Optical Fiber Cable Markings

Q: I recently inspected a computer facility that included runs of Type OFNP optical fiber cable air in an air handling space under a raised floor. The cable was from a company that had a UL Listing, but I did not see a UL Mark on the cable. What markings should be on the cable for it to be acceptable for use in this application?

A: Type OFN cable is listed under the product category for Optical Fiber Cable (QAYK). Listed optical fiber cable is required to be marked with the cable type-letter designation, e.g. OFN, OFNR, OFNP, etc., manufacturer's identification and the UL symbol or the letters "UL." These markings are provided on the outer surface of the cable or on a marker tape that is readily legible through a translucent or transparent jacket. The markings are repeated at intervals not longer than 40 inches.

In addition to these markings, a tag is attached to the reel or carton containing the cable or tied to every shipping length of finished cable. This tag includes all of the information noted above, along with the complete UL Listing Mark and the following information as a minimum:

"Optical-fiber cables are for installation as described in Article 770 and other applicable parts of the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70. Where optical-fiber is installed in a laser system, the system shall comply with the ANSI Z136 laser system safety standards."

If the cable you inspected does not contain the markings described above, it is not considered to be UL Listed.

