

## CII Technical Bulletin

**SUBJECT: TIA/EIA Standards – (1) Separation of telecom / power cables  
(2) Minimum Access Floor Height**

Prior to the Feb.20, 1998 revision of TIA/EIA Standard 569-A, Commercial Building Standard for Telecommunications Pathways and Spaces, section 10.4.3 of this standard defined the separation requirements when co-locating 120V AC wiring and low voltage unshielded twisted pair data cabling. However, with additional testing and studies of "Real World" installations, the separation requirement once thought to be necessary was eliminated in the Feb 20, 1998 revision of the standard. Section 10.4 does not exist in the 1998 revision. Separation is now discussed in Section 10.3.1 of TIA/EIA 569-A, and states that the minimum separation requirement is governed by Article 800-52(a)(2)(c) of ANSI/NFPA 70, (The National Electrical Code).

Article 800-52(a)(2)(c) of the NEC states:

"Communications wire and cable shall be separated by at least 2 inches from conductors of any light, power,.. Circuits."

*“Exception No. 1: Where either*

*(1) all of the conductors of the electric light, power, . . . circuits are in a raceway or in metal-sheathed, metal clad, nonmetallic-sheathed, Type AC, or type UF cables.*

*Or*

*(2) all of the conductors of communications circuits are encased in raceway.”*

Because the CII electrical system complies with Exception No.1 to Art. 800-52(a)(2)(c), **the 2" separation required as stipulated in this section of the NEC does not apply.**

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<p><b>TIA/EIA Cable separation standard</b></p>		

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Related information:

**A 3" raised floor like that being used on the Microsoft Eddie Bauer project does not comply with Section 4.3.3.2.1 of TIA/EIA 569-A** which states:

“Where access floor is used in general office areas, the minimum finished-floor height should be 150 mm (6 in.). When used in a telecommunications equipment room the minimum finished-floor height should be 300 mm (12 in.) and shall not be less than 150 mm (6 in.). Telecommunications closet flooring is typically the same height as the office area served.

*NOTE – Where cable tray or other facilities (e.g., power distribution) is used under general office area access floor, a minimum of 203 mm (8 in.) should be considered.”*

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