Generic cabling systems – New project ”Design of data centres“ and latest standards (May 2009)

Information of DKE Committee GUK 715.3 "Informationstechnische Verkabelung von Gebäudenkomplexen"

New standardization project “Design of data centres“ launched

At the request of GUK 715.3, CENELEC/TC 215 has established a new working group WG 3 under German Convenership in order to significantly enlarge European standardization for the design of data centres. After completion of the standards DIN EN 50173-5:2007 and the DIN EN 50174-X (VDE 0800-174-X) series which are relevant for the cabling of data centres it was deemed necessary to elaborate further specifications on the design, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure of data centres. The corresponding standard will be elaborated as prEN 50600 and deal with, among others, the following subjects on the basis of German preliminary work:

- general design of data centres and their classification
- constructional requirements
- basic availability requirements
- framework conditions for setting up energy-efficient data centres
- risk assessment for the planning and operation of data centres
- planning criteria for the erection of safe and redundant mains power supplies
- types of supply of wide area services
- application-independent requirements
- requirements and solutions for safe cooling and climate control
- framework conditions and planning criteria for access control and safety
- opportunities of change management
- possibilities for the reduction of operating costs
- basic installation practices

CENELEC TC 215/WG 3 will take up work in June 2009. Those who are interested in taking part in the work of the national working group GAK 715.3.5 “Infrastruktur von Rechenzentren“ are requested to contact the DKE business organization.

Revised standards for the installation of generic cabling systems

At the beginning of May 2009 the revised versions of the European standards EN 50174-1 and EN 50174-2 were ratified. The revisions of these standards, which were first adopted in 2000, incorporate manifold practical experience from the application of the standards as well as the necessary adaptation of provisions resulting from the rapid development in customer premises cabling for information technology. Changes from the first edition are the rearrangement of the structure and, for the purpose of easier application, the clear separation of normative provisions and informative recommendations.

The standards series EN 50174 applies for all cabling systems for information technology. Standards of the series EN 50173 "Information technology – Generic cabling systems“ stipulate the mandatory application of EN 50174-X.

EN 50174-1 "Information technology – Cabling installation - Part 1: Installation specification and quality assurance“ describes the requirements for high-quality installation of structured cabling systems especially also by establishing and implementing a quality plan.

EN 50174-2 "Information technology – Cabling installation - Part 2: Installation planning and practices inside buildings“ contains detailed specifications for the planning and installation of cabling systems within buildings.

Compliance with the EN 50174 series also ensures that cabling systems can be operated in accordance with the requirements of the European EMC Directive.

In the course of the revision of EN 50174-2 the provisions for equipotential bonding were transferred to EN 50310 “Application of equipotential bonding and earthing in buildings with information technology equipment“. EN 50310 is also under revision; the corresponding European draft standard was published in mid May and will be published as a German draft standard as soon as possible.
The new editions of DIN EN 50174-X (VDE 0800-174-X) will probably be available by September 2009 and can then be obtained from VDE VERLAG.

**New standard for the measurement of installed communication cabling**

At the beginning of May 2009 Amendment 2 of EN 50346 “Information technology – Cabling installation – Testing of installed cabling” was ratified. This amendment was elaborated to adapt clause 5 to the latest edition of EN 61935-1 “Testing of balanced communication cabling in accordance with standards series EN 50173 - Part 1: Installed cabling” (publication planned for 2009). In addition, requirements were added for the measurement of parameters ACR-F, PSANEXT, PSAACR-F and conversion loss (LCL, TCL und ELTCTL) for balanced cabling and for the measurement of coaxial cabling. The publication of this amendment is under preparation as consolidated version DIN EN 50346; the standard will probably be available by August 2009 with Beuth Verlag.

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