

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20330

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: LEEE

SUBJECT: Engineering Technical Letter 83-3:  
Interior Wiring Systems,  
AFM 88-15, Para 7-3

TO:	HQ AAC/DEE	HQ AFSC/DEE	HA MAC/DEE	HQ AFCC/DEO
	HQ ATC/DEE	HQ TAC/DEE	HQ AFLC/DEE	HQ SAC/DEE/DEER
	HQ PACAP/DEE	HQ AFRES/DEE	HQ ESC/DEE	HQ USAFE/DEE/DER
	HQ USAFA/DEE	HQ AFCOMS/DEE	AFIT/DEE	AFMPC/MPCSXC
	HQ SPACECOM/DEE	NGB/DEH	AFRCE/CR	AFRCE/ER
	AFRCE/WR	AFRCE/M-X	HQ AAFES/EN	AFMSC/SGFF

1. Purpose: The purpose of this Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) is to provide information on the use of aluminum conductors for interior building systems. This guidance will be reflected in the upcoming revision of AFM 88-15, paragraph 7.3.

2. Recent change order experience indicates that some Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) will not warrant their equipment if terminated with aluminum conductors. Additionally, beneficial occupancy delays have occurred when contractors were directed to replace cable trays and junction boxes in order to support the use of aluminum wiring. Further, OSD (MRA&L) is investigating the requirement to extend the prohibition on the use of aluminum conductors in mission critical facilities and dedicated sleeping quarters. Thus, beginning with projects in the FY 85 MCP, mission critical facilities, and UEPH, UOPH and TLQs will only use copper conductors. Service entrance conductors will be copper, except aluminum conductors of equivalent ampacity may be used for #4 AWG copper and larger. All conductors must be properly terminated in accordance with all manufacturers recommended procedures. This requirement may raise the total programmed amount for such facilities by 1%.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

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cc: HQ AFESC/DEM/CA  
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NAVFAC-Code 04/05  
AFIT/DET