THE TRUTH ABOUT CABLE FIRE PROTECTION COATINGS - 2026

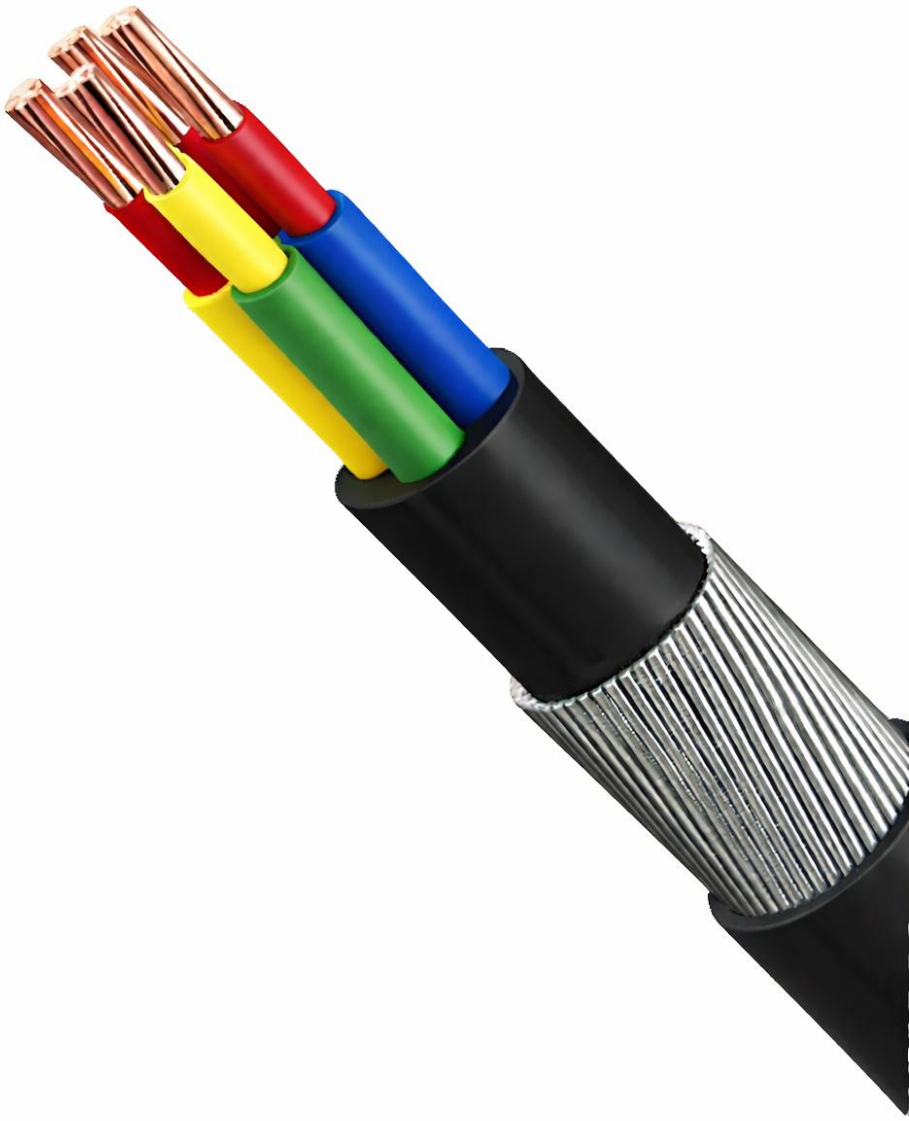
4/2/2026

THE TRUTH ABOUT XLPE FRLS CABLES

1. Pass **Flame retardance** test as per IEC 60332-3 ... will not spread FLAME during fire test duration of **20- 40** minutes

2. Do **not** pass **Fire Resistance** test / **Circuit integrity** as per IEC 60331 ... will not survive fire for more than a few minutes.. circuits will fail.. everything will stop - production , emergency services, safety equipment.. all will stop.

3. In summary , FRLS cables provide **Minimal Flame Retardance** but provide **Nil Fire Resistance**



THE TRUTH ABOUT FM 3971 & IEC 60332-3 CABLE COATINGS

1. FM 3971 certified cable coatings are considered to be the highest level of cable fire protection coatings , with customers placing complete reliance on the fire protection capabilities of such certified coatings

2. The **REALITY,** as confirmed by FM, in the FM APPROVALS guide , is very different :

   - " these coatings reduce the **likelihood of ignition** of cables when exposed to a **limited duration ignition source** that might occur from **arcs or sparks** falling or occurring in the cable tray"
   - " approval is based on **continuous coating** along the entire exposed length of the cables"
   - " these coatings were **not tested** to maintain cable protection under severe and extended fire exposure conditions"

3. FM 3971 test only assures very **limited** Flame Retardance. Does **not** assure any fire resistance / circuit integrity , in any manner...

4. As a result , cables coated with FM 3971 certified / IEC 60332-3 certified cable coatings alone (ie coatings not also passing IEC 60331) **will not survive fire for more than a few minutes**.. everything will stop within minutes of fire .

WHAT ARE CUSTOMERS ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR, FROM THEIR CABLE COATINGS ?

1. Coated Cables **should not spread fire** for a **longer time duration**.. not just 20- 40 minutes.. **giving enough time** for active fire systems to locate fire source, evacuate people and extinguish the fire.

2. Coated Cables **should survive fire** for at least a few hours , till the fire is extinguished by the active fire systems .. production, emergency services, safety equipment should **continue to function** during this time period .

3. Post fire , Coated cables **should not need immediate change** ... should function till a planned shutdown and a planned cable replacement can take place (may not even be required)

THE REALITY OF CABLE COATINGS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE GLOBALLY in 2026

1. **Only 2 - 3** u.s and european cable coatings pass the **minimum** IEC 60331 protection requirement of **90 minutes** (fire) + 15 minutes (cooling) fire resistance - circuit integrity / fire survival at **minimum 750c** fire temperature .

2. **No cable coating** in the world today passes the **maximum** IEC 60331 protection requirement of **180 minutes** fire resistance - circuit integrity / fire survival at **minimum 750c** fire temperature.

3. **None of the above coatings** in the world today passes **fire resistance - circuit integrity / fire survival** 180 minutes at **minimum 950c** elevated fire temperature requirements of BS 7486 / IS 17505-1.(simulating high intensity continuous fire conditions)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THERE IS A FIRE ON A CABLE COATED WITH A COATING THAT ONLY PASSES FM 3971 / IEC 60332-3

Coated cables, will **fail within minutes** **of fire exposure** :

- Production will stop ...
- Emergency services will stop ..
- Safety equipment will stop ....
- Controlling and extinguishing fire will be difficult
- Human death chances will be very high .....
- Post fire cable will need immediate change leading to major production stoppages and market share losses....
- Catastrophic impact.

WHAT ONLY STANVAC FIREX EC 43 - SURVIVAL COATING TODAY OFFER's, WORLDWIDE ?

1- **1st & only cable coating in the world** to provide :

A) 240 minutes / 4 hours **Flame Retardance** - prevention of fire spreading as per IEC 60332 -3, vs the maximum test requirement of 40 minutes flame retardance

B) 240 minutes / 4 hours **Fire Resistance** - no circuit failure / fire survival + 15 minutes cooling , as per IEC 60331 -21 vs the maximum test requirement of 180 minutes / 3 hours fire resistance + 15 minutes cooling (in-house testing shows no circuit failure even after 360 minutes - **6 hours**)

C) 180 minutes/ 3 hours **Fire Resistance** - no circuit failure / fire survival , as per IS 17505-1 vs the maximum test requirement of 180 minutes/ 3 hours fire resistance at minimum **fire temperature of 950c** , similar also to BS 7846.

... all above tests **are passed at 1.6 mm DFT** , thus confirming no need for cable derating & no cracking / peeling off of the coating , due to over thick coating application - 3 mm / 5 mm.

2- **Worlds Best** Cable Fire Protection Coating - **unmatched.**

" ***NOTHING WILL STOP DURING THE FIRE - NOTHING WILL STOP AFTER THE FIRE "***