

DCAA – Defense Contract Audit Agency - Agency of the United States Department of Defense under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense. DCAA is primarily responsible for performing all contract audits for the Defense Department (and, to a lesser extent, for other agencies outside DoD), and providing cost accounting and financial advisory services regarding contracts and subcontracts to all DoD components responsible for procurement and contract administration.

DCMA – Defense Contract Management Agency - Agency of the United States federal government responsible for performing contract administration services for the Department of Defense and other authorized federal agencies.

Decibel (dB) – Logarithmic unit that indicates the ratio of a physical quantity (usually power or intensity) relative to a specified or implied reference level. It is used to express power loss in cables.

Density – Mass per unit volume.

Derating factor – Factor used to reduce a current carrying capacity of a wire when used in other environments from which the value was established.

DeviceNet™ – Network system used in the automation industry to interconnect control devices for data exchange. It uses Controller Area Network as the backbone technology and defines an application layer to cover a range of device profiles.

DFMA – Design for Manufacturing and Assembly - Combination of two methodologies; Design for Manufacture, which means the design for ease of manufacture of the parts that will form a product, and Design for Assembly, which means the design of the product for ease of assembly.

DFMEA – Design Failure Mode Effects Analysis - Application of the Failure Mode and Effects Analysis method specifically to product design. It is a paper-and-pencil analysis method used in engineering to document and explore ways that a product design might fail in real-world use.

DFSS – Design for Six Sigma® - Methodology related to traditional Six Sigma. While the tools and order used in Six Sigma require a process to be in place and functioning, DFSS has the objective of determining the needs of customers and the business, and driving those needs into the product solution so created.

DHS – Department of Homeland Security - Cabinet department of the United States federal government with the primary responsibilities of protecting the United States of America and U.S. Territories from and responding to terrorist attacks, human-made accidents and natural disasters.

Dielectric – Any electrical insulating material that is a non-conductor of electricity.

Dielectric breakdown – The voltage required to cause an electrical failure of the insulation.

Dielectric constant – Plastics, and other materials measure of dielectric loss through an insulation. The numeric value is usually given relative to a vacuum.

Direct Burial rated (DB) – Also known as Dir bur. Cable approved to be installed directly in the earth without the use of a conduit.

Direct Current (DC) – Flow of electric charge is only in one direction.

Dissipation – Loss of heat and/or energy in a circuit.

DLA – Defense Logistics Agency - Agency in the United States Department of Defense which provides supplies to the military services and supports their acquisition of weapons repair parts and other material.

DMAIC – Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control - Problem solving model used in Lean Six Sigma®.

DoD – Department of Defense - Executive Department of the Government of the United States of America charged with coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the government concerned directly with national security and the United States armed forces.

DOE – Design of Experiments - Design of any information gathering exercises where variation is present, whether under the full control of the experimenter or not.

Drain wire – Non-insulated wire in intimate contact with a shield to provide for easier termination of shield to a ground point.



Dryer – Machine that removes moisture from materials.

Duct – Underground or overhead tube through which electrical conductors are pulled. Provides additional mechanical protection.

Durometer – A measurement device used to denote the hardness of a material.

EAR – Export Administration Regulations - Rules by which the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security regulates and controls exports of goods from the United States.

Eccentricity – Measure of the center of a conductor's location with respect to the circular cross-section of the insulation. Expressed as a percentage of displacement of one circle within the other.

ECG – Electrocardiography, also known as EKG - Transthoracic (across the thorax or chest) interpretation of the electrical activity of the heart over a period of time, as detected by electrodes attached to the outer surface of the skin and recorded by a device external to the body. It is used to measure the rate and regularity of heartbeats, as well as the size and position of the chambers, the presence of any damage to the heart, and the effects of drugs or devices used to regulate the heart, such as a pacemaker.

ECHA – European Chemical Agency - Agency of the European Union which manages the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) system.

ECMO – Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation - Extracorporeal technique of providing both cardiac and respiratory support oxygen to patients whose heart and lungs are so severely diseased or damaged that they can no longer serve their function.

ECTFE – Ethylene Chlorotrifluoroethylene - Can be used as insulation or jacket material.

EEG – Electroencephalography is the recording of electrical activity along the scalp.