Super-Flex® traveling cable installation

TECH TIP 3

IMPORTANT! Following these procedures will ensure proper traveling characteristics and operation of the cable. Only full compliance with these procedures will ensure full product warranty coverage. This is only a brief summary of procedures; for more details, refer to the Draka Elevator’s Super-Flex Traveling Cable Installation Guide.

Storage and handling
The cables should be inspected immediately when they arrive at the job site to ensure they have not been damaged in route. Store traveling cables in a secure area to avoid damage resulting from other construction activities.

Cable end preparation
Take extreme care when removing the jacket and braid to avoid damaging the insulation of the wires. If available, use an FCJ Stripper (part # 36-135 -M1) or Flexi-Peeler (part # 36-060) to remove the jacket. Remove the braid with the Sock Slicer (part # 36-177). Other methods include using medical scissors or making short, light strokes with a utility knife.

Pre-hanging the cable
Pre-hanging the cable relieves internal stress that may have developed during re-reeling and handling. This procedure is used to secure the steel support and outer cable core as a unit while the lower cable end hangs freely.

If fed down the hoistway, it should pay off from the top of the reel or coil to minimize bending.

Alternate pre-hanging method
This alternate method for pre-hanging is further explained in the Super-Flex Installation Guide.

If it is not possible to pre-hang the cable without it touching the floor of the pit, attach the cable securely at its permanent termination point using the Draka Universal Hanger or a mesh grip.

Make a loose noose with a light rope and pull the cable away from the wall so as to permit proper orientation of the cable. Allow the cable to hang and “relax” for 24 hours.

Although this method provides some degree of torsional relief, it does not assure complete torsional stress-relief because the lower cable end is not free to rotate.
Attachment to Hangers

The steel support member must be permanently attached prior to connecting any electrical conductors. Sufficient slack should be provided in the conductors to prevent the weight of the cable from being applied to them. While several methods exist to support traveling cables, the Draka EP Universal Hanger is recommended for steel supported cables. See Table 1 for part numbers.

Table 1: Universal Hanger Part Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Steel Core Dia. inches • mm</th>
<th>No. of Cables Held</th>
<th>Max. per Cable Load lbs • kg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/32-1 SBKT</td>
<td>3/32 • 2.4</td>
<td>1 cable</td>
<td>500 • 227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/32-1 SBKT-R</td>
<td>5/32 • 4.0</td>
<td>1 cable</td>
<td>700 • 318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/32-2 SBKT-R</td>
<td>5/32 • 4.0</td>
<td>2 cables</td>
<td>700 • 318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4-1 SBKT</td>
<td>1/4 • 6.4</td>
<td>1 cable</td>
<td>1250 • 568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4-2 SBKT</td>
<td>1/4 • 6.4</td>
<td>2 cables</td>
<td>1250 • 568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/8-1 SBKT</td>
<td>1/8 • 3.2</td>
<td>1 cable</td>
<td>500 • 227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strip 8 inches • 20 cm of insulation from the steel support member (15 inches • 40 cm if adding cable stop hardware). Insert the bare steel into the bottom end of the hanger strand vise until the steel protrudes from the top end. Pull down on the steel to lock it into position.

Form the optional cable stop by passing the flat washer over the steel so that it rests on the strand vise. Form a loop with the steel around the thimble and fasten the clip. There should be at least 1/2 inch • 13 mm clearance between the washer and the clip.

Immediately after the steel support member is terminated, tighten the metal straps to secure the traveling cable. This will allow the cable to act as a single unit; the rotation position of the cable is set and secured by tightening these straps.

Wire mesh grips are recommended for supporting the cable lengths of 200 feet • 61 m or less (as specified in the National Electrical Code); electrical tape must be wrapped on the bottom base of the mesh grip to prevent it from slipping.

NOTE: The manufacturer’s identification markings on the cable’s jacket should not be used to determine the alignment of the cable.

Final Installation Steps

For optimum performance, sides of the cable loop should remain parallel during the elevator operation. Loop curvature should be smooth and free of kinks and pivot points. Loop diameters are determined by the formula Cable OD x 30. The loop diameter should be ±10% of this calculation.

Minimum 2 feet • 60 cm between bottom of grip or hanging device and start of loop

Loop diameter (measured to center of cable)

Minimum of 1 ft • 30 cm clearance

Finally, a routine inspection program should be implemented to maximize product performance and safety.

NOTE: All installation hardware can be obtained from Draka Elevator. Consult our catalog of call us for sizing information.