the 383 standard was used by most specifiers as the standard flame test for three decades. Most assumed it was a high standard since it was part of the specification for 1E nuclear certification. However, other more severe flame tests were developed over the next 30 years. IEEE published a second edition of the 383 standard in 2004 in which the old flame tests were replaced with Section 8 "Flame test qualification" which now states:

**"Cables shall be flame retardant in accordance with the requirements of IEEE Standard 1202-1991 or NFPA 262-2002."**

Listing the IEEE 383 is therefore no longer a way to cite a flame test standard directly.

If you or your team is questioning the implications of a reference to IEEE 383 in a specification, call us to discuss. There may be alternative ways to ensure the cable specified meets the requirements for your project.

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