725 shall apply to Class 2 and Class 3 circuits that transmit power and data. The conductors that carry power for the data circuits shall be copper. The current in the power circuit shall not exceed the current limitation of the connectors.

Informational Note No. 1: One example of the use of cables that transmit power and data is the connection of closed-circuit TV cameras (CCTV).

Informational Note No. 2: The 8P8C connector is in widespread use with powered communications systems. IEC 60603-7-2008, *Connectors for electronic equipment — Part 7-1: Detail specification for 8-way, unshielded, free and fixed connectors,* specifies these connectors to have a current-carrying capacity per contact of 1.0 amperes maximum at 60°C (149°F). See IEC 60603-7 for more information on current-carrying capacity at higher and lower temperatures.

Informational Note No. 3: The requirements of Table 725.144 were derived for carrying power and data over 4-pair copper balanced twisted pair cabling. This type of cabling is described in ANSI/TIA 568-C.2-2009, *Commercial Building Telecommunications Cabling Standard — Part 2: Balanced Twisted-Pair Telecommunications Cabling and Components.*

Informational Note No. 4: See TIA-TSB-184-A-2017, *Guidelines for Supporting Power Delivery Over Balanced Twisted-Pair Cabling,* for information on installation and management of balanced twisted pair cabling supporting power delivery.

Informational Note No. 5: See ANSI/NEMA C137.3-2017, *American National Standard for Lighting Systems — Minimum Requirements for Installation of Energy Efficient Power over Ethernet (PoE) Lighting Systems,* for information on installation of cables for PoE lighting systems.

Informational Note No. 6: Rated current for power sources covered in 725.144 is the output current per conductor the power source is designed to deliver to an operational load at normal operating conditions, as declared by the manufacturer. In the design of these systems, the actual current in a given conductor might vary from the rated current per conductor by as much as 20 percent. An increase in current in one conductor is offset by a corresponding decrease in current in one or more conductors of the same cable.

This section provides requirements for cables that are used for transmission of data and power. This is commonly referred to as Power over Ethernet (PoE). Common applications include telephones, wireless access points, and security cameras powered from a Class 2 power supply that also uses conductors in the same cable for data transmission. These devices may be identified as complying to IEEE 802.3 networking standards, including IEEE 802.3af, *Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) Power via Media Dependent Interface (MDI)*; IEEE 802.3at, *Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) Power via Media Dependent Interface (MDI) Enhancements*; or IEEE 802.3bt, *Physical Layer and Management Parameters for Power over Ethernet over 4 pairs*. In all but the highest power classes of the IEEE 802.3 standards, the rated current output per conductor is less than 0.3 amperes.

Section 725.144 protects against situations in which current flow in a large number of bundled cables could cause an increased temperature in a conductor or cable that can degrade the insulation. The ampacities in Table 725.144 are based on a fact-finding report by Underwriters Laboratories and were updated for the 2020 edition of the *NEC* to provide greater precision.

By far, the most common installations are designed in accordance with IEEE 802.3 networking standards, for which power sources are rated as less than 0.433 amperes per conductor, usually 0.3 amperes per conductor or less. The 4-pair local area network (LAN) cabling typically is 24 AWG or larger.

N **TABLE 725.144** *Ampacities of Each Conductor in Amperes in 4-Pair Class 2 or Class 3 Balanced Twisted-Pair Cables Based on Copper Conductors at an Ambient Temperature of 30°C (86°F) with All Conductors in All Cables Carrying Current, 60°C (140°F), 75°C (167°F), and 90°C (194°F) Rated Cables*

	Number of 4-Pair Cables in a Bundle																	
	1–7			8–19			20–37			38–61			62–91			92–192		
	Temperature Rating			Temperature Rating			Temperature Rating			Temperature Rating			Temperature Rating			Temperature Rating		
AWG	60°C	75°C	90°C	60°C	75°C	90°C	60°C	75°C	90°C	60°C	75°C	90°C	60°C	75°C	90°C	60°C	75°C	90°C
26	1.00	1.23	1.42	0.71	0.87	1.02	0.55	0.68	0.78	0.46	0.57	0.67	0.45	0.55	0.64	NA	NA	NA
24	1.19	1.46	1.69	0.81	1.01	1.17	0.63	0.78	0.91	0.55	0.67	0.78	0.46	0.56	0.65	0.40	0.48	0.55
23	1.24	1.53	1.78	0.89	1.11	1.28	0.77	0.95	1.10	0.66	0.80	0.93	0.58	0.71	0.82	0.45	0.55	0.63
22	1.50	1.86	2.16	1.04	1.28	1.49	0.77	0.95	1.11	0.66	0.82	0.96	0.62	0.77	0.89	0.53	0.63	0.72

Notes:

1. For bundle sizes over 192 cables, or for conductor sizes smaller than 26 AWG, ampacities shall be permitted to be determined by qualified personnel under engineering supervision.
2. Where only half of the conductors in each cable are carrying current, the values in the table shall be permitted to be increased by a factor of 1.4.

Informational Note No. 1: Elevated cable temperatures can reduce a cable's data transmission performance. For information on practices for 4-pair balanced twisted pair cabling, see TIA-TSB-184-A and 6.4.7, 6.6.3, and Annex G of ANSI/TIA-568-C.2, which provide guidance on adjustments for operating temperatures between 20°C and 60°C.

Informational Note No. 2: The per-contact current rating of connectors can limit the maximum allowable current below the ampacity shown in Table 725.144.