

CHAPTER – 16

LV CABLES

1.00.00 CODES AND STANDARD

1.01.00 All standards, specifications and codes of practice referred to herein shall be the latest editions including all applicable official amendments and revisions as on date of opening of bid. In case of conflict between this specification and those (IS: codes, standards, etc.) referred to herein, the former shall prevail. All the cables shall conform to the requirements of the following standards and codes:

IS : 3961	Recommended current ratings for cables
IS : 3975	Low carbon galvanised steel wires, formed wires and tapes for armouring of cables.
IS : 4905	Methods for random sampling.
IS : 5831	PVC insulation and sheath of electrical cables.
IS:7098 (Part -I)	Cross linked polyethylene insulated PVC sheathed cables for working voltages up to and including 1100V.
IS : 8130	Conductors for insulated electrical cables and flexible cords.
IS : 10418	Specification for drums for electric cables.
IS : 10810	Methods of tests for cables.
ASTM-D -2843	Standard test method for density of smoke from the burning or decomposition of plastics.
ASTM-D-2863	Standard method for measuring the minimum oxygen concentration to support candle like combustion of plastics.
IEC-60754 (Part-I)	Test on gases evolved during combustion of electric cables.
IEEE-383	Standard for type test of Class IE Electric Cables.
IEC -60332	Tests on Electric cables under fire conditions.



	Part-3 : Tests on bunched wires or cables (category -B)
SS-4241475 classF3	Swedish Chimney test
NES-715-1	Temperature index

2.00.00 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.01.01 The cables shall be suitable for laying on racks, in ducts, trenches, conduits and under ground buried installation with chances of flooding by water.
- 2.01.02 Cables shall be flame retardant, low smoke (FRLS) type designed to withstand all mechanical, electrical and thermal stresses develop under steady state and transient operating conditions as specified elsewhere in this specification.
- 2.01.03 Aluminium conductor used in power cables shall have tensile strength of more than 100 N/ sq.mm. Conductors shall be multi stranded.
- 2.01.04 XLPE insulation shall be suitable for a continuous conductor temperature of 90 deg. C and short circuit conductor temperature of 250°C.
- 2.01.05 The cable cores shall be laid up with fillers between the cores wherever necessary. It shall not stick to insulation and inner sheath. All the cables, other than single core unarmoured cables, shall have distinct extruded PVC inner sheath of black colour as per IS: 5831.
- 2.01.06 For single core armoured cables, armouring shall be of aluminium wires/ formed wires. For multicore armoured cables armouring shall be of galvanised steel as follows : -

Calculated nominal dia of cable under armour	Size and Type of armour
i) Up to 13 mm	1.4mm dia GS wire
ii) Above 13 & upto 25mm	0.8 mm thick GS formed wire / 1.6 mm dia GS wire
iii) Above 25 & upto 40 mm	0.8mm thick GS formed wire / 2.0mm dia GS wire
iv) Above 40 & upto 55mm	1.4 mm thick GS formed wire /2.5mm dia GS wire
v) Above 55 & upto 70 mm	1.4mm thick GS formed wire / 3.15mm dia GS wire
vi) Above 70mm	1.4 mm thick GS formed wire / 4.0 mm dia GS wire



2.01.07 The aluminium used for armouring shall be of H4 grade as per IS:8130 with maximum resistivity of 0.028264 ohm mm² per meter at 20 deg C. Aluminium armouring shall be same as indicated above for galvanized steel.

2.01.08 The gap between armour wires / formed wires shall not exceed one armour wire / formed wire space and there shall be no cross over / over-riding of armour wire / formed wire. The minimum area of coverage of armouring shall be 90%. The breaking load of armour joint shall not be less than 95% of that of armour wire / formed wire. Zinc rich paint shall be applied on armour joint surface of G.S.wire/ formed wire

2.01.09 Cable Identification

1. Outer sheath shall be of PVC (of suitable grade) & black in colour. In addition to meeting all the requirements of Indian standards referred to, outer sheath of all the cables shall have the following FRLS properties.

- (a.) Oxygen index of min. 21 (As per NES-715-1)
- (b.) Acid gas emission of max. 20% (As per IEC-60754-I).
- (c.) Smoke density rating shall not be more than 60% during Smoke Density Test as per ASTM D-2843.

2. Cores of the cables shall be identified by colouring of insulation. Following colour scheme shall be adopted:

- 1 core - Red, Black, Yellow or Blue
- 2 core - Red & Black
- 3 core - Red, Yellow & Blue
- 4 core - Red, Yellow, Blue and Black

3. For reduced neutral conductors the core shall be black.

4. In addition to manufacturer's identification on cables as per IS, following marking shall also be provided over outer sheath.

- (a.) Cable size and voltage grade - To be embossed



(b.) Word 'FRLS' at every 5 metre - To be embossed

(c.) Sequential marking of length of the cable in metres at every one metre-
To be embossed / printed

The embossing shall be progressive, automatic, in line and marking shall be legible and indelible.

5. Cores of the cables of upto 5 cores shall be identified by colouring of insulation. Following colour scheme shall be adopted.

1 core - Red, Black, Yellow, Blue

2 core - Red & Black

3 core - Red, Yellow & Blue

2.01.10 All cables shall meet the fire resistance requirement of IEEE - 383 with cable installations made in accordance with clause "Flammability test" and as per Category-B of IEC 60332 Part -3.

2.01.11 Allowable tolerances on the overall diameter of the cables shall be ± 2 mm maximum over the declared value in the technical data sheets.

2.01.12 In plant repairs to the cables shall not be accepted. Pimples, fish eye, blow holes etc, are not acceptable.

3.00.00 Cable selection & sizing

3.01.00 Cables shall be sized based on the following considerations:

- i. Rated current of equipment.
- ii. Maximum voltage drop limits under steady state and during starting for motor being fed from 415V switchgear restricted to 5% and 15% respectively.

Maximum voltage drop limits under steady state and during starting for motor being fed from 415V MCC restricted to 3% and 15% respectively.



Maximum voltage drop limits under steady state for feeder (i.e. Outgoing feeders being fed from 415V switchgear) restricted to 3%.

- iii. For cables to motors and feeders protected by MCCBs the cross section will be chosen according to the tripping time of MCCBs.

3.02.00 Derating Factors

Derating factors for various conditions of installations including the following shall be considered while selecting the cable sizes:

- i. Variation in ambient temperature for cables laid in air
- ii. Grouping of cables
- iii. Variation In ground temperature and soil resistivity for buried cables.

3.03.00 Cable lengths shall be considered in such ways that straight through cable joints are avoided.

3.04.00 Cables shall be armoured type if laid in switchyard area, coal handling area or directly buried.

3.05.00 All LV power cables except trailing cables shall be XLPE insulated FRLS.

3.06.00 All control cables shall be 2.5 Sq mm copper cable.

3.07.00 Multicore control cables will generally have spare conductor (s) in accordance with the following chart and cores of a single cable will not be split for different auxiliary/equipment:

Conductors	required Cables
1 or 2	1-3/C
3 or 4	1-5/C
5 or 6	1-7/C
7 or 8	1-10/C
9 or 10	1-12/C
11 or 12	1-16/C
13 or 14	1-18/C
Above 14 core	Two or more of above cables



4.00.00 CONSTRUCTIONAL FEATURES**04.01.00 1.1 KV Grade Power Cables**

- (d.) 1.1 KV grade XLPE power cables shall have compacted aluminium conductor for cables including 10 sq. mm and above and copper conductor for cables below 10 sq.mm, XLPE insulated, PVC inner-sheathed (as applicable), armoured, FRLS PVC outer-sheathed conforming to IS: 7098. (Part-I).
- (e.) 1.1 KV grade Trailing cables shall have tinned copper (class 5) conductor, insulated with heat resistant elastomeric compound based on Ethylene Propylene Rubber (EPR) suitable for withstanding 90°C continuous conductor temperature and 250 deg C during short circuit, inner-sheathed with heat resistant elastomeric compound, nylon cord reinforced, outer-sheathed with heat resistant, oil resistant and flame retardant heavy duty elastomeric compound conforming to IS 9968

4.02.00 1.1 kV Grade Copper Conductor Fire Survival Power Cables

- 4.02.01 1100 volt grade, 90 Deg.C rating, Power cables with stranded Copper conductor, heat resistance elastomeric insulation generally conforming to Type IE-2 of IS: 6380-1984, extruded Halogen free or very low Halogen elastomeric inner sheath, generally conforming to Type SE-3 of IS-6380-1984, round wire/strip armour and extruded outer sheath of elastomeric material generally conforming to Type SE-3 of IS: 6380-1984.
- 4.02.02 The cables shall be generally manufactured in conformity to IS-9968 Part-1/1988.
- 4.02.03 The cables shall be rated for 3 hours fire rating.
- 4.02.04 Conductor shall be of stranded construction, consisting of high conductivity annealed plain copper wires conforming to Class-II of IS 8130.
A suitable heat barrier tape, preferably glass mica tape shall be provided over the conductor.
- 4.02.05 The insulation shall consist of heat resisting elastomeric material EPR (Ethylene Propylene rubber) and shall conform to Type IE-2 of IS:6380/1984 amended up to date.



4.02.06 The suitable fire retardant material fillers shall be used for filling in the interstices. Two layers of plain glass fiber binder tape shall be applied over the laid up cores.

4.02.07 Fire Survival Power & Control cables shall be provided for the following services:

- (a.) DC emergency lube oil pump.
- (b.) Turbine lube oil pump/barring gear.
- (c.) Jacking oil pump.
- (d.) Scanner air fan.
- (e.) Incoming & outgoing cables for DC lighting distribution board.
- (f.) Fire /smoke detection system.
- (g.) DC seal oil pump.
- (h.) DC emergency lighting cables for Main Plant Building.
- (i.) Batteries to charger and DC distribution board.
- (j.) Emergency turbine trip by push button in control room.
- (k.) Boiler turbine: Generator inter-trip which includes the interconnecting cables between
 - 1. Boiler master fuel trip and turbine trip relays
 - 2. Generator trip relays and turbine trip relays
 - 3. Generator trip relays and 400 kV circuit breaker
 - 4. Generator trip relays and generator field breaker.
 - 5. Generator trip relays and UAT breaker.

4.03.00 1.1 KV Grade Control Cable

Control cable shall be multi core, minimum 2.5 sq.mm cross section, stranded copper conductor, PVC insulated, inner PVC sheathed / galvanized steel wire armored and outer sheath made of FRLS PVC compound. In situation where accuracy of measurement or voltage drop in control circuit, warrant, higher cross sections as required shall be used. 4 sq.mm copper conductors shall be used for CT circuits, all other specification remaining same. In 4 sq.mm conductor impose unacceptable high burden on CTs, higher cross section of conductor shall be used.

Voltage Transformer leads shall be checked for voltage drop, which shall be limited to within 1 % for all cases other than tariff metering, for which the voltage drop shall be limited to 0.2 %. In case the voltage drop with 4 sq.mm Cu conductors exceeds this value, higher conductor sizes shall be used.



4.04.00 1.1 kV Copper Conductor Fire Survival Control Cables

- 4.04.01 Conductor shall be of stranded construction, consisting of high conductivity annealed tinned copper conductors conforming to IS 8130/1984 amended up to date.
- 4.04.02 A suitable heat barrier tape, preferably glass mica tape shall be provided over the conductor.
- 4.04.03 The conductor insulation shall consist of heat resisting elastomeric material EPR (Ethylene Propylene rubber) and shall conform to Type IE-2 of IS:6380/1984 amended up to date.
- 4.04.04 An inner sheath of extruded special low smoke and very low halogen content (acid gas generation shall be less than 2% by weight) elastomeric (HOFR) compound of black colour or any other natural colour with prior approval from Owner conforming to Type SE-3 of IS-6380/1984, amended up to date, shall be provided over the laid up cores.
- 4.04.05 The armouring over inner sheath shall consist of single layer of wire/round galvanized steel wire as per IS 3975 amended up to date.
- 4.04.06 The outer sheath shall be of special low smoke and very low Halogen content (Acid gas generation shall be less than 2% by weight) elastomeric HOFR compound comprising of synthetic rubber and shall generally conform to the type SE-3 of IS: 6380 latest revision.
- 4.04.07 The colour of outer sheath shall be black or any other natural colour agreed mutually between Owner and Contractor.
- 4.04.08 The minimum sizes of L.T. cable to be chosen are as below:
AL-16 mm² (3 core) & Cu – 2.5 mm² (3 core)

In power cables maximum conductor size to be used will be 300 sq. mm & 630 sq.mm for multi core and single core cables. In case of multi core cables not more than 3 runs to be used or otherwise single core cable to be used.



4.05.00 Cable Drums

Cables shall be supplied in non returnable wooden or steel drums of heavy construction. The surface of the drum and the outer most cable layer shall be covered with water proof cover. Both the ends of the cables shall be properly sealed with heat shrinkable PVC/ rubber caps secured by 'U' nails so as to eliminate ingress of water during transportation, storage and erection. Wood preservative anti-termite treatment shall be applied to the entire drum. Wooden drums shall comply with IS: 10418.

5.00.00 TESTS**5.01.00 Type Tests:**

5.01.01 The reports for the following type tests shall be submitted on one size each of LV Power cables :

S.No.	Type Tests	Remarks
a)	For Conductor	
1.	Annealing test	For copper conductor only.
2.	Tensile test	For aluminium conductor only.
3.	Wrapping test	For aluminium conductor only.
4.	Resistance test	
b)	For Armour Wires/ Formed Wires	
1.	Measurement of Dimensions	
2.	Tensile Test	
3.	Elongation test	
4.	Torsion test	For round wires only
5.	Winding test	For Formed wires only
6.	Resistance test	
7(a)	Zinc Coating test	For G.S. Formed wires /wires only.



7(b)	Wrapping test	For Al. Formed wires /wires
c)	For XLPE insulation & PVC Sheath	
1.	Test for thickness	
2.	Tensile strength & elongation tests before ageing and after ageing	
3.	Ageing in air oven	
4.	Loss of mass test	For PVC sheath only
5.	Hot deformation test	For PVC sheath only
6.	Heat shock test	For PVC sheath only
7.	Shrinkage test	
8.	Thermal stability test	For PVC sheath only
9.	Hot set test	For XLPE insulation only
10.	Water absorption test	For XLPE insulation only
11.	Oxygen index test	For outer sheath only
12.	Smoke density test	For outer sheath only
13.	Acid gas generation test	For outer sheath only
d)	For completed cables	
1.	Insulation resistance test (Volume resistivity method)	
2.	High voltage test	
3.	Flammability test as per clause "Flammability test"	
4.	Flammability test as per IEC - 332 Part-3 (Category -B)	



5.01.02 Flammability Test

- (f.) This test shall generally be carried out as per IEEE 383. The cable installation to be tested shall consist of as many cables as are necessary to give atleast 10 kg of organic material per metre run.
- (g.) The following cable installation shall be tested :
- (1.) Installation with single / multi core cables in touching formation.
- (h.) Size of cables, number of cables, number of layers and laying arrangements for each installation shall be subject to Owner's approval.
- (i.) The size of the cables selected (measured by total cross sectional area of the conductor) shall have maximum organic material per sq. mm of total cross sectional area of all the conductors.

5.01.03 Acceptance Tests

Acceptance tests shall be carried out on each type and size of the cables on the cable drums selected at random as per following sampling plan:

S. No.	No. of drums in the lot	No. of drums to be taken as sample
1.	Upto 100	10% (Subject to minimum of 1 drum)
2.	101 to 300	13
3.	301 to 500	20
4.	Above 500	32

The following shall constitute acceptance tests :

- Item No. 1 to 14, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25 of list of type tests specified in 9.03.01 of chapter 15.
- Fire resistance test as per SS 4241475 (F3 category)
- One length per size / lot for surface finish and length measurement
- Lay length / sequence of cores, armour coverage, Gap between two consecutive armour wires / formed wires, Band marking.

5.01.04 Routine Tests

Routine tests shall be carried out as per relevant standard for each drum of cables of all types and sizes.

