

COMMON CONDUCTOR IDENTIFICATION FOR MULTICONDUCTOR CABLES

There are several conductor identification methods for power, control, instrumentation, and thermocouple extension cables. The National Electrical Code[®] (NEC) has specific requirements for identifying grounded conductors reserving white and gray for this use (Article 200.6). Conductors colored green or green/yellow are to be used only for grounding conductors. Neither white nor green is to be used for ungrounded conductors. This document is a summary of conductor identification for multiconductor cables.

ICEA S-73-532 STANDARD FOR CONTROL, THERMOCOUPLE EXTENSION, AND INSTRUMENTATION CABLES

Appendix E

 METHOD 1 (Colored Compounds with Tracers)

 This method uses base colors with tracers in accordance with Table E1 or E2. E1 is used for grounded systems containing both a green and white conductor. E2 is used for ungrounded systems missing the presence of both a green and white conductor.

 METHOD 3 (Neutral or Single-Color Compounds with Surface Printing of Numbers and Color Designation or Only Color Designations)

 This method uses a single-color insulation or covering on all conductors, often black, with printed conductor numbers or color designations or only color designations in accordance with Table E1 or E2.

 Often utilized for multiconductor power cables 8 AWG and larger

 METHOD 4 (Neutral or Single-Color Compounds with Surface Printing of Numbers)

 This method uses a single-color numbers or color designations in accordance with Table E1 or E2.

 Often utilized for multiconductor power cables 8 AWG and larger

 METHOD 4 (Neutral or Single-Color Compounds with Surface Printing of Numbers)

 This method uses a single-color insulation or covering on all conductors, often black, with each conductor numbered in sequence by surface printing, beginning with the number 1.

 Often utilized for multiconductor power cables 8 AWG and larger

*ICEA S-58-679 Standard for Control, Instrumentation and Thermocouple Extension Conductor Identification contains the same information except refers to Table 1 and Table 2 instead of E1 and E2.

METHOD 3 Neutral or Single-Color Compounds with Surface Printing of Numbers and Color Designation or Only Color Designations					
E1	E2				
1 – Black	1 – Black				
2 – White	2 – Red				
3 – Red	3 – Blue				
4 – Green	4 – Orange				
5 – Orange	5 – Yellow				

METHOD 4 Neutral or Single-Color Compounds with Surface Printing of Numbers				
1 – One				
2 – Two				
3 – Three				
4 – Four				
5 – Five				

CTS0005 Ed. 1 Vol. 1

Southwire Company, LLC. • One Southwire Drive • Carrollton, GA 30119 ©2023 Southwire Company, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

WE DELIVER POWER... RESPONSIBLY.®



		ICEA S-73-532 METHO	EA S-73-532 METHOD 1				
CONDUCTOR NUMBER	El				E	CONDUCTOR NUMBER	
	Base Color	First Tracer	Second Tracer	ſ	Base Color	Tracer Color	
1	BLACK				BLACK		1
2	WHITE				RED		2
3	RED			ſ	BLUE		3
4	GREEN				ORANGE		4
5	ORANGE				YELLOW		5
6	BLUE				BROWN		6
7	WHITE	BLACK			RED	BLACK	7
8	RED	BLACK			BLUE	BLACK	8
9	GREEN	BLACK	-		ORANGE	BLACK	9
10	ORANGE	BLACK	-		YELLOW	BLACK	10
11	BLUE	BLACK			BROWN	BLACK	11
12	BLACK	WHITE	1		BLACK	RED	12
13	RED	WHITE	1		BLUE	RED	13
14	GREEN	WHITE	1		ORANGE	RED	14
15	BLUE	WHITE	1		YELLOW	RED	15
16	BLACK	RED			BROWN	RED	16
17	WHITE	RED			BLACK	BLUE	17
18	ORANGE	RED			RED	BLUE	18
19	BLUE	RED			ORANGE	BLUE	19
20	RED	GREEN			YELLOW	BLUE	20
21	ORANGE	GREEN			BROWN	BLUE	21
22	BLACK	WHITE	RED		BLACK	ORANGE	22
23	WHITE	BLACK	RED		RED	ORANGE	23
24	RED	BLACK	WHITE		BLUE	ORANGE	24
25	GREEN	BLACK	WHITE		YELLOW	ORANGE	25
26	ORANGE	BLACK	WHITE		BROWN	ORANGE	26
27	BLUE	BLACK	WHITE		BLACK	YELLOW	27
28	BLACK	RED	GREEN		RED	YELLOW	28
29	WHITE	RED	GREEN		BLUE	YELLOW	29
30	RED	BLACK	GREEN		ORANGE	YELLOW	30
31	GREEN	BLACK	ORANGE		BROWN	YELLOW	31
32	ORANGE	BLACK	GREEN		BLACK	BROWN	32
33	BLUE	WHITE	ORANGE		RED	BROWN	33
34	BLACK	WHITE	ORANGE		BLUE	BROWN	34
35	WHITE	RED	ORANGE		ORANGE	BROWN	35
36	ORANGE	WHITE	BLUE		YELLOW	BROWN	36
37	WHITE	RED	BLUE	Γ			37
	Base Color	First Tracer	Second Tracer		Base Color	Tracer Color	
CTS0005 Ed	1 Vol 1			_			

WE DELIVER POWER... RESPONSIBLY.®