

Guidelines on Visible Clearance Between Strands

Camesa representatives are often asked about the visible clearance between the strands in a new wireline.

Clearances are designed between adjacent strands to allow movement when the wireline is bent. Wireline cables are intentionally manufactured to 97% coverage as the additional space between the wires allows the flexibility for the cable to function properly when running over sheave wheels. In a new wireline, because the strands have not pulled down to their tightest position, the clearances between strands are greater.



When a new cable is spooled onto a shipping reel and therefore not under significant tension, the additional space may accumulate between one or two wires giving the appearance of a wide gap in the armor. This effect is further accentuated when protective grease is applied and accumulates in these gaps. This is a normal condition and the gaps will equalize once installed and normalized during field operations.

A final factor that makes the wireline on a shipping reel appear to have more clearance between the strands is because only the outside bend is visible and clearance is greatest on the outside radius of a bent cable. This phenomenon is explored in further detail in Camesa's technical bulletin #17 titled, Armor Coverage.

This condition is normal and the wireline should be used, maintained, inspected and retired per applicable standards.