



Handling, Transportation and Storage procedure for Optical Fiber Cable Drums



Abstract

This document provides the guidelines for handling and storage of Optical fiber cable drums. These guidelines can apply to all Outdoor fiber optic cables.

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Introduction

This procedure shows the complete information of how to handle, transport and store the "Optical Fiber Cable Drums". These guidelines can apply to all types of Optical Fiber Cables. Handling of various reels/drums is not important only in manufacturing facility it is important at the time of shipment to store as well as to the site for installation.

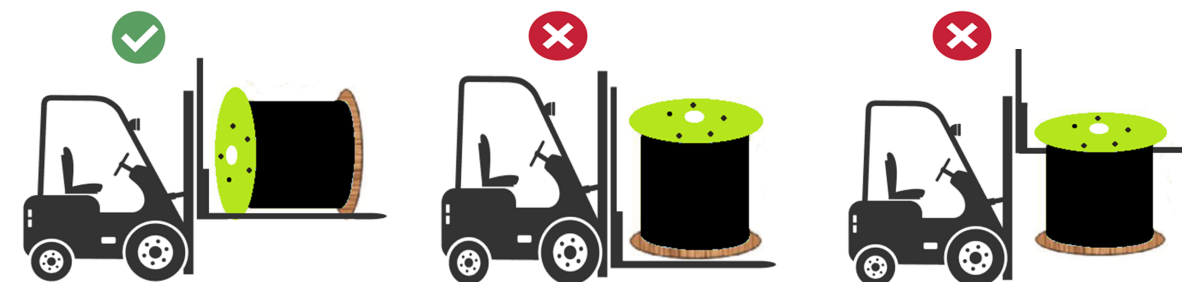
Fiber Optic cable is a valuable product and it can be damaged if not handled properly during transportation, storage and installation so proper handling of cable reels/drums decreases the probability of accidental damage of cable, material & labor force.

There are a number of key safety issues that are important to keep in mind while handling the Optical Fiber Cables as follows:

Handling With Forklift

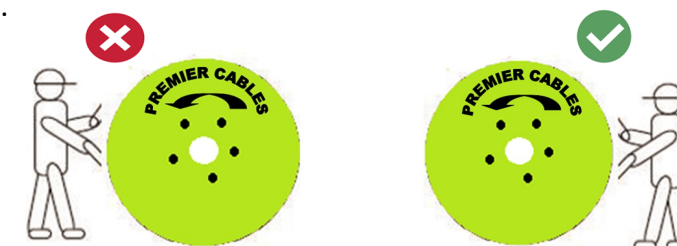
Ensure the fork of the lifter must be longer than the width of drum and always move the drum in upright position. When moving the drums slightly tilt the fork so that the drum remains in the fork and the points don't touch the ground. Always raise the forks of the forklift at least 6-8 inches from ground surface.

Don't release the forks until the truck has stopped completely. While storage keep sufficient space between the drums so that forks don't damage the other drum.



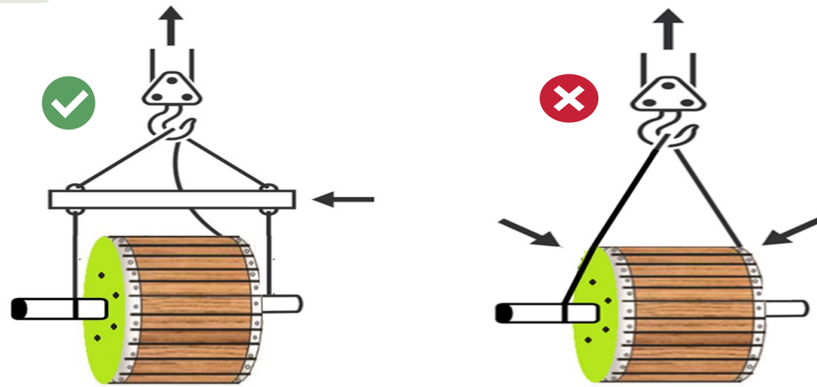
Rolling Direction of Drums

It is important to note that the cable drum must be rolled in the direction of rolling as marked on the cable drum to avoid any loosening of the cable on the reel (that may lead high attenuation or it may develop kink in the cable). Once placed in position, use proper stopper to prevent drums from rolling.



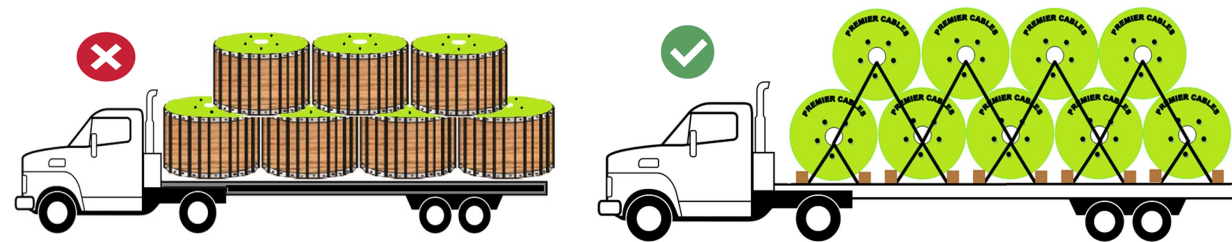
Lifting of Drums

Some drums may be of sufficient length and weight to require cranes to load and unload from transport vehicles. In this case, it is necessary to use a shaft through the center of the drum and a spreader bar so that the chains may not compress the flanges of the drum.



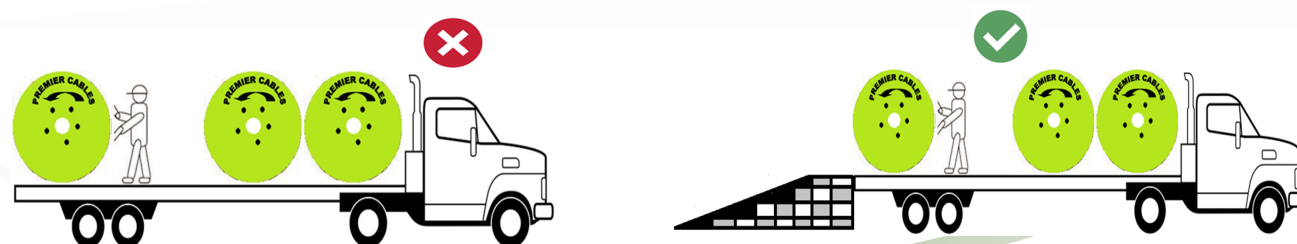
Drum Transportation

During transportation, the cable drum should not be kept in a flat or horizontal position, as it may get loose or crush the down layers of the cable resulting into cable/fiber breakage. It should always be kept vertically resting on its flange edges. When the drums loaded on trucks are larger in size then binding must be made with ropes crossing through the central hole and if necessary on the drum flanges. Number of layers can be set on truck depending upon the size of drum, drum weight and height restricted by transport company.



Unloading of Drums

While unloading it is important that the cable drum should not be dropped directly on the floor because it may damage the drum/cable so drum must always be offload by crane or fork lifter for the upper layers and for ground layer ramp can also be use to unload drum from truck.

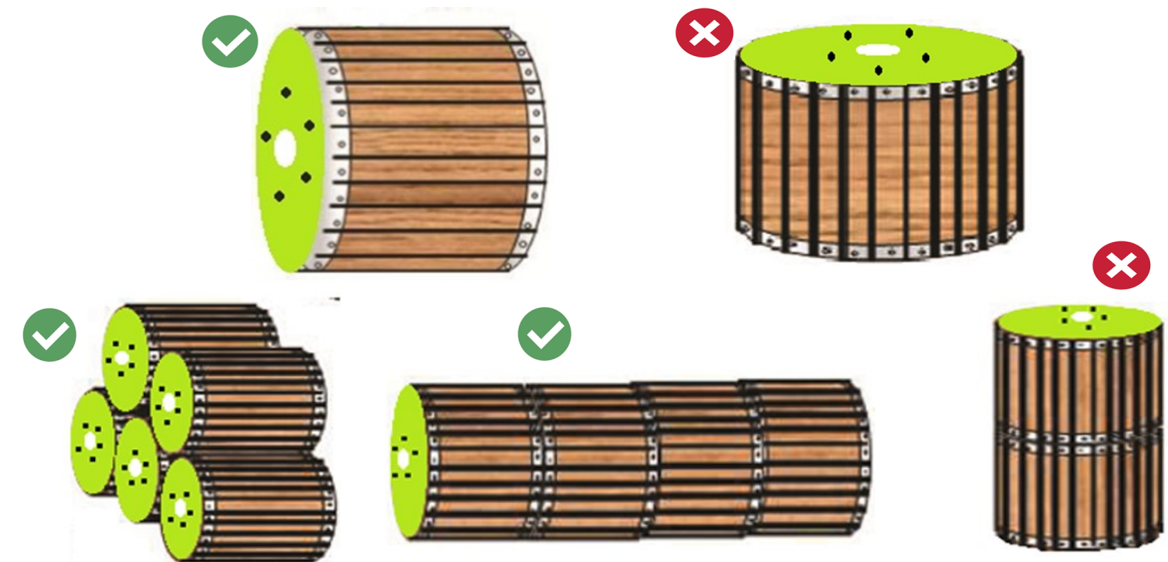


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Storage of Drums

The cable drum should always be stored in an upright position, resting it vertically of cable flange and not in horizontal position. If storage place is limited then stacking can be done drums but always stack completely wrapped drums on their flanges in upright position. While storage keep sufficient space between the reels/drums.

Always keep the drum/reel protected with outer covering till the time it used at site.



Optical fiber cables are wound on wooden drums so they must keep protected from extreme climatic changes. To avoid degradation in wood in-house storage is recommended. If drums are stored outside, so they must kept on hard surface & no soil should be in contact with wood.

Precautions

- Be careful while handling with optical fibers.
- Don't touch the broken ends of the optical fibers with your fingers.
- Dispose all scrap properly.
- Don't eat or drink near installation or testing workplace.



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