

CAI AERIAL BENCHMARK CERTIFICATION

Following on from the success of the CAI Cable Benchmarking Scheme, the CAI launched a Benchmarking Scheme for UHF television aerials in 2003. This has also proved to be very successful in raising and maintaining standards in the industry during Digital Switchover.

Benchmarked aerials should always be used in conjunction with good installation practices as laid down by the CAI Code of Practice and the recommendations in the current DTG R Books.

Both the aerial and cable products that achieve CAI Benchmarks are allowed the use of the digital tick certification mark following successful application for the relevant licence issued by BIS. (The government Department for Business, Innovation & Skills)



If you require further information, please contact the CAI either by telephone, email or write to:

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Cable Benchmark Certification



CAI CABLE BENCHMARK CERTIFICATION

By the end of 2012 the UK broadcast system will have switched to digital only television.

Many thousands of single homes and multi-dwellings will have upgraded their reception systems from individual homes to whole housing estates - apartment blocks - hotels - hospitals - schools – offices - residential homes.

Signal transmission along a coaxial cable must be protected from the ingress of unwanted signals and a new era that uses vacated TV spectrum for mobile services and wireless devices is about to make huge demands on the screening ability of signal feeder cables. Likewise signals carried along such cables must not radiate so as to cause interference to other equipment.

TV antenna systems must also comply with British Standards for Electrical Safety. Under fault conditions, should mains voltage come into contact with signal distribution cables, then these cables must be capable of carrying the full current load until the circuit breaker operates. Non-benchmarked cables are unlikely to conform to the benchmark parameters and in some circumstances could put lives at risk.

A CAI benchmarked cable is clearly marked on both the cable drum and along the length of the cable's outer sheath.

Example of a certificate number: [CAI 0001 A]

The CAI Cable Benchmarked List is updated on a regular basis and is available in writing and online.

The basis of the scheme is to lay down minimum standards for the technical performance of TV coaxial cable based on the specific requirements for satisfactory DTT reception. It is not intended to address general material quality issues, such as the standard of construction, durability etc, which can largely be assessed by visual inspection and from practical experience.

Conformance to the minimum standards is determined by independent measurements against a technical performance specification. This has been compiled by an industry wide committee who monitor the implementation of the scheme and agree any necessary changes to the detailed procedures, test methods and specifications.

The scheme allows the measurements to be carried out by any test house that is able to demonstrate that it meets the required standards of measurement accuracy. The use of the 'mark' will be authorised for specific products by the CAI, that is, once the 'pass' certificate and supporting documentation has been issued by the test house. Testing of random samples sold to installers or retailers will ensure ongoing conformance.

The CAI Cable Benchmarking Scheme is a purely voluntary arrangement within the industry and the CAI has no intention of seeking any form of mandatory status at this time. It has however been widely adopted and reference may be made to specific types of CAI benchmarked cable in manufacturers' literature, purchasers' requirement specifications or supply contracts.

Look for these logos on cable drums

