EESA

ENTERTAINMENT ELECTRICAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION

Why You Don't Use Welding Cable (In The Entertainment Industry)

Why can't I use it?

Welding cable is intended for use with arc welders. It has varying temperature ratings depending on manufacturer, and therefore its hot and cold characteristics are unpredictable. Despite any printing on the cable, in Canada it has no voltage rating and is not designed for continuous duty cycle (per CSA standard C22.2 No. 96) and therefore does not meet the requirements of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1, for our industry.

What types of single conductor cable are acceptable?

Permitted types include; PPC (Portable Power Cable or Stage Lighting Cable), Type W and Type DLO.

How can I tell if it is Welding Cable?

Welding Cable will be identified by print ID on the cable. This may be printed on the surface of the cable.

How can I tell if I have acceptable single conductor cable?

Permitted cable will also be identified by print ID on the cable. The cable is required to have identification that is durable and legible. Most PPC has embossed identification as a means of ensuring lasting durability of it s markings. Text on the cable will include "PPC", "W" or "DLO". Look for a CSA or cUL mark as well.

Beware; *on older cable, welding or otherwise, surface printing may have worn off. If there is no ID on the cable contact your cable supplier or local AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) for assistance.*

Why has Welding Cable been used in the Entertainment Industry?

Our industry often requires high ampacity feeder cable. Historically Welding Cable was often used since it was flexible and available in large gauge sizes.

What are the consequences if I use it anyways?

- risk to workers, talent and the public
- liability for any damage or injuries
- potential equipment malfunction
- fire and shock hazards
- overheating cable
- probable disconnection by AHJ (as with any equipment not approved for the use)
- loss of revenues due to downtime

If more information is required consult CSA standard C22.2 No.96 or call your local AHJ.