Color codes for Alternating Current (AC)

Standard Region or country	Phases (L, L1/L2/L3)	Neutral (N)	Protective earth/ground (PE)
 IEC 60446 (now part of IEC 60445) European Union from April 2004 United Kingdom from April 2004 (BS 7671) Argentina China Hong Kong from July 2007 Singapore from March 2009 Russia from 2009 (GOST R 50462) Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan South Korea from January 2021^[8] Australia and New Zealand^[b] 			
 Pre-2004 IEE <u>United Kingdom</u> until April 2006 (BS 7671) India, Pakistan Hong Kong prior to 2009 Malaysia and Singapore prior to February 2011 			(before 1977)
<u>ABNT</u> NBR 5410 • Brazil	Prohibited: [g] [g] To designate any phase, the above colors are prohibited. Local rules may specify colors to be used for phases.		
SABS SANS 10142-1 South Africa	Prohibited:		

AS/NZS 3000:2018	Installation wiring: (section	
• Australia and New Zealand	3.8.1) Prohibited: I I I I I I I I	(before 1980)
	Cable identification colours: ^[f] (section 3.8.3.4) Multiphase cables [][d] Current AS/NZS cables	
	European cables	
	Single-phase cables Current AS/NZS flexible cords, flexible cables and equipment wiring, and European cables	
	Superseded AS/NZS flexible cords	
China (PRC)		
JIS C 0446 ■ Japan	Compare Compared and Compa	



Boxes (e.g., **m** translucen

translucent purple) denote markings on wiring terminals.

- a. The colors in this table represent the most common and preferred standard colors for wiring; however others may be in use, especially in older installations.
- b. Australian and New Zealand wiring standards allow both Australian and European color codes.
- c. Sweden allow the use of blue for other purposes in circuits without a neutral, for instance two-phase with ground.
- d. Australian-standard phase colors conflict with IEC 60446 colors, where IEC-60446 supported neutral color (blue) is an allowed phase color in the Australia/New Zealand standard. Care must be taken when determining the system used in any existing wiring.
- e. Except that in New Zealand domestic installations, the only permitted color for Neutral is Black.
- f. Australian and NZ cable identification colours and European cable identification colours should not be combined within the same wiring enclosure.
- g. For safety reasons, yellow should not be used when green/yellow striped cables are present.
- h. Canadian and American wiring practices are very similar, with ongoing harmonisation efforts.