Rodent Protection for Cables (Rats, Mice, Squirrels)

There is currently no recognised performance specification or standard for cables to comply with to safeguard against rodent attack.

Whilst there is no fail safe protection, there are several strategies to consider that have proved successful in the past. These are: -

1. Methods which are integral to the cable design, such as armouring or nylon jacketing. Note - it has been known for rodents to eat through the outer sheath of a cable and corrode the armour by urinating on it, causing the armour to rust. This can reduce the effective cross sectional area of the armour for mechanical and electrical protection purposes.

2. Methods which separate the cable from its surroundings with a material harder than the rodent's teeth e.g. galvanised steel conduit or trunking. In this case conduit cables are also a possible option (e.g. 6491X).

3. Selection of a cable with an overall diameter greater than 30mm. This has been shown to be too large for the jaws of most rodents.

4. A combination of 1 - 3 above.

For the reasons outlined the Prysmian Group of companies does not promote any of their cable products to be totally resistant to rodent attach. Products such as Prysmian Afumex LSX, Prysmian FP200 Gold or Draka FT30 are by the nature of their construction reasonably tough cables and will provide a degree of resistance to attack greater than that afforded by PVC or LSOH twin flat cables. However, for installations where rodents are thought to be a concern, we would recommend an armoured cable, preferably with a diameter greater than 30mm and/or a protective steel conduit or trunking system.