

Cable Tray Standards Comparison — EN 61537 vs NEMA VE 1 vs IEC 61537

cBallast · EN 61537:2007, NEMA VE 1:2017 · Standards comparison

Governing standards

Region	Standard	Scope
Europe	EN 61537:2007	Cable tray + cable ladder systems
International	IEC 61537:2006	Identical to EN 61537
North America	NEMA VE 1:2017	Metallic cable tray systems
NA installation	NEMA VE 2:2013	Installation guidelines
North Sea offshore	NORSOK M-501	Surface prep + protective coating

Load class — numeric vs alphabetic

EN 61537 class	SWL kg/m	NEMA VE 1 approx
5	5	-
6	6	-
8	8	Light 8A/12A
10	10	-
12	12	Class 12A/12B
15	15	Class 16A
20	20	Class 20A/20B
30	30	Class 20B heavy

Support spacing test

Both standards derive SWL from lab point-load test. EN 61537 tests at 1.5/2.0/3.0/4.5/6.0 m spans; publishes UDL vs span curve. NEMA VE 1 tests at 8/12/16/20/24 ft. Design practice: enter manufacturer curve at cable weight + span, apply 1.5 safety factor, confirm SWL exceeds design load.

Coating options

Coating	Standard	Life C3	Use
Pre-galv Sendzimir	EN 10346 DX51D+Z275	<5 yr	Dry indoor
Hot-dip galv 85um	BS EN ISO 1461	10-20 yr	Outdoor, marine sheltered
Magnelis ZM310	EN 10346	15-30 yr	Outdoor moderate corrosion
Stainless 304	EN 10088-2	>30 yr indoor	Chemical, food, offshore topside

Stainless 316

>30 yr marine

Marine offshore, chloride

Fire integrity

Cable trays that must maintain service during fire (emergency lighting, fire pump feeder) classified under local building code, confirmed by third-party test to BS 6387 or IEC 60331. The tray itself does not need special certification; the fixings and continuous cable run within the tray do.

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