



TIA T568-2.D vs TIA T568-2.E comparing

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WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS AND/OR CLARIFICATIONS.

The transition from **TIA-568.2-D** to **TIA-568.2-E** (released in late 2024) represents a formal consolidation of several years of technological updates. While the "D" revision laid the groundwork for Category 8 and high-power PoE, the "E" revision makes many of those optional or addendum-based guidelines mandatory for modern certification.

The primary difference is that **TIA-568.2-E** integrates previously separate addendums regarding high-power PoE (Power over Ethernet) and Category 8 testing directly into the core standard, with a heavy focus on **DC Resistance Unbalance (DCRU)**.

Comparison Table

Feature	TIA-568.2-D (2018)	TIA-568.2-E (2024)
Status	Previous Standard (Superseded)	Current Active Standard
PoE Focus	Guidelines provided in Addendum D-2	Mandatory requirements (Annex H)
Testing Scope	DCRU was often optional for Cat 5e/6	DCRU is mandatory for Cat 5e, 6, 6A, and 8
Category 8	Requirements added via Addendum D-1	Fully integrated into the main document
Modular Plugs	Introduced MPTL (Modular Plug Terminated Link)	Refined MPTL testing and 28 AWG support
Measurement	Focus on standard ACR, Return Loss, etc.	Increased focus on heat dissipation and resistance



Key Changes in TIA-568.2-E

1. Mandatory DC Resistance Unbalance (DCRU)

The most significant change in the "E" revision is that DC Resistance Unbalance testing is no longer just for high-performance labs. It is now a requirement for the certification of **all permanent links and channels** from Category 5e up to Category 8.

- **Why it matters:** In 4-pair PoE (up to 90W), current must flow equally across all wires. If one wire has higher resistance, it generates excessive heat and can saturate the data transformer, causing packet loss or hardware failure.

2. Consolidation of Addendums

In the "D" era, you had to reference multiple documents to get the full picture. The "E" revision incorporates:

- **Amendment D-1:** Category 8 requirements and balun-less testing.
- **Amendment D-2:** Guidelines for supporting power delivery over twisted-pair.

3. Power Delivery and Heat Dissipation

TIA-568.2-E provides stricter guidance on how cables are bundled. Because high-power PoE (Type 3 and Type 4) generates heat, the standard now emphasizes:

- The use of **Category 6A or higher** for new installations.
- Specific bundling limits to ensure cables do not exceed their temperature ratings.

4. MPTL and 28 AWG Cords

The "E" standard continues to refine the **Modular Plug Terminated Link (MPTL)**, which allows a horizontal cable to be terminated directly to a plug for devices like security cameras and Wi-Fi access points. It also better addresses the use of **28 AWG "slim" patch cords**, noting their higher insertion loss and de-rating requirements.