

## **TWJ Technical Article:**

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### **The importance of on-time certification**

All professional cabling installations require certification. Most installation projects have a hard deadline and any delay or schedule slip can have major financial consequences. Contractors often pay penalties for each day the project is behind schedule. This certification phase is the last phase of a project, and is often squeezed in order to complete the project on time, which could result in overlooked problems that have to be fixed later. In other cases, contractors put in overtime to get the certification phase completed before the deadline.

A cable certification tool that provides a fast, accurate, complete solution that streamlines every aspect of the certification job—from setup, to record-fast testing and troubleshooting, to reporting results to the customer is critical to this phase of the installation. The right tool can save contractors considerable time and money.

### **Total time to certify**

The certification process generally requires two technicians working as a team. One technician connects the main unit of the tester to the link-under-test at the patch panel in the TR. The other technician connects the remote tester to the outlet at the other end of the link-under-test. Every link is tested in this way.

Total Time to Certify means the amount of time to achieve all these objectives:

1. Connect to the link-under-test on both ends
2. Execute the test
3. Save the test results data
4. Move and be ready to connect to the next link.(1)

All links need to pass the performance requirements before the job can be called “completed.”

If the contractor can't complete the work in day shifts, he/she will either have to pay a shift differential and/or an overtime premium to get the job completed on time and without penalties.

### **Conclusion**

Choosing a cable certification solution that offers network professionals significant dollar savings by reducing the amount of time to certify is the best possible choice, especially when performance is at issue. An up-front investment in a high-quality tester always pays off in the long run.

- (1) The junior technician going from one outlet to the other needs the time to 'move to the next link to be tested.' The technician in the TR unplugs the test adapter and plugs in to an adjacent panel outlet. The speed with which a tester completes a certification test does not influence or modify the time to move from outlet to outlet. In our calculations, this (average) moving time is considered a fixed time that depends on the layout of the building and the number of outlets per office (and the motivation of the technicians).

*For additional information on cable certification solutions, contact TESSCO at 800-472-7373.*

*You can also easily calculate the required time, the associated labor cost and the savings for your own projects by using the ROI calculator on the Fluke Networks website at [www.flukenetworks.com/seedtx](http://www.flukenetworks.com/seedtx)*